Membership Categories:

The General Criteria for membership:
This applies to all organisations that are members or looking to apply for membership of SDSS. The general criteria is that members:

- Support the charitable purposes of Self Directed Support Scotland

Specific Criteria for membership:
In addition, there are specific criteria where members need to be able to meet **at least one of these**. These criteria include:

1) Organisations or networks concerned with **supporting individuals in receipt of social care in accessing Self-Directed Support**, that are **user-led** (meaning organisations of disabled people – DPOs).
2) Organisations or networks where users (in receipt of social care) have **significant influence over that organisation's direction.**
3) Organisations or networks that are **independent of the local authority** and wishes to **move towards being user-led.**

If an organisation, group or network meet the above criteria, there are three different categories of membership to choose from. These are:

Full member Type A:
This needs the constitutional document of the organisation (e.g. a Constitution or Articles of Association) to **require that at least 51% of the governing body** are **either disabled people or/and people in receipt of Self-Directed Support** or those who are eligible for Self-Directed Support.

Full member Type B:
This involves the organisation being concerned with **supporting individuals in accessing Self-Directed Support** and are **independent of the Local Authority.**

Associate:
This involves the organisation being either a national, international or local voluntary or other **non-profit making organisation,** whether incorporated or unincorporated, who are interested in furthering the work of SDSS.

Associate membership is also available to new and developing SDS and/or Direct Payment Support Organisations (Organisations which are not yet actively providing support to Direct Payment recipients).