



Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board

**MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2007.**

Present

BOARD

Mrs Anne Spaight MBE
Dr Amit Arora
Mrs Jean Cooper
Mrs Judith Holt
Dr Ian McGill
Dr Mohammad Obaidullah
Dr Ronald Pearce
Mrs Clair Poole
Mr Douglas Ross
Professor Tom Sensky

VISITORS

Mr Michael Lloyd – Disability and Carers Directorate
Mr John Bergman – DCS
Dr Martin Donnelly - Secretary DLAAB (NI)
Mr Stanley Millar – Chairman DLAAB (NI)
Ms Doreen Roy- Department for Social Development (NI)
Dr Roger Thomas – Health and Benefits Division
Ms Elaine Morton – Independent Living Fund
Mr Tony Rogers – Motability
Ms Sharon Foster-King – DCB
Ms Jay Begum - DCB

SECRETARIAT

Mrs Lynne Bell
Mr John Hicks

APOLOGIES

Mrs Simone Baker
Dr Ben Ko
Mrs Sarah Playforth
Prof. David Scott
Mrs Christine Whitehead
Mrs Sarah Vines
Mr Bruce Calderwood DCD
Mr Graham Heard DCS

Agenda Item 1- Opening Remarks and Apologies

- 1.1 The Chairman extended a warm welcome to members and visitors
- 1.2 Apologies for absence from Mrs Baker, Mrs Playforth, Prof. Scott, Mrs Whitehead, Dr Ko and Mrs Vines were noted

Agenda Item 2- Minutes of Full Board Meeting- Tuesday 10 October 2006

- 2.1 The minutes were agreed and signed.

Agenda Item 3 – Matters Arising.

- 3.1 The Chair announced that Mrs Westacott has resigned from the Board due to changes in her personal circumstances. Ms Howard had taken up a two year appointment in the Office of Disability Issues, in discussion with the Chair it was agreed that there was perhaps a conflict of issues so Ms Howard had also resigned from the Board.
- 3.2 The offer to arrange visits by Board members to Disability Benefits Centre was still open.

The meeting noted that Dame Carol Black would be invited to a future Board meeting.
- 3.4 Point 5.1 Mr Miller confirmed that there was a reserved place on Equality 2025 for a Northern Ireland member.

Agenda Item 4 – Human Rights Guidance.

- 4.1 The Secretariat issued a Human Rights Guidance document to all board members present which had been released by the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

Agenda Item 5 – Review of DLAAB.

- 5.1 The Chair had met with Mr Calderwood on Friday 9 February it is hoped reviewer will start in March. The Chair will keep members informed.

Agenda Item 6 – Motability

- 6.1 The Chair then invited Mr Rogers of Motability to address the Board.

Mr Rogers provided the Board with an overview of the work of Motability. To qualify for the Motability scheme individuals need to be in receipt of the Higher Rate Motability Allowance or the War Pensions mobility allowance. Of these individuals more than 450,000 have chosen to have their allowances paid to the scheme to meet the cost of having a car. Motability is a charity and has overall responsibility for the Motability scheme and raising funds to provide financial help to Scheme customers who would otherwise be unable to afford the type of car and adaptations that they need. Motability also provides technical services to customers and the adaptation and conversion industry. Take up of Motability has increased over the last two years.

6.3 Mr Rogers then took questions from the Board.

6.4 The Chair thanked Mr Rogers for addressing the meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Independent Living Fund.

7.1 The Chair then invited Elaine Morton, the Chief Executive of the Independent Living Funds to address the Board.

7.2 Ms Morton explained that the Independent Living Funds are two funds set up and financed by the UK central Government. The original or extension fund is closed to new applicants, the 1993 fund is open to applications from severely disabled people who meet its eligibility criteria and are permanently resident in the UK. The funds were set up as a national resource dedicated to the financial support of disabled people to enable them to live in the community rather than in residential care. Both funds are governed by Trust Deeds and managed by a Board.

7.3 Ms Morton then took questions from the Board.

7.4 The Chair thanked Elaine Morton for addressing the meeting.

Agenda Item 8 – Update on transfer of DLAAB (NI) functions.

8.1 The Chair had attended a DLAAB(Northern Ireland) Full Board meeting in December where she had given an undertaking that DLAAB would complete any work started by DLAAB (NI) when that body is dis-established.

8.2 Mr Miller reported that everyone connected with the DLAAB(NI) was disappointed that the Board was to be dis-established however as there may be some delay before that happens the Board was determined to continue with its work and in particular focus on its education role with DM's.

Agenda Item 9 – Any other business.

9.1 There was none.

Agenda Item 10 – Date of Next meeting

10.1 12 June 2007.

Meeting closed.