



**1** Following the Government consultation on the future of the Independent Living Fund (ILF) the Minister for Disabled People announced on 18 December 2012 the Government's decision to close the ILF on 31 March 2015 and transfer responsibility for supporting ILF users to local authorities in England and the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Minister also announced that funding would be devolved to each local authority and the devolved administrations based on the pattern of expenditure in 2014-15.

**2** We wrote to all users and representatives on 31 December 2012 to communicate the Government's decision and to confirm that we would write to them again in March 2013 to set out the plans for how this programme of transfer would work. In addition to the communication with users we also wrote to all Directors of Adult Social Services and the ILF's contact officer within each local authority. All MPs were also informed of the decision to help them manage any related enquiries.

**3** From January 2013 we embarked on an intensive engagement programme with key stakeholders from Government, local authorities, the ILF advisory group, disabled people and their organisations, and ILF users. This engagement has been positively received with a high level of attendance with over 500 delegates from 180 local authorities and 24 different disability organisations and Disabled People's User Led Organisations coming to the events. There has been positive support for our plans and the engagement has helped ensure we have a strong foundation to continue working in partnership over the next two years to support users and local authorities with the transfer programme.

**4** We have used feedback from the engagement to develop a comprehensive transfer review programme, which will provide users with a detailed review of their care support and outcomes discussed at the joint ILF and local authority review visit. We have produced a transfer programme guide for all users to give them a step by step explanation of how the transfer will work in each country of the UK. This guide was issued to all users or their designated representative on 18 March 2013.

**5** The transfer programme will provide all users with the opportunity for a joint assessment with an ILF independent assessor and a local authority representative, which will give them a chance to discuss their support requirements for the period up to 31 March 2015; outcomes they want to achieve and any concerns they have about the transfer. In advance of a visit we will contact the user and provide a visit guide booklet to help them prepare.

**6** We are developing a comprehensive database of local authority and other stakeholder contacts in order to help with ongoing engagement and management of the programme. We will provide local authorities with the information they require to help them prepare to support the joint visits. We will also be working to set up regular communication with user, local authorities and stakeholders to provide updates on the programme and meet to discuss any concerns.

**7** We are reviewing our policies that directly affect users in order to be able to provide additional advice and support to ensure that we can work closely with users and local authorities in managing a smooth transition.

**8** The ILF are keen to promote personalisation and the use of Personalised Budgets, Self-Directed Support and Direct Payments as part of the transfer review programme.

**9** We will be working with partners to produce a code of practice to support the effective transfer of responsibility for supporting ILF users to local authorities and devolved administrations from April 2015. The code aims to maximise the success of the transfer programme and enhance the customer journey throughout transition by providing key principles to underpin partnership working.

**10** Visits to users will start from 2 April 2013, and all visits will be completed by 31 December 2014.