



Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Title of policy/process under consideration

Maintaining Local Authority Input

Lead department

Corporate Affairs

Is this policy/process? (Please tick)

New Existing Revised

Is this a full EIA? (Please tick)

Yes No

Please state the reasons for the above decision.

We have identified a potential positive impact of the revised policy.

What are the policy/process objectives and aims?

Following the Government's announcement in December 2012 that the ILF will close at the end of March 2015, the policy has been revised to bring ILF policy more in line with Local Authority practices. The revisions will enable greater cohesiveness between ILF policy and Local Authority practices (whilst having regard for the fact that Local Authority practice varies greatly throughout the country).

The aims and objectives of the policy are: -

To allow for greater flexibility regarding the composition of Qualifying Support and Services (this requires a change in the ILF Conditions of Grant Agreement (COGA) for the make up of the Local Authority Threshold Sum.

To make it easier for the Local Authority to maintain the required Threshold Sum amount as transfer approaches.

Please state the reasons why the changes are taking place.

The current policy is considered to be incompatible with Local Authority practice and out of step with the future direction of support. It significantly restricts the type of support that can be included within the Local Authority Threshold Sum.

To revise the policy a change is required to the Conditions of Grant Agreement (COGA) to allow for greater flexibility regarding the composition of Qualifying Support and Services (QSS). The COGA change will allow for the creation of more streamlined and cohesive packages to be created prior to transfer. The changes may also encourage a Local Authority to be more actively involved with the support planning for transfer packages.

Feedback from consulting with Local Authorities indicates that the changes would be a welcome move and would help to remove some of the barriers that QSS presents to merging funding with Local Authorities.

The changes should also make the transfer process easier and less difficult for users. Right to Control (RTC) trailblazers have also provided evidence of the beneficial impact of flexibility to users.

Key**-2** Significant negative impact**+1** Mild/moderate positive impact**-1** Mild/moderate negative impact**+2** Significant positive impact**0** Neutral impact

Protected Characteristic	Impact	Notes
Age	+2	The benefits of greater flexibility are likely to have a positive impact as individuals may have more options available to be able to tailor their support towards the achievement of their independent living outcomes in line with their transfer review.
Disability	+2	The benefits of greater flexibility are likely to have a positive impact as individuals may have more options available to be able to tailor their support towards the achievement of their independent living outcomes in line with their transfer review.
Gender	+2	The benefits of greater flexibility are likely to have a positive impact as individuals may have more options available to be able to tailor their support towards the achievement of their independent living outcomes in line with their transfer review.
Gender reassignment	+2	The benefits of greater flexibility are likely to have a positive impact as individuals may have more options available to be able to tailor their support towards the achievement of their independent living outcomes in line with their transfer review.
Marriage and civil partnership	+2	The benefits of greater flexibility are likely to have a positive impact as individuals may have more options available to be able to tailor their support towards the achievement of their independent living outcomes in line with their transfer review.
Pregnancy and maternity	+2	The benefits of greater flexibility are likely to have a positive impact as individuals may have more options available to be able to tailor their support towards the achievement of their independent living outcomes in line with their transfer review.

Race	+2	The benefits of greater flexibility are likely to have a positive impact as individuals may have more options available to be able to tailor their support towards the achievement of their independent living outcomes in line with their transfer review.
Religion or belief	+2	The benefits of greater flexibility are likely to have a positive impact as individuals may have more options available to be able to tailor their support towards the achievement of their independent living outcomes in line with their transfer review.
Sexual orientation	+2	The benefits of greater flexibility are likely to have a positive impact as individuals may have more options available to be able to tailor their support towards the achievement of their independent living outcomes in line with their transfer review.

What alternative policy/process options have been considered to reduce or alleviate any identified impact?

There has not been any identified negative impact as a result of this assessment. The policy has been revised with a view to reduce and/or alleviate any possible impact on users post transfer.

What research has been gathered/considered when making decisions regarding the Protected Characteristics?

Independent Living Fund (2006) Trust Deed (amended 17 January 2012).

Conditions of Grant Agreement (COGA).

The Equality Act has been considered to identify any positive or negative impact of the revised policy with regards to the Protected Characteristics.

The members of the EIAB also provide experience relating to the Protected Characteristics when reviewing the equality impact assessments.

Are any future actions required for example monitoring or review?

The policy is now due for a general review.

EIAB comments/recommendations

The EIAB reviewed the EIA on 28 February 2013 and subject to the amendments detailed in the minutes of 28 February 2013 the board agreed to the EIA.

Date form completed 19 February 2013

Signature of EIAB chair



Date 4 March 2013

Subsequent amendments to policy/process

Date of amendment	November 2013
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Details of amendment

On 6 November 2013, the Court of Appeal quashed the Government's decision that was made on 18 December 2012 to close the Independent Living Fund (ILF). All activity relating to the Transfer Review Programme has therefore ceased. The policy has been amended to remove reference to flexible funding, agreement to flexible funding was dependent upon this assisting with transitional arrangements.

Reason why a new EIA is not required

This amendment has no impact on the protected characteristics

Date of amendment	7 March 2014
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Details of amendment

On 6 March 2014 the Government made a decision to close the Independent Living Fund (ILF) on 30 June 2015. The funding and responsibility for users ILF care and support needs will be transferred to local authorities in England and the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland from 1 July 2015. The ILF commenced a Transfer Review Support Programme (TRSP) on 7 March 2014.

The policy has been updated to include reference to flexible funding and the 'Use of Funding' policy in respect of ILF funding and Qualifying Support and Services.

Reason why a new EIA is not required

The current EIA confirms that the policy has the potential for a significant positive impact on the protected characteristics. The updates do not affect this impact and therefore a new EIA is not required.