

What is a Disabled People's Organisation?

A Disabled People's Organisation is one which is run by and for disabled people. The direction of an organisation is led by its Management Committee: therefore, in a Disabled People's Organisation, the majority of the Management Committee members are disabled people. In a Disabled People's Organisation, this requirement is written into the constitution.

Disabled People's Organisations exist across the country, fulfilling a wide range of functions, e.g. campaigning for human rights, support with housing, etc. They represent the unique expertise of disabled people within a particular area.

What is a Disabled People's Self-directed Support (SDS) Organisation?

A Disabled People's SDS Organisation supports individuals with Self-directed Support, i.e. social care.

 - See Self-directed Support factsheet).

This support may encompass one or more of the following:

- Information about Self-directed Support
- Support with assessment
- Support to explore the Self-directed Support options
- Support to liaise with the Local Authority
- Help with putting together a support plan
- Assistance to contract with an agency using a Direct Payment
- Assistance to recruit and manage Personal Assistants using a Direct Payment, e.g. draw up job descriptions, place adverts and interview for staff
- A supported payroll service.

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What is unique about Disabled People's SDS Organisations?

Disabled People's SDS Organisations operate within a peer model of support. This means that people who control the organisation and the people who use the organisation's services are disabled by society in their day to day lives.

The barriers that they face may be to do with employment, income, access to the built environment, housing, transport, education and much more. These organisations aim to help disabled people

become informed of the choice and control that is available to them and support them to access it.

Disabled People's SDS Organisations work within the Social Model of Disability  - see Models of Disability factsheet) and believe that disabled people are entitled to have freedom, choice, dignity and control in their lives.

Why do we need Disabled People's SDS Organisations?

Self-directed Support is designed to give disabled people increased freedom, choice, dignity and control in their lives.

If Self-directed Support is delivered without the expertise of disabled people there is more chance that the solutions offered will not meet their rights and this could waste limited resources. With their strong experience of working with

partners, Disabled People's Organisations can help to find solutions that meet disabled people's rights.

The Self-directed Support National Strategy says Disabled People's Organisations are vital in terms of addressing the 'unequal partnership' '... between those who require support and those who commission and provide it'.

What Disabled People's SDS Organisations exist in Scotland?

 - See the list of 'Full members' on the Self Directed Support Scotland website.
www.sdsscotland.org.uk/members/

Interested in setting up a Disabled People's SDS Organisation in your local area? Get in touch with SDSS:
info@sdsscotland.org.uk