**NATIONAL SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT COLLABORATION**

**NOTE OF MEETING – 8 NOVEMBER 2023**

**In attendance by video conference:**

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| Pauline Lunn (In Control Scotland) (chair) | Kayleigh Hirst (SDS Scotland) | Sharon McLeod (AILN) |
| Mark Han-Johnston (SDS Scotland) | Sheila Hanney (Key) | Leila Talmadge (Acoustic Knowledge Development) |
| Les Watson (WEA) | Joyce Campbell (Scotland Excel) | Ashley Drennan (Inspiring Scotland) |
| Rob Gowans (Alliance Scotland) | Morag Duncan (Dundee Carer Centre) | Stuart Scott (Carr Gomm Community Contacts) |
| Mahiri Snowden (HRCS) | Hannah McShane (Scottish Government) | Inglis Edward (SDS Forum) |
| Laura Hendry (Cornerstone) | Lisa Ehlers (Inclusion Scotland) | Wendy Brooks (VOCAL) |
| Jill Fraser (Inspiring Scotland) | Marianne Scobie (GDA) | Elspeth Critchley (Encompass) |
| Becs Barker (Carr Gomm) | Megan O’Hara-Knight (GDA) | Jack Blaik (City of Edinburgh Council) |
| Violet Keenan (SDS Forth Valley) | Joanne McGee (Glasgow Centre For Inclusive Living) | Fran Holligan (COSLA) |
| Carla Bennet (VOCAL) | Claire Roxburgh (East Ayrshire HSCP) | Peter Scott (ILF Scotland) |
| Alastair Minty (In Control Scotland) | Anne Marie Monaghan (Community Brokerage Scotland) | Robert White (ILF Scotland) |
| Kaye Robertson (Community Brokerage Network) | Olivia Mann (CCPS) | Donna Murray (Social Work Scotland) |
| Fran Holligan (COSLA) | Hannah McShane (Scottish Government) | Laura Finnan Cowan (Social Work Scotland) |
| Lisa Ehlers (Inclusion Scotland) | Margaret Petherbridge (SDS Practice Network) | Jane Kellock (Social Work Scotland) |
| Lizanne McCahill (Ark Housing) | Harriet Purbrick(COSLA) | Calum Carlyle (Social Work Scotland) |
| Lucia Ortisi (SDS Scotland) (minutes) | Lyn Pornaro (Disability Equality Scotland) |  |
| Emma Miller (Personl Otcome Network) | Brett Rogers (In Control) |  |
| Sarah Anderson (SDS user, SW student and Community Broker) | Danielle Farrel (In Control Scotland) |  |

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| **Welcome and Matters Arising** | **Actions** |
| PL introduced herself and assumed the role of meeting chair, noting Donald’s apologies.  Apologies were noted from: Donald Macleod (SDSS), Sharon McLeod (AILN), Jaynie Mitchell (COCIS), Arlene Bunton (Scottish Care), and Martin Kettle (GCU), Cheryl Taylor (W Dunbartonshire Council), Des McCart (Healthcare Improvement Scotland), Gordon Dodds (Scottish Government).  The minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously, and there were no outstanding actions noted.  No additional topics were included in the agenda.  PL also reminded participants that the Post-Legislative Scrutiny inquiry for SDS would conclude on Friday, January 12th. |  |

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| **HRSC Presentation** | **Actions** |
| PL introduced Mhairi Snowden (Human Right Consortium Scotland) - a civil rights organization that defends and promotes human rights for all individuals in Scotland.  Mhairi gave an overview on the proposed Human Rights Bill and connection/ impact on application of SDS principles.  In Scotland, the Human Rights Act is a legislative framework that ensures the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights. When considering social care or Self-Directed Support the connection lies in the application of human rights principles to these services.  The Scottish Government is holding a public consultation on plans to integrate various international human rights into Scots law, encompassing Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental rights.  The Bill will give effect to a wide range of internationally-recognised human rights, belonging to everyone in Scotland, as far as possible within devolved competence.  See PPT. presentation  *(double click to open this file)*  Following questions/ points raised:  AMM raised a question regarding the discrepancies between legislative policies and people's actual experiences. There is a noteworthy consideration of when local authorities choose to implement human rights, often connected with their financial capacity.   * The enforceability provision in the newly proposed legislation permits organisations to initiate legal proceedings, compelling the government to address systemic issues related to respecting human rights, and will force the government/ local authorities to report on outcomes.   Points raised:   * There are numerous instances of human rights law violations at the moment, and complacency is often a contributing factor. Lack of a systematic response from authorities is compounded by a frequent lack of familiarity with SDS guidance. * Consistent absence of judicial review has been observed in SDS matters. The proposed human rights bill, along with its implementation, could empower independent support and advocacy organizations to safeguard the rights of disabled individuals. |  |

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| **National SDS Stakeholder Updates** | **Actions** |
| **SDSS**   * KH - SDSS has written a response to the post-legislative scrutiny inquiry, taking in feedback from their members, will be published on SDSS website. Research is ongoing on the quality of Independent Support in Scotland, also the creation of a self-evaluation tool for Independent Support. The SDS Handbook is advancing into an exciting phase, with the working group actively developing its content. Additionally, SDSS National Voice annual conference is scheduled for March 28th. (Tickets link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sds-national-voice-2024-tickets-758800321187> Workshops are scheduled to be organised, and all are encouraged to submit applications.   **In Control Scotland**   * PL - has been collaborating closely with associates to offer an in-depth look at the best practices behind the scenes of SDS with local authorities. The ongoing compilation includes tools, contracts, and process optimisations, aiming to enhance clarity for Option 2. They will share the results on the website by next month. * BR- Working Together for Change project has conducted six sessions covering different aspects, including simplifying processes, early help and advice, recruitment and retention, across six projects. An upcoming session will focus on activism and campaigns. The project aims to conclude its results in Ayrshire by February. Invitation for anyone in receipt of SDS in Ayrshire to take part – contact Brett. * DF is concentrating on SDS Option 2, hosting sessions where associates can contribute by sharing information on successful implementation practices and challenges associated with Option 2. * PL - The resource allocation system (RAS) information dissemination project has made significant progress. Efforts have focused on communicating how funds are allocated, creating an easily accessible guide for RAS. PL invited volunteers to collaborate on the project.   **ALLIANCE**   * RG – [Alliance published response post-legislative scrutiny before December](https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/blog/news/alliance-responds-to-the-post-legislative-scrutiny-of-the-social-care-self-directed-support-scotland-act-2013/). Conducting work related to National Care Service in light of proposed changes, with a specific focus on understanding the potential impacts, such as those concerning COSLA. * Running survey and focus groups exploring [experiences of SDS information for people with sensory impairments](https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/blog/news/call-for-participants-focus-groups-on-sensory-impairment-self-directed-support-and-social-care/).   **Social Work Scotland**   * JK - requested Collaboration members to share their responses to the post-legislative scrutiny process, noting that responses will not be made public by inquiry team. This will also help identify priorities in preparing the statement of intent for the National SDS Collaboration. * Work stream 1 - Review of SDS Standards in analysis phase. * Work stream 2 – Resources. The final version of the toolkit is set to be released soon, with a feedback review planned to gather input from practitioners and local authorities. This feedback will play a crucial role in shaping national guidance for SDS implementations. Furthermore, a community of practice meeting is scheduled for the end of January to gain insights into local practices. * Work stream 3- Self evaluation and learning. Six learning themes have surfaced, encompassing the agency of social work and social workers, confidence, and improvement models, leadership, the pace of change, and peer support. The second phase will engage another segment of local authorities. * Work stream 4- Direct payment model agreement. Key elements for effective agreements include gathering evidence for the well-being of PAs from both PAs themselves and their employers and from the Scottish government to identify opportunities for enhancing current conditions. Additionally, tax aspects were taken into consideration, discount cards, peer to peer reflection. | Anyone in Ayrshire interested in taking part in Working Together for Change contact Brett via [**info@in-controlscotland.org.uk**](mailto:info@in-controlscotland.org.uk)  Anyone interested in getting involved in Option 2/ RAS work contact [info@in-controlscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@in-controlscotland.org.uk) |

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| **Support in the Right Direction Updates** | **Actions** |
| * JF Inspiring Scotland- Their response for the final stage of post-legislative scrutiny will be submitted by week's end. The funding decision for SiRD is also in its concluding stage, pending the approval of the Scottish Government budget before the official announcement of these decisions. * Richard Ibbotson from Support Choices (funded by SiRD) presented on their work – See ppt. Presentation   *(double click to open this file)*  Further discussion centred on the support provided by SiRD organisations for people in receipt of ILF. Suggested to have further discussion at a future meeting. | Include discussion on Direct Payments through the ILF in agenda for future meeting. |

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| **Scottish Government Updates** | **Actions** |
| HMcS Scottish Government-   * The post-legislative scrutiny response is ongoing, and additional questions are anticipated internally after the collection of evidence. * New colleague will be joining SDS team from Carers’ team, giving them more capacity. * A monitoring and evaluation proposal for the SDS Improvement Plan will be presented at the next National Collaboration meeting in February. * Currently discussing grant funded activities in Improvement Plan for Year 2. |  |

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| **Date of next meeting** | **Actions** |
| 7th February 2024 at 3 pm. |  |