

Policy Circular

Document No 01/09

Owner: Strategy & Communications Directorate

Subject: Supporting People

Version: 4 of 4

Last Amended: 10 June 2010

Date Reviewed: 10 June 2010

Next Review: June 2012

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

1.0 Background

This policy details how the supporting people will be treated from 1 April 2009.

Since its launch in 2003 Supporting People has been paid as a ringfenced fund for councils, to be spent according to specific rules. Because the grant had been ringfenced ILF previously regarded the Supporting People grant as outside QSS.

From the 1 April 2008 the ringfence was removed in Scotland and in 15 pathfinder authorities in England. This removal of the ringfence was extended to all English authorities from the 1 April 2009 but does not apply to authorities in Wales or Northern Ireland where supporting people grants remain ringfenced.

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

2.0 Policy

2.1 Existing cases from England and Scotland

In England and Scotland as Supporting People funding is not ring fenced it can be used towards meeting the Threshold Sum, however it can only be counted towards the threshold sum where it is specifically identified by the local authority that what element of Supporting People funding is being used for Qualifying Support and Services (QSS) See policies on Qualifying Support and Services and the LA Threshold Sum Policy.

Some LAs have advised ILF that all former SP money is being used for “housing support”. There is an overlap of the terminology and some of what they are designating housing support could fall within the ILF definition of QSS. Very often it will be clear from the ILFA report what care is funded by the LA and what is funded by ILF.

To avoid prolonged correspondence and argument for argument’s sake, if LAs wish to designate part of their former SP funding as “housing support” ILF will not insist on a breakdown provided ILF. However ILF is not accepting that all “housing support” is for purposes other than QSS. If at some future point ILF is asked to increase the LA must satisfy ILF that there has been no reduction in the level of QSS funded by the LA from whatever source.

2.2 Existing cases from Wales and Northern Ireland

As the ring fence remains in place supporting people money should be identified but cannot be counted towards meeting the local authorities threshold sum. Any reduction in supporting people money will not impact on ILF funding.

3.0 Sources

Trustees meetings May, June 2008
Meeting 23 July 2008 (ILF, DWP, DH, CLG)
9 June 2010

4.0 Cross reference

Qualifying Support and Services policy

5.0 History Date Reviewed

31 March 2009

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:

Supporting People

Short description of aims and objectives

The aim of the policy is to explain the approach to including or excluding the value of Supporting People money within the Local Authority threshold sum.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

Communities and local government and Supporting People websites confirm that the funding continues to be available to vulnerable adults and is now administered regionally.

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:

Supporting People provides housing related support to help vulnerable people to live as independently as possible in the community. It is open to many vulnerable groups in society, including those with learning disabilities and physical/sensory impairments. Removal of the ring-fenced nature of the grant, which now allows LAs to use funding in ways other than for housing support, means some funding may fall within the definition of Qualifying Support and Services. This may have enabled some people living in non-ring fenced areas to apply to ILF who had not been able to before. There may be some inequality in this regionally as ring-fenced grants remain in Wales and Northern Ireland, however this does not effect any particular equality group specifically.

- 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:**

Charlotte Gandhu