

CITY COUNCIL

31 March 2014



PLYMOUTH
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MOTION ON NOTICE

TITLE: ABOLITION OF THE INDEPENDENT LIVING FUND

Last month DWP minister Mike Penning announced that, following a new equality impact assessment, the government is going to press ahead with closing the independent living fund by June 2015. The government's own equality impact assessment notes that 'it is almost certain that closure of the ILF will mean that the majority of users will face changes to the way their support is delivered, including the real possibility of a reduction to the funding they currently receive'.

Plymouth City Council deplores the Government's proposal to close down the ILF which currently provides a vital lifeline for a significant number of those in our city with the highest support needs. We believe that recipients of the fund have the right to make choices equal to others that allow them to participate fully in the community.

The Council regrets that the Government proposals to transfer the responsibilities of providing this support to local authorities without any commitment to maintain the current level of support. This will inevitably lead to an increase in isolation and segregation for many adults and the loss of independence and unnecessary admission of many others into residential care. With the governments vicious cuts already devastating our local health and social care system, the abolition of this fund will further increase the pressure on other health and social care budgets.

Plymouth City Council calls on the Government to immediately review this regressive step and look at ways of safeguarding the Independent Living Fund; a fund which is valued and relied upon by many severely disabled people in Plymouth.

Proposed by Councillor Jon Taylor

Seconded by Councillor Sue McDonald