

# living

for independent people December 11

## hello and welcome to the latest edition of our **living** newsletter!

### Supporting you

We wrote to you in December 2010 to explain that the Minister for Disabled People had announced that the Government would protect our budget to continue to support you until 2015.

During this period we will continue to further develop our service to you and aim to deliver it to the highest standard.

The Minister also announced in December 2010 that she would consult on the future of the ILF in 2011.

On 5 December 2011, the Minister announced that the consultation will now take place next spring, which is when the Government

will publish its proposals for changes to the wider care and support system. This will help the Government to consider the future of the ILF alongside these other changes.

The Government recognises the role that your ILF support plays and remains fully committed to protecting your care and support package until 2015. The consultation will help Government decide how best to support you beyond this.

Your involvement in this consultation is very important, and we will work closely with Government to ensure that your views are considered.

When we have more information about the consultation we will let you know how you can get involved.

### Subscribe to living

Email us at [living@ilf.org.uk](mailto:living@ilf.org.uk) if you would like to receive living by email in future.

### Contact us

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**Phone:** 0845 601 8815

or 0115 945 0700

**Textphone:** 0845 601 8816

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### Other formats

This newsletter is available in the following different formats:

- Braille
- Audio
- Large print
- Different languages



Making choice real for disabled people



When you have finished with this newsletter please recycle it.

# policy update

keeping you in the picture

## important policy changes

**We have recently updated our rules, and some of these changes may affect you**

### Treatment of capital

The amount of capital you are allowed has increased to £23,250. This includes any money you have held in a Trust Fund. This means that any capital you have over £14,250 will be subject to a tariff income.

### Local authority charges

We have always been able to offset the amount that local authorities charge you for your support. We can now only offset local authority charges that were in place on or before 20 August 2010.

### Holiday awards

Previously we told you that we could only pay your holiday offer if its purpose was to provide respite care. The trustees have now agreed that if you previously had a holiday offer, we can continue to pay it, no matter what the purpose of the holiday is.

### Available income

Trustees can no longer waive your available income if you are unable to pay it due to hardship.

### Regular and ongoing support

The word 'regular' has been removed from the term 'regular and ongoing' in the ILF Trust Deed. This means that the support you get from your local authority now only needs to be 'ongoing'.

In other words, the amount of support from your local authority has to meet the average of the threshold sum for the year, or the period you receive your ILF money for.

For example, if your ILF money is for nine months of the year, your local authority needs to meet the average weekly threshold sum for those nine months.

### Advertising costs

We can pay for any advertising costs associated with recruiting new personal assistants. If you would like us to do this, please send us a copy of the invoice with your request. We will be able to reimburse you with your next available four weekly payment.

### Keep us up to date

You must tell us when things change in your life, because it may affect the amount of money you get from us. You must tell us about any changes in:

- your financial circumstances
- the benefits you receive
- the support you get from social services
- the cost of your support
- your family
- your living arrangements

If any of the things listed above change, please contact us using the details on the front page of this newsletter.

### Want to know more?

If you want more information about our policies, or would like us to send you the latest copies of our booklets, which have all the up to date policy changes in them, please call us on 0845 601 8815 or 0115 945 0700.

You can also see our formal policies on our website here: <http://bit.ly/ILFpolicy>