**NATIONAL SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT COLLABORATION**

**NOTE OF MEETING – 3 JULY 2024**

**In attendance by video conference:**

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| Donald Macleod (SDS Scotland) (chair) | Kayleigh Hirst (SDS Scotland) | Toria Fraser (Scottish Government) |
| Jaynie Mitchell (COCIS) | Ali Upton (SSSC) | Jackie Eaton (Aberdeenshire Council) |
| Ashley Drennan (Inspiring Scotland) | Hannah McShane (Scottish Government) | Des McCart (Healthcare Improvement Scotland) |
| Melissa Ryan (SDS Forth Valley) | Susan Kelso | Wendy Brooks (VOCAL) |
| Violet Keenan (SDS Forth Valley) | Morag Duncan (Dundee Carers Centre) | Elspeth Critchley (Encompass) |
| Becs Barker (Community Contacts) | Brett Rogers (In Control Scotland) | Jane Kellock (Social Work Scotland) |
| Iain McGregor (VOCAL) | Joanne McGee (Glasgow Centre For Inclusive Living) | Donna Murray (Social Work Scotland) |
| Alastair Minty (In Control Scotland) | Pauline Lunn (In Control Scotland) | Laura Finnan Cowan (Social Work Scotland) |
| April O’Neil (Inclusion Scotland) | Karen Procek (In Control Scotland) | John Skouse (Care Inspectorate) |
| Sean Macaskill (Autistic Knowledge Development) | Cheryl Taylor (West Dunbartonshire Council) | Billi Allen-Mandeville (the ALLIANCE) |

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| **Welcome and Matters Arising** | **Actions** |
| DM welcomed the group and new members introduced themselves: Mel Ryan (SDS Forth Valley) Iain McGregor (formerly LCIL, now with VOCAL).  Apologies were noted from: Anne-Marie Monaghan, Calum Carlyle, Rob Gowans, Pauline Boyce, and Ruth MacMillan.  The previous meeting minutes were approved by assent.  No matters arising. |  |

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| **Chair’s update** | **Actions** |
| DM noted the NSDSC submitted written evidence statement to the Post-Legislative Scrutiny process and SDS Scotland and other stakeholders had presented evidence in person. The work to develop the evidence statement will inform the way forward for a Statement of Intent for the Collaboration.  A working draft of a Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the SDS Improvement Plan has been shared with the working group and feedback to be given by 5 July. |  |

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| **SIRD update and highlight presentation** | **Actions** |
| AD – Latest SiRD fund started in April, some projects were already in place, others are recruiting staff. SiRD portfolio projects have a monthly meeting to hear updates.  Inspiring Scotland were pleased to see suggested amendments to Section 13 of draft NCS Bill which talked about independent advocacy. Suggested changes now mention independent advice and information alongside advocacy.  Violet Keenan from SDS Forth Valley presented on their work funded by SiRD.  *(double click to open this document)*  SDS Forth Valley work in 3 Local Authorities, main focus is on giving information around SDS. Often people are referred for support too late in the process, so SDS FV have been working to improve referrals to enable earlier support, particularly for people on the waiting list for assessment.  New SiRD funded project “Well Worthwhile Waiting” aims to help people learn more about SDS while waiting for an assessment. It also enables family carers to access information and support, and delivers Outcomes and Support Planning workshops.  This project has filled some of the gap and is enabling SDS FV to provide end-to-end support to people at all stages of the SDS journey. They also work with people who don’t meet eligibility criteria, signposting them to other community supports. SDS FV are now promoting the service in the community to reach people who may require social care support so they know help is available.  VK shared that it has taken a long time to build up trust and relationships with LAs to get buy-in from both senior management and frontline staff and help them see the benefit in referring people for early support. | If anyone has work they want to share with SiRD portfolio at the monthly meetings, contact Ashley: ashley@inspiringscotland.org.uk |

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| **Stakeholder updates** | **Actions** |
| DM gave an overview of the Personal Assistant Programme Board. The Open Meeting took place on 27 June and was attended by the Minister, who has continued to be involved closely in the work of the PAPB. DM shared the infographic which highlights the achievements of the PAPB so far: <https://www.sdsscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/PAPB-Infograph-Key-Acheivements-2022-4-1.pdf>  KH – SDS Scotland:   * [SDS Handbook](https://handbook.scot/) went live in March and has had 12,500 visits so far. Next focus is on developing video content to improve accessibility and case studies to bring content to life * ‘By My Side’ research looking at people’s experiences of independent support – report due to be published soon * SDSS [training calendar published](https://www.sdsscotland.org.uk/events/) – online sessions on range of topics * Brokerage – self-evaluation tool being developed. Good level of interest in [Community Brokerage Award](https://communitybrokerage.scot/the-community-brokerage-award/), hope to have two cohorts of students starting next course in September.   PL – In Control Scotland:   * Co-production programme which enables people to collaborate on a change project is about to open again for applications – for more info contact Brett: [brett.r@in-controlscotland.org.uk](mailto:brett.r@in-controlscotland.org.uk) * ICS’s research focus this year is on pooling budgets, and they have engaged with payroll providers and individuals to explore the topic. If anyone would like to contribute in the next couple of weeks, contact Danielle: [danielle.f@in-controlscotland.org.uk](mailto:danielle.f@in-controlscotland.org.uk) * After summer, ICS will start online action learning sets on flexible use of carers’ budgets and increasing use of Option 2 for providers. First action learning set on Option 3 is underway and will finish in September and reflect learning to NSDSC. * You can sign up to the ICS mailing list here: <https://forms.office.com/e/Gqw9Ck7kPu>   JK/ LFC/ DMu - Social Work Scotland:   * JK gave evidence to Post-Legislative Scrutiny Process. Keen to keep a watch on how SDS is being referred to in NCS developments. * 2 new workstreams are starting up - relationship based practice and budget processes. * SDS Standards – SWS hosting an SDS Standards celebration event for those who were involved in developing them to allow the team to explain how they used the data that came out of the process. Next step is sharing the standards with HSCP leadership and in autumn they will work with 3 LAs to explore and promote the SDS Standards. * A Draft Standard 13 (on using a Direct Payment to employ PAs) will be tested in Perth & Kinross, Aberdeenshire and Falkirk. * [SDS Practitioner Toolkit](https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/5658/sds-practitioner-toolkit-accessible.pdf) has been added to the SDS Library and this workstream has been stood down for now. * SWS and Health Improvement Scotland are working on a concept design for version 2 of the self-evaluation improvement framework. 15 LAs are interested in the work – they will be invited to a dedicated community of practice around self-evaluation and improvement. SWS will work with 3-5 LAs who are in a good place to be able to test the framework. * PA Programme Board Wellbeing subgroup has completed evidence review on PA wellbeing resources, recommendations from this work will be published soon.   DM noted that we are keen to hear updates from other organisations on work related to the SDS Improvement Plan, others are welcome to share in this part of the meeting. |  |

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| **Scottish Government update** | **Actions** |
| HMcS shared that SG has been focused on Post-Legislative Scrutiny process and reviewing the evidence shared at the hearings. Team are beginning reviews with grant-funded organisations on first quarter work. After feedback, the final draft of the Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the SDS Improvement Plan will be shared with NSDSC in August. |  |

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| **AOB** | **Actions** |
| KH raised that the consultation on Stage 2 amendments to the NCS Bill is now open until 30 Aug: <https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/national-care-service-stage-2-call-for-views/>  PL suggested the NSDSC should consider a joint response. Agreement with this approach and  Becs Barker, Wendy Brooks, Jaynie Mitchell, Joanne McGee, Jane Kellock and Morag Duncan volunteered to help. DM suggested we could use Statement of Intent steering group to drive this forward.  DMu suggested that future NSDSC meetings could be shaped around reporting against the 4 Outcomes and the Golden Threads in the SDS Improvement Plan, as well as getting input from others on the Dependencies. DM suggested picking up this suggestion in the Statement of Intent subgroup also. | Those who volunteered to take part in developing NCS Bill response to be invited to Statement of Intent meeting |

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| **Date of next meeting** | **Actions** |
| Wednesday 7th August, 1 – 3pm |  |