

Appendix 1: Independent Living Fund - Feedback from Consultation

1. Methodology

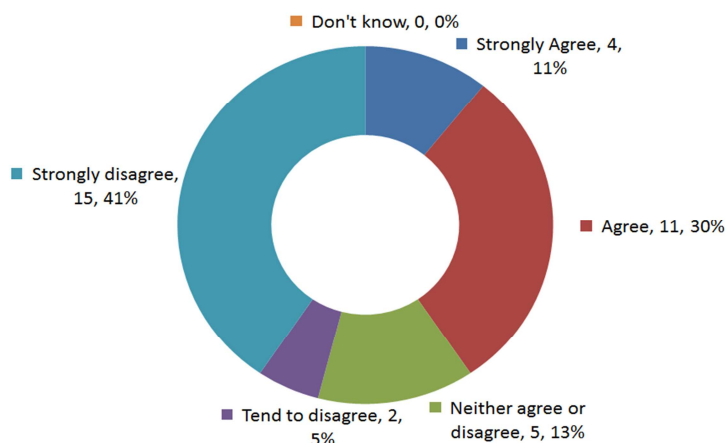
1.1 Consultation commenced on 5 January 2015 and ended on 6 February 2015. The main way of consulting was through a direct mailshot to all those users receiving payments from the Independent Living Fund. It was the users directly affected by the decision to close the Independent Living Fund.

2. Feedback results

2.1 There was relatively high response rate to the survey 42% (38 people). The outcome of the consultation was used to feedback into the proposals and recommendations on the transfer of Independent Living Fund payments.

2.3 **Proposal:** To assess people receiving Independent Living Fund payments in the same way we would assess the care and support needs of people who do not receive this funding.

Question: How strongly do you agree or disagree with Barnet Council's plan to assess the care and support needs of those people currently receiving ILF funding in Barnet?



Some feedback comments:

'I agree people should be assessed, because different people need different care

'I think it would be a fairer way of doing things'

'My ILF payment used to be ring fenced,. If the new assessment means the money will not cover care needs. I believe that cannot be fair system'

‘People receiving ILF Funding have different ways of meeting their care needs. Because they have received this funding for a long time. They would like it to remain as previous’

‘If my daughter is assessed as those people who do not receive ILF funding and if the funding is reduced it will affect her daily independent living’

Response to feedback

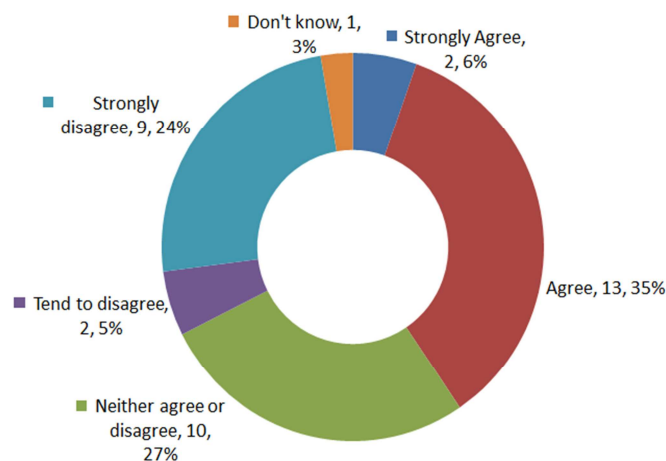
- 2.4 It is acknowledged that there is anxiety and concern among Independent Living Fund users about the transfer. This reflects the feedback raised during the Department for Work and Pensions public consultation on the closure decision.

Continuing with a ring fenced Independent Living Fund system would not be sustainable in the medium to long term. It would be complex to administer and would treat Independent Living Fund recipients different from other people with assessed care needs receiving services from the council.

It is recommended in the committee report to Adults and Safeguarding that care assessments and support planning is integrated within mainstream policies and procedures. A large proportion of ILF users would have already had a care needs assessment by Adults and Communities. The support provided by the Independent Living Fund would be mainstreamed within this assessment.

- 2.5 **Proposal:** To financially assess people receiving Independent Living Fund payments in the same way we would assess contributions if people who do not receive this funding

Question: How strongly do you agree or disagree with Barnet Councils plans to financially assess people currently receiving ILF funding in Barnet?



Some feedback comments

'Consideration should be given to expenses which are met by the people who are receiving ILF'

'As long as you are fair with everybody'

'It is fair to assess people the same way, however my care is such that I need a lot more help. I need 24/7 care.'

'How can you possibly treat two different types of care the same way – it's nonsense'

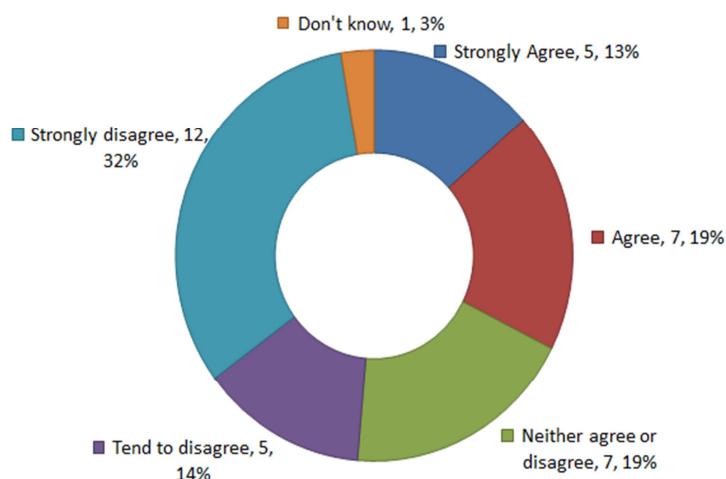
'If people have the private means to pay then they should- if it is based on Barnet's funding policy. I would rather it was done the way the ILF do it'

Response to feedback

2.6 It is recommended in the committee report to Adults and Safeguarding that financial assessments are undertaken in accordance with Adults and Communities contribution policies for community based care services. Independent Living Fund financial assessments do not take into account ability to pay and there is a flat rate charge against benefits received. It is fairer that an assessed contribution is based on a person's income and outgoings, particularly the additional costs incurred because of a person's severe disability.

2.7 **Proposal:** That any reduction in funding will come into effect 4 months after the person has had a care needs assessment to enable people to plan for the change in income.

Question: How strongly do you agree or disagree with our plan to give a temporary protection period of up to 4 months to people whose personal budget is reduced following the assessment of their care needs?



Some feedback comments:

'I feel that 4 months temporary protection period is inadequate to adapt to a change in lifestyle. Five to six months is suggested'

'I strongly disagree that there should be any reduction in income as there has been no increase from the ILF over the last few years.'

'I believe it should be much longer. Probably after two years'

'I think it should be longer than 4 months because it's not easy work out what you should do, and everything takes too much time'

'I have such complex need that any reduction will seriously affect my health'

Response to feedback

- 2.8 It is recommended in the committee report to Adults and Safeguarding that the transitional protection scheme is extended from 4 to 6 months for anyone who experiences a reduction in funding.

It is recognised that people who experience a reduction in funding may need a period of time to make any adjustment in care support. A transitional protection period of 6 months would give people sufficient time to make any adjustments.