**NATIONAL SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT COLLABORATION**

**NOTE OF MEETING – 6TH NOVEMBER 2024**

**In attendance by video conference:**

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| Pauline Lunn (In Control Scotland) (chair) | Alastair Minty (In Control Scotland) | Alicia Petrie (ENABLE Scotland) |
| Ali Upton (Scottish Social Services Council) | Anne-Marie Monaghan (Community Brokerage Scotland) | April O’Neil (Inclusion Scotland) |
| Becky Duff (Carers Trust) | Billi Allen-Mandeville (ALLIANCE Scotland) | Brett Rogers (In Control Scotland) |
| Cheryl Taylor (SDS Practice Network) | Emma Miller (Personal Outcomes Network) | Kirsty Sangster (Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living) |
| Iain McGregor (Voice Of Carers Across Lothian) | Joanne McGee (Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living) | John Skouse (Care Inspectorate) |
| Karen Procek (In control Scotland) | Pauline Boyce (Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living) | Laura Hendry (Aberdeenshire Council) |
| Leila Talmadge (Autistic Knowledge Development) | Les Watson (Personal Assistants Network Scotland) | Lyn Pornaro (Disability Equality Scotland) |
| Vicki Murray (City of Edinburgh Council) | Sharon Leitch (Voice Of Carers Across Lothian) | Niccy Kershaw (Encompass Borders) |
| Hannah McShane (Scottish Government) | Robert White (Independent Living Fund Scotland) | Morag Duncan (Dundee Carers Centre) |
| Susan McKenzie (West Lothian Council) | Megan O’Hara-Knight (Glasgow Disability Alliance) | Wendy Brooks (Voice Of Carers Across Lothian) |
| John Barrow (Scottish Borders Council) | Toria Fraser (Scottish Government) | Elspeth Critchley (Encompass Borders) |
| Ashley Drennan (Inspiring Scotland) | Donna Murray (Social Work Scotland) | Laura Finnan Cowan (Social Work Scotland) |
| Jane Kellock (Social Work Scotland) | Calum Carlyle (Social Work Scotland) |  |

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| **Welcome and Matters Arising** | **Actions** |
| PL welcomed the group and is acting as substitute chair today.  Apologies were received from: Beth Anderson, Susan Kelso, Donald Macleod, Kayleigh Hirst, Andy Miller, Des McCart, Iain Ramsay, Rob Gowans.  The previous meeting minutes were approved by assent.  No matters arising.  The statement of Intent update will be carried over to the December meeting. |  |

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| **Scottish Government Updates** | **Actions** |
| HM gave a brief update from the Scottish Government (SG), in BA’s absence.  National Care Service (NCS) – Following the Scottish Green Party removing support for the Bill, work is ongoing to identify a way forward, including further dialogue to resolve concerns about the Bill.  Post-Legislative Scrutiny recommendations – The Scottish Government’s (SG) response to the recommendations of the [Post-legislative scrutiny of the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013: Phase 2](https://bprcdn.parliament.scot/published/HSCS/2024/9/9/26a7f782-c67a-43d5-85e2-31f9a8f3d150-1/HSCS062024R12.pdf) (PLS) have not yet been submitted to Scottish Parliament, but will be published shortly. SG are also looking to gather responses from across the country, recognising that there are already activities ongoing which address some of the recommendations from the report.  One of the points recognised in the PLS recommendations is that the [National SDS Improvement Plan 2023-2027](https://www.gov.scot/publications/self-directed-support-improvement-plan-20232027/) has not been adequately resourced to achieve its objectives.  Monitoring and Evaluation of the SDS Improvement Plan 2023-2027 – Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the development of this. The template for year-1 (2023-2024) feedback will be agreed next week, and this will come back to the National SDS Collaboration (NSDSC) in January 2025 for discussion.  Three small groups discussed the PLS and the NCS, a summary of views expressed follows:  People were generally frustrated by lack of activity with regard to the National Care Service, which was felt to have rocked the boat rather than stabilised things. People are concerned about changes to NI contributions, and whether that might threaten continuity for some care providers. Another frustration is the amount people’s good will is being called on, and to what extent people’s views are being included.  What works well is what happens in local communities, we need to recognise that and build on it. New models of care team continue to discuss what eligibility criteria would look like. What we need are safe, sustainable and simple ways to deliver support both for those who provide it and those who receive it.  While people agree with the principles of the National Care Service, the complex Bill itself isn’t popular as it provides more complexity rather than simplifying things. Some question about whether people generally know about the progress of the National Care Service Bill, and whether it is going ahead, and for those who are aware, there is concern that they don’t know what is going to happen, and what it will mean for them.  With regard to Post-legislative scrutiny recommendations, they reflect the feedback well which the committee heard, but the group want to recognise that some of the recommendations reflect work that is already underway, often by SG funded organisations. There is a concern that this work will be set aside and new work started, without recognising that work which is currently ongoing with regard to those recommendations.  Group members considered whether organisations, as well as local authorities, can respond and comment on the recommendations. |  |

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| **National Self-directed Support Learning and Improvement Framework** | **Actions** |
| *(double click to access these slides)*  JK presented the newly developed SDS Learning and Improvement Framework (SDS LIF) which was launched on 30 October at the SDS Community of Practice online meeting. The SDS LIF can be downloaded, along with supporting resources, from [the SDS Library](https://hub.careinspectorate.com/resources/self-directed-support-library/self-directed-support-learning-and-improvement-framework-sds-lif-and-supporting-resources/) on the Care Inspectorate website.   *Discussion and comments:*  This is aimed at Social Work, however it could be adapted for use by third sector organisations, and some discussion has been had with SDS Scotland about this.  There is a dedicated SDS LIF community of practice to support the use of the new framework in the context of how difficult it can be to change mindset, and influence culture. A shift to learning approach is being supported nationally, and the SDS project team continue to talk to leaders about the importance of a learning approach and of leading from the front. Also, the support of the Care Inspectorate in encouraging the use of this framework is important. |  |

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| **Presentation – Encompass** | **Actions** |
| *double click to access these slides*  Encompass Borders gave a presentation about their work as a support organisation providing services for Direct Payment recipients. Also, [see this film on SDS (youtube),](https://youtu.be/tB2rO4ND7xk) produced by Encompass Borders. |  |

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| **Lived Experience Involvement** | **Actions** |
| KP gave an update on the inclusion of perspectives within the policymaking space, from people with lived, and loved, experience.  *(double click to open these presentation slides)*  Some work has been done to gather views from people with lived and loved experience about inclusion, identifying that many feel that their voice is not represented with regard to SDS, but saying that they would prefer not to engage directly with a formal group such as the National SDS Collaboration. Preference would be to have opportunities to meet both online and in-person, and to have their views represented anonymously in some cases. Another suggestion was to use social media platforms and other methods to enable those who work during the day to contribute and to participate. There was also the feeling that there needs to be an identified representative person to make sure their voice is heard and taken into consideration.  KP proposed that In Control Scotland can do some of the work of connecting together existing groups and platforms, and asked members of the NSDSC to get in touch if you are working with any user groups who could be connected in with this work – [**karen.p@in-controlscotland.org.uk**](mailto:karen.p@in-controlscotland.org.uk)  KP asked people to get in touch if they would like to collaborate on this work. |  |

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| **Disabled People Demand Justice campaign** | **Actions** |
| LP talked about the [Disabled People Demand Justice campaign](https://gda.scot/2024/10/22/disabled-people-demand-justice/), which ran from Tuesday 22nd October to Monday 4th November 2024. Despite the [Programme for Government 2023](https://www.gov.scot/publications/programme-government-2023-24/documents/) commitment to deliver an Immediate Priorities Plan to address the cost of living and energy crisis of winter 2023 and the [Programme for Government 2024](https://www.gov.scot/publications/programme-government-2024-25-serving-scotland/) promising to Deliver on a Disability Equality Plan which would ensure the voices of disabled people would be at the centre of policy and decision-making, no meaningful action has been taken. Disability Equality Scotland, Glasgow Disability Alliance, Inclusion Scotland and Disabled People-Led Organisations across Scotland are campaigning for disabled people’s rights, and have now withdrawn their endorsement of the Scottish Government’s draft Disability Equality Plan, as more disabled people continue to fall into poverty. Representatives of the campaign will meet with the Equalities Minister next week for further discussion.  More information about this campaign can be found here: <https://www.hrcscotland.org/news/news/disabled-groups-organisations-withdraw-support-for-scottish-governments-disability-equalit/> |  |

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| **Any Other Business** | **Actions** |
| The next meeting of this group will be on Wednesday 4th December 2024, from 1pm to 3pm. |  |