

Response to the Consultation on Funding Local Authorities to support former Independent Living Fund recipients: The Former ILF Recipient Grant

Q1 Do you have any comments on the proposal to use the ILF model to calculate the value of the Former ILF Recipient Grant?

The 5% attrition rate used in the model, whilst higher than the rate of attrition experienced in Gateshead, does not appear to be unreasonable but it does not take account of local variations and therefore may disproportionately affect/benefit certain authorities especially where the level of ILF is substantial.

The implied inflation rate used in the model is less than 2%. The increase in the living wage on 1 April 2016 of £0.50 per hour (7.46%) and pension auto enrolment has a significant impact upon the cost of care provision. The level of inflation used in the model is unlikely to fully mitigate the increases in costs that Councils will be faced with.

Q2 Do you have any comments or suggestions about the proposal to continue to maintain the link between historic ILF client numbers and the distribution of the Former ILF Recipient Grant?

As the initial grant was based upon known commitments for each local authority it seems reasonable to continue to link the grant to the original distribution method. Utilisation of differing methods would not take account of the geographical variation in the take up of ILF.

Q3 Do you have any comments with our provisional equalities assessment?

The equalities statement states that there is no way of assessing whether local authorities will use the funding to maintain care packages in full. As individuals will be assessed under the Care Act 2014 and care and support provided to meet individuals needs and outcomes care packages will only be reduced where it is appropriate to do so and conversely packages may be increased where support needs increase.

The proposal to continue to provide funding in line with the distribution at the time of the ILF closure will assist in mitigating any negative impact on certain groups.