**Developing online search tools - organisation tester group**

**Information for prospective group members**



**What is this project about?**

We are currently redeveloping the [Find Help](https://www.sdsscotland.org.uk/get-help-with-sds/find-local-information-and-support/) search tool, which helps people find independent SDS support in their area.

The tool has been live since 2019 and in that time has helped more than 4000 people each year find local independent support with SDS.

We’re now investing in redeveloping the tool to make it easier both for individuals to use, and for organisations to keep their information up to date.

We also want to widen the range of organisations listed on the tool to ensure a fuller range of the support available with SDS in Scotland can be found.

We are also developing a brand-new online Training Locator to help PA Employers source appropriate training for their PAs.

We are looking for involvement from organisations whose services will be listed on the tool to help us design a process that makes it easier for you to add information about:

* the specific services you provide
* how people can access them
* what areas you provide them in.

We want to make it easier for you to keep this information up to date to make sure people are being signposted to your services appropriately.

**What will the User Tester group do?**

User testers will help us by:

* Looking at the existing online portal we use for organisations to input details of their services, and helping us understand how we can improve it
* Help us understand how best to categorise the types of services provided by organisations that offer support with SDS and/or training, so this information can be presented clearly to people searching for help
* Help us design a process to make keeping information up to date as easy as possible
* For the Find Help tool, help us think about how to encourage organisations who are not currently on the tool to add their details.

**Who are you looking for to join the group?**

We would like organisations who will be listed on the Find Help search tool to join the group. This includes:

* Independent SDS Support services
* SiRD-funded services
* Community Brokerage services
* Carers’ Centres
* Advocacy services
* Payroll providers
* Peer support groups.

**What will be involved if I take part?**

We expect the User Tester group will meet around 3 times between the end of October and Christmas.

The meetings will be online by Teams and last around 2 hours.

There may be things we ask group members to do in between meetings, such as testing out prototypes of the portal and giving us feedback.

The first meeting is scheduled to take place online on Wednesday 30 October.

**How do I sign up?**

If you are interested in joining the User Tester group, or you’d like to find out more, please contact Kayleigh Hirst, SDSS Communications Manager:

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