



A quick word about...

Self Directed Support

Edition 20 | November 2013

Social Care across all age groups is changing as part of a national programme to give people more choice and control over their lives.

The Social Care (Self Directed Support) Scotland Act 2013 will come into force in April 2014 and will place new duties on local authorities to provide various options to people who are eligible for care and support.

Self Directed Support (SDS) in practice

People often feel that assessment of needs is about filling in forms and focusing on what people cannot do. It should in future be more about having a conversation focused on the outcomes that are important to them.

Individuals and their family carers are the experts on their own lives, so they should be equal partners in the assessment process and are best placed

to decide the ways in which they want to meet their agreed personal outcomes.

Once the individual's personal outcomes are agreed, and the part of this that the Council will contribute to, they can choose how much choice and control they want to have over their care and support by selecting one of the following four SDS options:

Option 1: a direct payment is made by the Council for the individual to arrange their own care and support

Option 2: the person chooses who they want to provide the support and the Council or a third party arranges the supports on their behalf

Option 3: the person asks the Council to choose and arrange supports

Option 4: a combination of options 1, 2 or 3

Family carers will also be able to access SDS and choose one of the four options to meet their assessed and eligible support needs.

What will happen from 1 April 2014?

People who are newly assessed as being eligible for social care supports after 1 April 2014 will automatically be given the four options to choose from. People who already receive social care services will be offered the four options at their next review after 1 April 2014.



People who use social care services, family carers and people who work in social work services have been learning about Self Directed Support at 'Everyone Together' learning events across East Ayrshire.

What advice and help will be available in relation to SDS?

Family and friends will continue to be the source of advice and help for most people. Others may wish to seek advice from a professional who knows them already. This might include a social worker or care manager, an advocacy worker, a nurse or other health professional.

Some people might want to use the services of an independent broker to help them to work out how best to meet their agreed personal outcomes. The Community Brokerage Network has a range of independent brokers who can help. More information can be found at www.communitybrokeragenetwork.co.uk.

East Ayrshire Council will have a legal duty to provide information about the care, support and community services that people can use. The Council is currently working on a Community Portal, an online facility that will provide information about what's on offer in East Ayrshire, which will be up and running by March 2014.

The SDS Project Board

The Council is committed to SDS and recognises that some changes will be required across the Council and the services we commission in order to implement it. An SDS Project Board was therefore set up in March 2013 to drive forward the implementation of SDS. It is chaired by Eddie Fraser (Head of Service, Community Care) and includes representatives from a range of Council services.

A core aim of the Board will be to listen and learn from the practical experience of people using SDS and to embed good practice across services.



The SDS team

The Council has also set up a small team that will help to implement SDS and make sure that the Council is ready for April 2014:

Lee McLaughlin, *Team Manager, Self Directed Supports*

Lynn Kyle, *Self Directed Support Co-ordinator*

Claire Mills, *Team Manager, Independent Living*

Louise Lapsley & Stephanie Graham, *Peer Mentors*

Michael McNair & Susan Corrigan, *SDS Finance Officers*

Case study 1: Sanjeev

16 year-old Sanjeev has complex additional support needs. His personal outcomes include having things to do, maintaining friendships and making new friends, staying as healthy as he can and being as independent as possible.



One of Sanjeev's goals was to attend T in the Park for the very first time. After excitedly receiving his tickets though, he was unsure about how he was going to get there. Sanjeev's parents offered to take him but Sanjeev politely turned them down as he wanted to remain as independent as possible.

A member of his planning team then gave him the idea of using SDS as a way of funding potential care for T in the Park. After thinking about it, Sanjeev decided to ask Craig, a carer he had known for a few years, to support him at the event.

After taking a lot of time and effort to organise it all, the big weekend finally arrived! Once he got there, Sanjeev felt very relieved and relaxed and had the time of his life. Thanks in part to his SDS budget, he enjoyed an experience that he'll be able to remember forever.

Case study 2: Elizabeth

Having lived in the same village for over fifty years, it would have been a real blow to East Ayrshire resident Elizabeth to have had to consider the possibility of moving.

In 2010 however, this was the situation she was facing. Well into her nineties, Elizabeth had suffered a fall as well as a spell of illness which resulted in time in hospital. She realised she could no longer look after herself at home and thought that care at a residential home was the only solution.

Elizabeth's family, however, sought advice from the Council's social services department and was made aware of the Direct Payments scheme. The family was advised that they could choose to have a direct payment to put towards the cost of employing a bank of live-in carers from an agency they selected. This meant that with the carers' assistance, Elizabeth was able to continue living in her own home, something that she was extremely grateful for.

CONTACT

For further information or advice, please contact:

Lee McLaughlin, Team Manager, Self Directed Supports on 01563 503361

or email lee.mclaughlin@east-ayrshire.gov.uk.