**NATIONAL SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT COLLABORATION**

**NOTE OF MEETING – 8TH FEBRUARY 2023**

**In attendance by video conference:**

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| Donald MacLeod (SDS Scotland) | Kayleigh Hirst (SDS Scotland) | Innes Turner (Care Inspectorate) |
| Charles Rocks (Children and Families Standing Committee) | Fran Holligan (Convention Of Scottish Local Authorities) | Gordon Dodds (Scottish Government – Dementia Policy team) |
| Nicoletta Primo (Sight Scotland and Sight Scotland Veterans) | Amanda Vickery (Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living) | Anne-Marie Monaghan (Scottish Association of Social Workers) |
| Elspeth Critchley (Encompass) | Claire Roxburgh (East Ayrshire Council) | Violet Keenan (SDS Forth Valley) |
| Ashley Drennan (Inspiring Scotland) | Pauline Lunn (In Control Scotland) | Rob Gowans (The Health and Social Care Alliance) |
| Ellie Meikle (The Health and Social Care Alliance) | Jan MacLugash (People Led Policy Panel/Social Covenant Steering Group) | Juliana Heron (City of Edinburgh Council) |
| Les Watson (Personal Assistants Network) | Yvonne Nova (Scottish Government) | Margaret Petherbridge (SDS Practice Network) |
| Hannah McShane (Scottish Government) | Alison Upton (Scottish Social Services Council) | Susan Kelso (Personal Outcomes Network) |
| John Skouse (Care Inspectorate) | Lisa Ehlers (Inclusion Scotland) | Rachel Grauwelman-Smith (Scottish Government) |
| Rhonda Alexander (East Ayrshire Council) | Jeremy Adderley (SDS Scotland) | Laura Hendry (Cornerstone SDS) |
| Louise Officer (Care Inspectorate) | Jill Fraser (Inspiring Scotland) | Carla Bennett (Voice Of Carers Across Lothian) |
| Alastair Minty (In Control Scotland) | Jane Kellock (Social Work Scotland) | Laura Finnan Cowan (Social Work Scotland) |
| Donna Murray (Social Work Scotland) | Calum Carlyle (Social Work Scotland) (minutes) |  |

**Apologies received from: Elaine Torrance, Sharon McLeod, Des McCart, Becs Barker, Sandra Campbell, Janis McDonald, Rachel Mason, Emma Miller, Simon Webster**

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| **Updates** | **Actions**  |
| * No identified actions from last meeting
* Matters Arising – GIRFE (Getting It Right For Everyone) meeting, update from JK:

Social Work Scotland (including members of the SDS project team) met with the Scottish Government GIRFE team, with several actions:* + Jane Kellock to attend the GIRFE steering group going forward.
	+ GIRFE team are keen to progress with their Pathfinder approach.
	+ SDS project team keen to provide any relevant learning from our work.
	+ We feel there are significant overlaps with SDS work, and will meet with the GIRFE team again Feb/Mar
	+ We also plan to engage with those from the Pathfinder sites about common areas of work.
* DMd invited the group to consider any featured presentations they would like to see at future meetings, and make suggestions by email (sds.team@socialworkscotland.org). Suggestions in the meeting included a presentation on update on the new dementia strategy at a future meeting.
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| **SDS Improvement Plan** | **Actions**  |
|  **(double click to access the document)**The SDS Improvement Plan Short Life Working Group have developed a framework for feedback through the current consultation (which will close on 13th February). Group members were encouraged to submit a response. You can access the online feedback form here: <https://formtitan.com/s/wau> (closing date is midnight on Monday 13 Feb)SDSS have facilitated several open roadshow events to discuss the document and gather some early feedback, which were attended by a range of people from supported people, carers, third sector organisations and others. Initial themes coming out include:* + Capacity within the system
	+ Need for work with care providers to expand services and ensure provision in difficult areas
	+ Specific actions in the plan on providing early intervention, in order to avoid crises
	+ Better and more targeted information about SDS and rights for the wider public
	+ More focus on proactive engagement with communities
	+ Training issues, particularly for Social Workers, including consistency of training across the country, and for colleagues (eg Health)
	+ Peer support for Personal Assistant employers
	+ People looking to see definite action, to ensure change actually happens
	+ Capacity in remote and rural areas
	+ Principles of the Independent Living Movement should be core to this plan

LFC added some feedback from the recent meeting of the SWS Children and Families standing committee, themes included:* There are some big gaps in the plan for Children and Families, the way that SDS is expressed comes from an Adults’ centric perspective.
* Does the language of “supported people” automatically include families?
* The plan doesn’t include anything about transitions from Children’s to Adults’ services
* There are plenty of examples taken from Adults’ services, but where are the examples that are relevant to the lives of Young People?
* There needs to be consideration of a wider application of SDS for Children and Young People, not just services.
* There needs to be more focus on digital options to support accessibility and understanding, which could be seen as being more relevant for Young People.

The SDS project team will work with the SWS Children and Families practice and policy lead on appropriate wording in the plan, in advance of the SDS Implementation Plan group meeting on 20 Feb. JMy talked about the link between funding and the priorities described in the SDS Improvement Plan. He said it is good to get such a comprehensive range of feedback on the gaps that could be reflected in the plan, however the priority will be to identify the must-haves. There is a lot of work to be done to build the bridge between the range of feedback and what will form the core of the plan. A lesson from the previous plan is that there were many actions which weren’t able to be delivered on, and we need to ensure we have achievable actions that can be tackled in a meaningful way. DMd mentioned the concern coming through from the roadshows about involving supported people at all stages of development, a “golden thread” running through the work, and said there had been concern and criticism of the short timescales and communication with people during this process.  |  |

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| **Social Work Scotland Update** | **Actions**  |
| **SDS Project team update (JK)*** Project Officer Noleen McCormick will be leaving the team next month, the team are recruiting, and the vacancy advert will be open until 26th Feb: <https://socialworkscotland.org/vacancies/self-directed-support-project-officer/>
* The project team have developed an approach to carry forward priorities identified in collaboration with the SDS community of practice (which has representation from all local authorities in Scotland  and includes leaders, finance, SDS Leads and frontline social  workers), which will include targeted work streams on each of the identified priority areas.
* Evaluation of the Focused Implementation work in three Local Authority sites has shown that while the sites have found this to be helpful, there have been changing circumstances within the LAs which affect their ability to deliver on Health and Social Care. These circumstances include leadership changes, and increased demand.

**Direct Payment Collaborative Agreement Update (DMy) –** * The SDS project team have now circulated a survey, developed collaboratively with stakeholders, to gather feedback on how Direct Payments are used and supported to employ Personal Assistants across Scotland. The survey is open until 1 March.
* Analysis will inform the development of a model agreement for employing PAs under option 1 as well as identify related concerns such as training needs and support for being an employer.

**SDS Resources Toolkit Update (DMy)*** A toolkit to support practitioners to access relevant resources is being co-produced to addres specific identified gaps within the SDS resource library.
* The toolkit is currently under development, and will go out for testing with practitioners shortly.
* The Toolkit uses examples from the SDS Statutory Guidance and promotes the SDS  Standards and the SDS Improvement Plan

**SDS Evaluation update (JK)**Researcher Jane Scott has been working with the SDS Evaluation subgroup to develop an approach to evaluation which would be useful to evaluate SDS across Scotland**SDS Training update (JK)**The project team will be meeting with representatives from SASW and Scottish Government next week to take forward the discussion of training to support Social Workers in all areas and at all stages of their development. *Comments and discussion:** The SSSC are looking to develop a new model of CPL. There is an opportunity to inform people’s training in a more structured way rather than just considering training in number of hours, including appropriate training for different stages of a practitioner’s career. The SSSC will be looking at how to include SDS in that work.
* The Nursing and Midwifery Council has some quite detailed stuff about what the training means for your practice, and how to apply it. It’s another viewpoint that could be considered in that work.
* Training which supports reflective practice is crucial to support practitioners, and it supports a better understanding of SDS in practice.
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| **Stakeholder Updates** | **Actions**  |
| **SDS Scotland Update (DMd)**SDS Scotland are planning the forthcoming SDS National Voice conference on **Wednesday 22 March**.The one-day online conference will be focused around the SDS Improvement Plan and include presentations and workshops on a range of SDS-related topics. The full programme and tickets will be released soon but in the meantime please hold the date in your diary, and for any further information or to get involved in the conference please contact kayleigh@sdsscotland.org.uk* Development of national brokerage framework – well underway, currently developing two cohorts of the SQA award
* PA Programme Board have been awarded funding to develop a national training framework for Personal Assistants
* Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation – The PA Programme Board will be meeting with SG representatives to talk about the specific challenges around any regulation of Personal Assistants.
* The first meeting of the Data subgroup of the PA Programme Board has taken place.
* The second annual PA Workforce survey is due to go out in March and part of the work of the data group will be to consider the questions for that survey.
* The survey will also seek specifically to capture data on PA wellbeing.
* There has been an update to the Find Help service which is a resource to help people through a number of SDs related categories, and direct people appropriately. The update is now more visual than before, giving better links not just to support organisations but also to Local Authorities. This also provides some quite detailed feedback on where people are being referred to (eg which organisations) and what areas people are interested in searching for help on.
* There is still time to feed back on the survey, as the questions will be considered at the next subgroup meeting on 2 March.
* In connection to the PA Programme Board work there has been some focus on improving the profile of Personal Assistants, in three localities, and the data from this should be helpful in improving
* SDSS conference this year will be an all day event, held online, on **22nd March**. The programme is being finalised and tickets will be out in the next couple of weeks. There will be presentations and a panel session, as well as workshops. Confirmed workshops include: SDS option 3, ethical commissioning, brokerage community of practice, SDS and autism, and more workshops to be confirmed. Please contact SDSS if you would like to be involved (kayleigh@sdsscotland.org.uk)**In Control Scotland Update (PL/AMy)**
* ICS have done a lot of work on what should go into the SDS improvement plan. Flexibility in option 3 is an area of interest, but work on option 2 will continue.
* Also, feedback has been gathered on specific focus areas which ICS could work on.
* ICS have also held two online sessions on the SDS improvement plan, with much of the feedback being on getting the basics right, and simplification. In one Local Authority, there are 26 steps between someone choosing SDS option 2, and support being put in place under option 2. This lengthy and complicated process is a real disincentive to taking up option 2, and there is a lot of work that could be done to simplify processes. ICs are also working with three HSCPs to look at how they can simplify processes.
* ICS have also continued work on SDS option 2, in Highland. Themes coming up include confidence and fear, and how to get maximum choice and control through option 2. In the next sessions, the focus will be on keeping the person at the heart of the process, and not moving away from that with deficit-based systems. There has been some talk about peer support and on reducing the line-management checking processes, and the complexity of approval processes.
* ICS have been asked to support creative and collaborative commissioning in a remote and rural community within Highland as well, which came out of the option 2 work and also a recent Iriss session on creative commissioning.
* SDS lunchtime sessions continue, with the next being on the importance of relationship-based practice (on 14 Feb)
* PL will be talking at an international online event about the Scottish approach to personal budgets, group members were invited to attend

DMd reminded group members that this group welcomes any updates from group members and encouraged members to give updates in the meeting if they would like to.  |  |

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| **Scottish Government Update** | **Actions**  |
| * SG team are currently focused on the SDS improvement Plan as well as on future grant funding.
* YN introduced her new colleague on the SG SDS team, Hannah McShane.
* Beth Anderson will return to work in March and will be working on National Care Service. Her main remit will be to ensure that the voice of SDS is heard within the NCS work streams, including that the NCS systems have functionality to support individual budgets, and access to wider services and supports such as advocacy.
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| **Any Other Business** | **Actions**  |
| * A query had been received from Ian Thomson (not present in the meeting), as follows:

The Framework of standards say:• Workers and their managers have delegated authority to access budget up to nationally agreed amounts.• Decision-making panels should only be consulted where the total cost of care, after all strengths and assets have been considered exceeds a national agreed amount. This might be comparable to the national care home rate.Question: Has such a nationally agreed amount been agreed? And, if so, what is it?*Discussion:** The short answer is “no”, this is usually decided within localities. Practice across Local Authorities can be very different.
* The reason that the SDS standards say “nationally agreed amounts” was partly aspirational, to drive delegated authority closer to the front-line and make approval processes quicker. In the upcoming review of the SDS standards, this can be looked at further.
* It makes it very tricky for individuals who have an SDS budget to move from one geographical location to another.
* That being said, there also needs to be a discussion about what a “nationally agreed amount” actually means.
* The cost of delivering support can vary considerably, for example in rural areas, support can cost more than in some urban areas.
* The difference across geographical areas is staggering, and it is about confidence, not just about amounts. Perhaps the agreed amount could be a nationally agreed range, and some meaningful explanation of why an amount might be set at a lower or higher amount.
* Professionals moving from one area to another are similarly affected, with practitioners not having the trust and confidence that they may have had in their previous location.
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| **Next Meeting** | **Actions**  |
| The next meeting of the National Self-directed Support Collaboration will be on **Wednesday 15th March 2023** at **1pm**. [Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_ZDFmMGY1N2UtOTU1Zi00N2VkLWExYzEtZWEwMWI4N2RkMjRi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223f56ffd8-b90c-4687-b8ed-f572197e94cf%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%226b5f8009-5ce2-4c65-922f-43460a4bf777%22%7d).  |  |