

Policy Circular

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Owner: Strategy & Communications Directorate

Subject: Qualifying Support and Services

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Please note: From 17 June 2010 the ILF is closed to new applications.

1.0 Background

The 2006 Trust Deed came in to effect from 1 October 2007. The trust deed provides a definition of the support the ILF can make a contribution towards and the support that can be included in the Local Authority's (LA) Threshold Sum. This definition comes under the heading "Qualifying Support and Services" (QSS).

2.0 Policy

The items on the list below are those that ILF can contribute an award towards. These items are also those that can be included as costs in the LA's threshold sum.

- Cleaning and other domestic duties
- Cooking and preparing food and drink
- Laundering and ironing
- Shopping

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

- Personal hygiene and grooming
- Dressing
- Eating
- Drinking
- Physical movement such as turning, walking
- Supervision in order to avoid substantial danger to him or herself or others.

Although not expressly stated, DWP have confirmed that Daycentre placements count as QSS as they fall under several of the headings on the list.

Where appropriate, QSS tasks can be carried out outside the users home.

The following items on the above list can be assumed to have the ordinary everyday meaning attached to them:

- Cooking and preparing food and drink
- Shopping
- Dressing
- Eating
- Drinking
- Physical movement such as turning, walking

However further clarification for operational purposes to encourage a consistent approach and for ease of administration are offered up below for the remaining QSS.

2.1 Cleaning and other domestic duties

Cleaning the user's home includes tasks such as vacuuming, washing-up, and dusting, but as is the case now, would not include home maintenance, such as decorating, or gardening.

2.2 Laundering and ironing

These tasks could be undertaken in the user's home or this could mean that the user chooses to use a service provided by someone other than his or her usual carers e.g. an ironing service provided outside of the home.

2.3 Personal hygiene and grooming

Allows for the user's PA to assist with any of the tasks under this heading e.g. washing, bathing, shaving, which non disabled people would normally be able to perform for themselves, for example applying make-up or cutting nails would be acceptable, but paying for a manicure or pedicure would not. Paying for someone to wash and set hair to keep it clean would be acceptable; paying for a visit to the hairdresser would not.

2.4 Supervision in order to avoid substantial danger to him or herself or others

A person who is in substantial danger is someone who is likely to come to harm if they are not supervised. It would not include supervision because the user dislikes being alone.

Eg. Any person crossing the road is at some risk of being involved in an accident but the likelihood of an accident is small. A person who is in substantial danger if unsupervised is likely to be involved in an accident if they are left to cross the road alone.

2.5 Additional costs not on the list

Missing from the above list is that for the purpose of LA provision **only**, QSS can include respite care and transport to and from a day centre and/or a respite unit. Transport on it's own cannot make up the full QSS package as it must be ancillary to daycentre or respite actually provided by the LA.

Also allowed are on-costs associated with the provision of QSS e.g. National Insurance contributions and holiday pay. What these on-costs may be is at the discretion of Trustees (see separate policies).

2.6 Child Care/Parenting

Where the user has child/parenting needs we need to be sure that the care employed is clearly for the user and not the child.

Where a task, such as cooking a meal, also benefits someone else the need can still be included as long as the main beneficiary is the user.

3.0 Procedure

It must be ensured that any element of a care package that is being used as part of ILF's award or that is to be included in the LA's threshold sum, reflects the elements on the above list.

Elements to a care package that do not appear on the list or in the additional costs cannot be included in the ILF's award or the LA's Threshold Sum.

4.0 Source

2006 Trust Deed, Clause 3(1) a and Paragraph 5(d) of the First Schedule
Trustees' 12 September 2007
Trustees' meeting 09 June 2010

5.0 Cross References

Day Centre Policy
Increase request policy (archived)

6.0 History Date Reviewed

10 June 2010
6 July 2011