



Independent
Living Fund

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Policy Circular

Document No 01/09

Owner: Corporate Affairs Team

Subject: Supporting People

Version: 5 of 5

Last Amended: July 2013

Date Reviewed: July 2013

1.0 Background

This policy details how supporting people funding is treated by the ILF.

The Supporting People programme is intended to meet housing related needs. Initially funding was ring-fenced and the ILF regarded the funding as being outside QSS, however this ring-fenced has subsequently been removed in England and Scotland and funding can now be used as designated by the local authority. In Wales and Northern Ireland the ring-fence remains and funding must be spent according to specific rules.

2.0 Policy

2.1 England and Scotland

In England and Scotland as Supporting People funding is not ring fenced it can be used towards meeting the Threshold Sum, however it can only be counted towards the threshold sum where it is specifically identified and recorded by the local authority that the funding is being used for Qualifying Support and Services (QSS). See policies on Use of money and the LA Threshold Sum.

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Some LAs have advised ILF that all former SP money is being used for “housing support”. There is an overlap of the terminology and some of what they are designating housing support could fall within the ILF definition of QSS. Local authorities need to ensure that they continue at all times to meet the threshold sum and may be asked to satisfy the ILF that this is the case where this is unclear. If the local authority does not meet the relevant threshold sum an overpayment may be raised.

2.2 Existing cases from Wales and Northern Ireland

As the ring fence remains in place supporting people money should be identified but cannot be counted towards meeting the local authorities threshold sum. Any reduction in supporting people money will not impact on ILF funding.

3.0 Sources

Trustees meetings May, June 2008

Meeting 23 July 2008 (ILF, DWP, DH, CLG)

9 June 2010

Trustees meeting 18 September 2013

4.0 Cross reference

Use of funding policy

Threshold Sum policy

5.0 History Date Reviewed

31 March 2009

10 June 2010

July 2013