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

**Information for prospective group members**



**What is this project about?**

We are currently working on two online search tools:

* 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
* Developing a brand new online Training Locator to help PA Employers source appropriate training for their PAs.

We are looking for user testers to help us develop the search tools and make sure they are easy for people to use.

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

User testers will help us by:

* Looking at other online search tools to help us understand what makes them easy or difficult to use
* Help us understand what types of information people are looking for when they are looking for help with Self-directed Support, or training for Personal Assistants
* Help us make sure the search tools are accessible
* Help us think about how to promote the tools to make sure people know they can use them, including what the tools should be called.

The User Tester group will help us with both search tools as we are developing them at the same time.

**Who can join the user tester group?**

We would like people who would make use of either search tool to join the group. This includes:

* People who currently get social care support, or are trying to access it
* People who may look for help with a specific issue around Self-directed Support
* People who employ Personal Assistants
* People who may look for help from a Carers’ Centre or Advocacy service
* Family members/ carers who help someone access support.

**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 or Zoom 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 search tools and giving us feedback.

The first meeting is scheduled to take place online on Tues 29 October.

**What support will I get to be involved?**

We would be very grateful for you giving up your time to help with the project so we will reimburse you £20 an hour for time spent on the project, including coming to meetings.

We will discuss with you any support you need to be involved in the meetings or to contribute to the project, including any access requirements.

**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:

[kayleigh@sdsscotland.org.uk](mailto:kayleigh@sdsscotland.org.uk)

07727 405732

To help keep the group a manageable size, we may not be able to accommodate everyone who is interested in taking part, but we will do our best to find opportunities for those who are interested to contribute to the project in some way.