

Open Meeting for Independent Living Fund
users and their families and advocates



Oppose the Closure of the Independent Living Fund

What is the future for severely disabled people who use the
Independent Living Fund and their families?

Tuesday 8 April 2014

1pm prompt - 3.30pm

**Disability North
The Dene Centre
Castle Farm Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 1PH**

Despite a successful legal challenge in the Court of Appeal that quashed Disabled People's Minister Esther McVey's original decision to close the Independent Living Fund because section 149 of The Equality Act 2010 was breached, the Conservative/Liberal coalition government has decided to press ahead with the closure of the Fund in June 2015.

Since the legal victory in November 2013, the current government minister responsible for the ILF Mike Penning has failed to meet with ILF users campaigning to save the Fund. Also, prominent disabled people who advise the Department for Work and Pensions have continued to maintain their support for the managed closure of the Fund - a position also adopted by the All-Party Parliamentary Disability Group.

This Open Meeting is organised by ILF users independently of the ILF and social services and will include:

- A report on the ILF legal case and its implications
- An update on the government's plans to close the Fund
- A discussion about how we can work together in the north east to support each other
- Plans for local campaigning to stop the closure of the ILF

For more information or to book a place, please contact Stuart Bracking on 0191 240 1444 or email: sbracking@btinternet.com or Ian Atkinson at Gateshead Access Panel on 0191 443 0058 or email: ian@access-gateshead.org.uk