

Policy Circular

Document No 14/08

Owner: Strategy & Communications Directorate

Subject: Living Expenses Allowance

Version: 2 of 2

Last Amended: 10 June 2010

Date Reviewed: 10 June 2010

Next Review: June 2012

1.0 Background

The previous Living Expenses Allowance policy allowed for a sum of money to be paid to Users who were engaging care on either a live-in or 24 hour basis and incur extra living costs, such as higher food, electric and gas bills. They may also need to provide their carer with bedding and other such costs associated with live-in and nighttime care.

2.0 Policy

The ILF will not normally agree any new Living expense allowance requests.

The ILF will not normally increase the amount of any Living expense allowance that is already being paid.

Independent Living Fund

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The Independent Living Fund is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body of the Department for Work and Pensions

3.0 Procedure

The ILF will continue to pay any Living expenses allowance that has already been agreed at the agreed rate but will not normally increase this allowance.

The living expense allowance should be removed from a Users care package where it becomes evident that it is no longer appropriate to pay this, for example where the User no longer has a live-in PA or full 24 hour care provided on a shift basis.

4.0 Source

Trustees meeting 9 June 2010

5.0 History Date Reviewed

10 June 2010

Equality Impact Assessment

Screening Template

This preliminary impact assessment form is to help you screen your policy, project, function or new service. It should help you consider whether a full Equality Impact Assessment is required by looking at whether there is a potential negative or positive impact on any of the equality groups, if there is an opportunity to promote equality, and whether further data is needed.

Title of policy, project, function or service:

Living Expenses Allowance

Short description of aims and objectives

To pay an extra allowance for living costs where live-in/24-hour care is engaged (to those who already requested this prior to rule changes).

Thinking about each group below, does (or could) the policy, project, service or function have an impact on members of each equality group? If so, how?

Equality Group	Yes – negatively	Yes – positively	Unclear	No impact
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economic groups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What information or research has been considered in judging these impacts?

The ILF used to pay an amount towards the expense of engaging full time or live in care. Because of overriding financial pressures, the ILF will no longer agree to new payments of the allowance. Although this may be detrimental to those with the highest disabilities and those who are worse off, we have had no choice but to stop paying for any new care costs across the board. Any negative effect on a particular group will be mitigated by the fact that we are not accepting new applications, so it is likely that any user who needs this will already have it in place and we are maintaining these payments. This screening makes reference to the full impact assessment carried out in respect of changes made in June 2010.

You should consider a full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) if:

- (a) you feel one or more equality groups will be negatively impacted by the policy, project or service, or
- (b) there is an opportunity to promote equality and eradicate discrimination.

You may also consider further research if it is unclear, at this stage, what the impact may be.

Based on your findings, is a full EIA required?

Yes

No

Please provide a short summary of your decision-making below:

Although it is possible that someone with higher care needs and low income may be negatively affected, the ILF had no choice but to stop any increase in care. This change was one of a whole suite of changes that have already been subject to a full EIA.

The number of people likely to be affected is either negligible because anyone needing a contribution towards living expenses should already have it as part of their package and no new users are currently being accepted.

Should the ILF have extra funding in future, this policy will be revised.

Notes:

- The completed EIA Screening Template should be sent to Jon Duckworth, User Liaison Manager for approval by the Equality Impact Assessment Board (EIAB).
- We will contact you with any comments or queries about the completed form.

**This form was
completed by:**

Joanna Mora