

What is Self-direct Support and what's new about it?

Self-directed Support (SDS) means people are allowed to choose how support to meet their agreed health and social care outcomes is provided, and gives them as much control of their individual budget as they like.

This has been possible for many years, through for example receiving a direct payment to employ a personal assistant, but a new law has been passed by the Scottish Government which gives people a range of options for how their social care is delivered, beyond just direct payments, empowering people to decide how much ongoing control and responsibility they want over their own support arrangements.

The Act requires council's to offer people four choices on how they can get their social care. The choices are:

- Option 1 direct payment
- Option 2 the person directs the available support
- Option 3 the local authority arranges the support
- Option 4 a mix of the above

The Scottish Government website on SDS (<http://www.selfdirectedsupportscotland.org.uk>) has lots of information including a range of frequently asked questions (<http://www.selfdirectedsupportscotland.org.uk/more-information/faqs/>)

You can also read the full Social Care (Self-directed Support) Act 2013 here (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2013/1/contents/enacted>)

SDS is not only for adults, it also applies where a local authority is to provide services under section 22 (child in need) of the 1995 Children (Scotland) Act to a child or a member of a child's family.

Guidance to accompany the SDS Act

The SDS Bill was passed in late 2012 and became an Act in early 2013. It will begin to be implemented in 2014.

The Scottish Government has recently consulted on guidance which will accompany the Act which will help professionals implement SDS in their area. Children in Scotland responded to the consultation (<http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/docs/SDSguidanceCiS.pdf>), and also held a consultation event (<http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/docs/SDSConsultationEventReport-1.pdf>) for the children's sector to express their views on the guidance.

Some of the points we made in our response included:

- The guidance needs to reflect the needs of children, young people and families throughout the document and not just in a separate section
- More mention should be made of children and young people participating in shaping their support
- Case studies would be welcomed throughout the guidance, and it should be, where possible, a regularly updated 'living' document to take account of changes as a result of the Children and Young People Bill and the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Bill
- More is needed on young carers and also on transitions

A Children in Scotland members' summary on our responses can be found here (https://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/members/content/brief_hom.php)

The Scottish Government have published the responses they received (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/08/2518>)

These will be used to produce a final version of guidance. They have also commissioned other

organisations to produce special guides for users and providers of SDS.

Children in Scotland is represented on the advisory group producing a guide for users of SDS.

Children in Scotland's work on SDS

The Scottish Government are funding a number of organisations including providers and support organisations to build capacity prior to and following the enactment of the SDS Act. They have also given local authorities funding from 2012-15.

Children in Scotland has been funded as a support organisation under the Programme Fund to develop independent, user-led support and information in Scotland. From 2013-15 we will be developing recommendations for independent advice and support for children, young people and their families on SDS.

Work so far

We began by reviewing the current availability of independent support and advice for children, young people and their families, and looking at the literature about the preferences of children, young people and their families in relation to securing advice and support. Among the key findings of this were that there is currently no one central or common place that those working with and on behalf of children and families would direct them to for independent advice and support on SDS.

We have held two roundtable sessions on self-directed support. Click the links below to read members briefings on these:

(<https://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/members/content/documents/BreakfastSelfDirectSupport.pdf>)

(<https://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/members/docs/SelfDirectedSupportSDS.pdf>)

We also held a seminar with CCPS for children's providers to discuss issues surrounding SDS. A summary of this can be found here (<http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/docs/SDSandChildrenEventReportFinal2013.pdf>)

and more information including presentations is here: (<http://www.ccpsscotland.org/providers-and-personalisation/practice/past-events/sds-and-children-event-june-2013>)

Next steps

- We will now go on to consult and engage with children, young people, parents and other stakeholders to develop recommendations for future delivery of information and support to ensure effective implementation of self-directed support
- The next newsletter is planned for the end of the year. Please contact Sara Collier, scollier@childreninscotland.org.uk to be kept informed
- Let us know if you have a query, concern or an example of SDS in practice for children or young people

Self-directed Support and Children's Services

A number of other organisations are undertaking Scottish Government funded work on SDS that will impact on children, young people and their families. We will include a summary of these in our next newsletter.

If you know of any other organisations doing SDS related work with children and young people please let us know.

Support in the Right Direction

Support in the Right Direction is a programme funded by the Scottish Government's Self-Directed Support Branch, to improve understanding about 'what works' in

independent support for self-directed support. Through this programme, Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS) is supporting around 22 independent support organisations to build their capacity so that they are able to evidence the outcomes of providing high quality, accessible advice and support and enabling people to make genuine individual choices.

As part of this programme, ESS has worked with the sector to create an outcomes and evaluation framework for independent support activities called Support in the Right Direction: Explaining, measuring and demonstrating the role of Independent Support in Self-Directed Support.

More information can be found here: (<http://www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk/how-can-we-help/shared-learning-programmes/support-right-direction/>)

Open University Course – Foundations of Self-Directed Support in Scotland

This free online course from the Open University in Scotland is intended for a cross section of the social services workforce and general public to support in the cultural shift involved in personalising health and social care. It can be used as a stand alone learning resource for people to develop their understanding of the concepts underpinning personalisation and self-directed support.

The course can be accessed here: (<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/body-mind/social-care/social-work/foundations-self-directed-support-scotland/content-section-0>)

It takes approximately 40 hours to complete and can be done at your open pace.

Aberlour Survey – win!

Aberlour are one of the provider organisations who have been funded to do work related to SDS and children and young people. As part of this they currently have a survey asking young people/children with disabilities and their parents and carers about SDS.

The survey can be accessed here: (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PQPMM9Q>)

If you complete it you will be entered into a prize draw to win £50 of Tesco vouchers. The survey is open until 6 September.

Useful Links on SDS

The [Scottish Government website](http://www.scottishgovernment.gov.uk) on Self-Directed Support contains the latest news and information and lots of frequently asked questions. <http://www.selfdirectedsupportscotland.org.uk>

Self Directed Support Scotland (SDSS) is a national membership organisation which actively promotes Independent Living by supporting, working with and championing the aims of Self Directed Support disabled people's organisations. They have a national searchable database of information support. <http://www.sdsinfo.org.uk>

They have also produced some videos tackling frequently asked questions. These can be found on their youtube channel here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/SDSScotland?feature=watch>