



# Consultation: Self-directed support - a National Strategy for Scotland

*This consultation on the national strategy for self-directed support in Scotland was published on 8th February and closes on 7th May 2010. What follows has been abstracted from the main and summary reports.*

## Summary

The increasing numbers of people accessing social care and the range of individual needs mean that services and supports will have to continue to become much more flexible and responsive in the future. This strategy responds to increasing interest in reshaping care and support in Scotland. It aims to set out and drive a cultural shift around the delivery of care and support that views people as equal citizens with rights and responsibilities. It recognises that for consumers and providers alike, tighter financial pressures, and demographic changes mean that improved outcomes cannot be delivered with more of the same.

Self-directed support has a role in supporting the Government's overarching aim of growing the Scottish economy. It supports the empowerment of individuals to gain equality of opportunity and sustain their citizenship. It also contributes significantly to improving health and well-being and tackling health inequalities.

The strategy has been developed with the support of a National Reference Group and through extensive discussion with other stakeholders. It will be a long term strategy, spanning 10 years, and

so what is provided is a framework for significant changes in the way support is provided. It is not intended as detailed guidance, which may follow as the strategy is implemented.

The key themes of the strategy are:

- Values and principles that are based on human rights and equality legislation.
- Ownership and leadership reflecting the importance of leadership at all levels, including citizen leadership, and adoption of co-production in planning and delivering services, support and workforce training.

- Supporting choice and control through a shift to outcomes focused assessment, review and commissioning. It recommends action to assess the role and funding of support organisations, including disability led organisations.
- Resources: it recommends a review of the tools for assessing individual budgets to see what works best. It promotes joint work between local and national government to consider the use of non-social work budgets in providing lower level support and creating inclusive communities.

## Definition

Self-Directed Support (SDS) is a term that describes the ways in which individuals and families can have informed choice about the way support is provided to them. It includes a range of options for exercising those choices.

Through a co-production approach to agreeing individual outcomes, options are considered for ways in which available resources can be used so people can have greater levels of control over how their support needs are met, and by whom.

The choice may include taking a Direct Payment (DP), having a direct payment managed by a third party, or directing the Individual Budget to arrange support from the local authority or from a commissioned provider. The choice can also be for a combination of these. This allows people to make purchases from outwith the traditional provider market and to spot purchase for more general goods and services.



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- Measuring progress through engagement with regulatory bodies to ensure the principles of self-directed support are understood. A short term goal is to review information gathered nationally to reflect the focus on individual outcomes rather than outputs and processes.

Following consultation, an implementation plan will be developed to identify timescales and targets for the strategy's short, medium and long term goals.

## Recommendations

The document contains a total of 26 recommendations subsumed under each section of the report except section 4. Section four covers SDS for specific groups (eg, learning disability; autism spectrum conditions (ASD); people with dementia and carers). The recommendations under each section are as follows:

### *Section 1 - Background and policy context*

1. In 2010 the Scottish Government (SG) in conjunction with COSLA should review, and clarify the use of eligibility criteria for adults and older people as it applies to self-directed support.

### *Section 2 - The way forward for self-directed support*

2 The SG should approach all national social care, social work and health training and qualification accreditation bodies in 2010 to agree

how they will integrate self-directed support teaching into curriculum and assessment and to create a programme that makes this aspiration a reality by 2013.

3 The SG should encourage community planning leads to support social work and other local authority departments and agencies to work together and combine their funding to achieve better outcomes for people who have personal and social support needs.

4 Community planning partners should consider pooled resources to support the development of local area co-ordination for all client groups.

5 The SG should disseminate the findings from its health-related pilot in Lothian to all NHS Boards so that this learning can be put into place across all of Scotland by 2012. In the interests of shared awareness, the findings should also be sent to local authorities and providers.

6 By summer 2010, the SG should begin work with national and local organisations to review their capacity to deliver support for other forms of self-directed support and independent living whilst maintaining their focus on direct payments. A joint forum between ADSW and Self Directed Support Scotland (SDSS) should be encouraged in this regard.  
<http://www.sdsscotland.org.uk>

7 Beginning in 2010, the SG, with others, should evaluate existing

models of support provision to inform a more efficient, sustainable and joined up approach, at both local and national level, suitable for all citizens.

### *Section 3 - The role of social care*

8 Beginning in 2010, the SG should work with COSLA in using economic analysis to identify the best strategies available to local authorities so that they can lead a shift towards self-directed support focussing on a shift to commissioning for individuals rather than for groups.

9 In 2010 the SG and COSLA should gather and interpret information on the evaluation of resource allocation models and systems to see which approaches best deliver the outcomes for all groups and levels of need, and whether and how systems can provide the best possible outcomes for both younger adults and older people.

10 By autumn 2010 the SG should meet with DWP officials to ensure that the self-directed support strategy and the benefits system funding streams fit together in an appropriate and cost effective way, to the full advantage of those using self-directed support. An aim of this should be to seek a reduction in business processes around Charging Policy and self directed support

11 By December 2010, the SG should discuss with Education leads whether and how Disabled Students Allowance and other relevant funds in Further and special, and Higher