**NATIONAL SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT COLLABORATION**

**NOTE OF MEETING – 2ND OCTOBER 2024**

**In attendance by video conference:**

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| Donald Macleod (SDS Scotland) (chair) | Rob Gowans (Health and Social Care Alliance) | Sharon Leitch (Voice Of Carers Across Lothian) |
| Kayleigh Hirst (SDS Scotland) | Anna Shaughnessy (Inspiring Scotland) | Iain McGregor (Voice Of Carers Across Lothian) |
| Pauline Lunn (In Control Scotland) | Veronica Dunn (SDS Forum East Renfrewshire) | Les Watson (Personal Assistants Network Scotland) |
| Ashley Drennan (Inspiring Scotland) | Joanne McGee (Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living) | Mark Han-Johnston (SDS Scotland) |
| Brett Rogers (In Control Scotland) | Alison Upton (Scottish Social Services Council) | Gordon Dodds (Scottish Government) |
| Beth Anderson (Scottish Government) | Kaye Robertson (Community Brokerage Network) | Leila Talmadge (Autistic Knowledge Development) |
| Alastair Minty (In Control Scotland) | Elspeth Critchley (Encompass Borders) | Jane Mcallister (Equal Futures) |
| Laura Hendry (Aberdeenshire Council) | Frank Reilly Scottish Association of Social Workers) | Des McCart (NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland) |
| Linda Munro (Community Connections) | James Carle (Scottish Care) | Tracy Cameron (Urram) |
| Alicia Petrie (ENABLE Scotland) | Ruth MacMillan (Shetland Islands Council) | Sean Macaskill (Autistic Knowledge Development |
| Donna Murray (Social Work Scotland) | Jane Kellock (Social Work Scotland) | Calum Carlyle (Social Work Scotland) (notes) |

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| **Welcome and Matters Arising** | **Actions**  |
| DMd welcomed the group. Apologies were noted from: Violet Keenan, Billi Allen-Mandeville, Joanne Finlay, Pauline Boyce, Lewis Shaw, Hannah McShane, Karen Procek, Iain Ramsay, Morag Duncan, Anne-Marie Monaghan, Becs Barker, Cheryl Taylor. The previous meeting minutes were approved by assent. No matters arising.  |  |

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| **National Care Service Bill stage 2 response** | **Actions**  |
|  (double click to access the presentation)PL gave a presentation on the National SDS Collaboration’s response to the National Care Service Bill [stage 2 amendments](https://bprcdn.parliament.scot/published/HSCS/2024/9/9/26a7f782-c67a-43d5-85e2-31f9a8f3d150-1/HSCS062024R12.pdf). You can read the response on [the national SDS collaboration web page](https://www.sdsscotland.org.uk/projects/national-sds-collaboration/). The [Health, Social Care and Sport Committee meeting](Health%2C%20Social%20Care%20and%20Sport%20Committee%20meeting) on 24th September, with evidence from Pauline Lunn, Frank Reilly and Stephen Morgan is also available to view [online](Health%2C%20Social%20Care%20and%20Sport%20Committee).  |  |

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| **National SDS Collaboration Statement of Intent** | **Actions**  |
| KH talked about the development of a statement of intent for the national SDS collaboration, and the meetings which have taken place to create a draft statement of intent. KH invited the group to break into smaller discussion groups to discuss the draft, thinking about the following questions:1. Do you feel this accurately represents your role?
2. Is there anything you feel is still not clear about our role and what we do?
3. Do you see yourself represented in this Statement of Intent?
4. Is there anything missing?

 *(double click to access the presentation slides)**Feedback from the discussion:** On consensus, it may be true that we don’t look to achieve consensus, but is it necessary to say this, considering that we often do seek agreement.
* On the tagline/elevator pitch, this might be a bit wordy. Can a short strapline be created to put below a logo? “The voice of stakeholders across Scotland” is the strapline used recently at the Social Work Scotland conference, to represent the national SDS collaboration.
* Maybe the range of stakeholders can be clarified more fully, to emphasise that it isn’t a limited group.
* Important that we emphasise that there’s no hierarchy and it isn’t a talking shop, it’s an action-focused group.
* Who do we intend to share the statement with intent to, and how? Could be useful to share with partners in Scottish Government so that they are aware of areas where collaboration might be possible and desirable.
* Some hesitancy about identifying roles and representation, in case it gives the impression that is the limit of the national SDS collaboration.
* Discussion about how to include lived experience voice meaningfully in the work of the national SDS collaboration.
* General agreement that this is a useful and helpful collaboration for members.
* Statement of Intent is headed in the right direction, could be tightened up in the language.
* Does the statement of intent represent care providers and agencies?
* Can the vision statement be clearer?
* The statement of intent is helpful in summing up what the group is and does, according to a new member to the group.
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| **SDS Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for the SDS Improvement Plan** | **Actions**  |
| BA spoke about the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework for the SDS Improvement Plan, which has been in development and was circulated ahead of the meeting.   *(double click to access the draft framework and accompanying slides)*The group broke into smaller discussion groups to discuss the following questions:- Are you content with the approach as proposed? Acknowledging that this will be a “living” document that may evolve as time moves on. - How can the National Collaboration membership add valuable context to ongoing reporting? - How might we further include (now or in the future) the voice of lived experience in this yearly evaluation?*Feedback from the discussion:** Generally we are content with the approach, and very happy to move away from a performance-based approach.
* If the initial stage of monitoring will refer to funded organisations, then how can we draw in all the other member organisations?
* There’s a tendency for funded organisations to focus on the positives, but this space could be a good opportunity to focus on knotty issues more.
* People need to have confidence that their voice will be heard, that if they say something, they will see it reflected. We need to make sure that national SDS collaboration members have time to engage with people and then feed back.
* More imaginative ways of getting the voice of lived experience could be used. Plenty of people can’t join a meeting such as this, but can feed back in less formal ways.
* Love that it’s a living document, because that acknowledges for everyone that it’s a work in progress.
* Evaluation should focus on the experience of people, rather than how well an organisation is doing against predetermined metrics.
* Longer funding cycles are required, to allow longer term planning and stability for support organisations.
* The national SDS collaboration gets better solutions and better ideas by holding “professional conflict”, ie by not seeking consensus. It’s not a running argument, but the group is solutions-focused, and acts as a genuine collaboration.
* The listening and feedback should be reflected in actions, and this should be shown to go somewhere, and there should be transparency in cases where that hasn’t been included in the way that had originally been hoped for. People prefer bad news over obfuscation. Honesty is key.
* We discussed how to make better use of national SDS collaboration members and their networks, in a meaningful and purposeful way. Representatives from funded organisations take up the majority of the space in meetings, and we need to shift that balance, so that representatives from more local organisations can represent themselves to the national group. We may need to identify specific themes for each meeting, to support this.
* People are sick of surveys and consultations, so any engagement with people has to be meaningful and appropriate.
* Being honest about difficulties, because if one organisation is having a problem, there will be others, and that may be better addressed at a national level.
* A directory of the organisations involved in The National Collaboration and a wee overview of what their service offers would be useful.
* Could there be an online forum space where questions can be asked, and maybe kept in an archive for reference?
* Recognition that as a living document, it will support and be supported by ongoing collaborative input.
* How can we capture existing monitoring within organisations?
* Meaningful preparation and support for lived experience needs to be done thoughtfully and well, it doesn’t just happen.

BA said that a next iteration will go back to the Monitoring and Evaluation subgroup and then come back to the full group, and asked anyone who has taken notes from the discussion section to email the notes to: Beth.Anderson@gov.scot.  |  |

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| **Any Other Business** | **Actions**  |
| The next meeting of this group will be on **6th November 2024** at 1pm, using MS Teams.  |  |