**NATIONAL SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT COLLABORATION**

**NOTE OF MEETING – 6th December 2023**

**In attendance by video conference:**

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| Donald Macleod (SDS Scotland) (chair) | Kayleigh Hirst (SDS Scotland) | Mark Han-Johnston (SDS Scotland) |
| Lisa Ehlers (Inclusion Scotland) | Ashley Drennan (Inspiring Scotland) | Jill Fraser (Inspiring Scotland) |
| Pauline Lunn (In Control Scotland) | Brett Rogers (In Control Scotland) | Lou Close (independent researcher) |
| Cheryl Taylor (SWS SDS Practice Network) | Gordon Dodds (Scottish Government) | Hannah McShane (Scottish Government) |
| Wendy Brooks (VOCAL) | Hannah Tweed (The Sensory Hub) | Toria Fraser (Scottish Government) |
| Jacqueline Montador (ENABLE Scotland) | James Carle (Scottish Care) | Joanne McGee (Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living) |
| Laura Hendry (Cornerstone SDS) | Les Watson (PA Network Scotland) | Anne-Marie Monaghan (Community Brokerage Scotland) |
| Louisa Waugh (Community Contacts) | Morag Duncan (Dundee Carers Centre) | Elaine Torrance (NDTi) |
| Olivia Mann (CCPS) | Rhonda Alexander (East Ayrshire HSCP) | Sean Macaskill (Autistic Knowledge Development) |
| Violet Keenan (SDS Forth Valley) | Robert White (ILF Scotland) | Des McCart (Healthcare Improvement Scotland) |
| Donna Murray (Social Work Scotland) | Laura Finnan Cowan (Social Work Scotland) | Calum Carlyle (Social Work Scotland) (minutes) |

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| **Welcome and Matters Arising** | **Actions** |
| DMd welcomed the group.  Apologies were noted from: Sharon McLeod, Iain Ramsay, Fran Holligan, Elspeth Critchley, Margaret Petherbridge, Jaynie Mitchell, Edward Inglis, Becs Barker, Leila Talmadge.  The previous meeting minutes were approved by assent.  **Matters Arising:**  Thanks were extended to everyone who volunteered for the short life working group to develop a Statement of Intent/Manifesto for the National SDS Collaboration. A meeting has been set for next week. |  |

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| **National Self-directed Support Stakeholder Updates** | **Actions** |
| **Sensory Hub Update (The Alliance)**  The Sensory Hub operates from within The Alliance, drawing together the needs of people with a variety of sensory impairments, considering how to respond across a wide variety of policy landscapes, including social care. Work has just been finished on the See Hear Strategy, with input from around 250 people across Scotland with sensory impairment. The report will be published later in December, once the executive summary is completed.  Work is also continuing around the state of accessible information around SDS and Health and Social Care – Data indicates it is quite a patchy landscape. There will be a survey and a series of focus groups, with invitations going out next week. National SDS collaboration members were encouraged to share information with relevant colleagues.  If anyone has any input that could inform this work, they are invited to get in touch directly. Similarly, if group members would benefit from any resources or signposting regarding sensory impairment, please get in touch directly. The Sensory Hub is supporting the See Hear leads group which meets quarterly to discuss thorny issues, and share solutions within the sensory sector, and this is one of the resources that could be tapped into.  Relevant emails are [sensory@alliance-scotland.org.uk](mailto:sensory@alliance-scotland.org.uk) or [hannah.tweed@alliance-scotland.org.uk](mailto:hannah.tweed@alliance-scotland.org.uk) - please get in touch if the Scottish Sensory Hub can support you in your work, and/or if you're interested in being involved in our work on accessible information and SDS.  *Comments:*  GD - We commissioned Stirling University to undertake a dementia research review to underpin the national strategy. It might be worth looking at: [A New Dementia Strategy for Scotland - Literature Review](https://www.dementia.stir.ac.uk/newsblog/new-dementia-strategy-for-scotland-literature-review).  AD – Once the report is out, it would be good if you can come and talk to the SiRDs about the research.  KH – It Would be great to link in with you around developing the SDS Handbook.  DMy - We could also host an SDS Community of Practice seminar too.  **SDS Project Update**  The review of the SDS standards is largely going according to plan, with three lens groups meetings still to take place next week, at which point we will have captured the majority of our data. Separate focus groups and one-off focus meetings are also taking place during December, to ensure that we have as broad a range of relevant feedback included in the review. Thanks go to everyone from the group who has taken part in the review, including those who have provided relevant research data.  The SDS project team are working with colleagues from the Scottish Parliament to support the current [post-legislative scrutiny of Self-directed Support](https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees/current-and-previous-committees/session-6-health-social-care-and-sport-committee/business-items/post-legislative-scrutiny-self-directed-support), including hosting a session for members of the SDS community of practice and SASW last week. The project team are helping to co-ordinate the voice of Social Work practice.  SDS Practitioner toolkit is at its final stage, with the group putting in their final comments. Next the group will be thinking of the installation stage, to ensure that the toolkit is of use to practitioners and leaders within HSCPs and LAs, as well as some work to ensure that the messaging is consistent.  The Direct Payment Local Authority expert group (a subgroup of the PA Programme Board) will be meeting tomorrow, and will be considering the learning from the recent survey, to discuss what they can look at in terms of good practice going forward.  *Comments:*  LE - The People-Led Policy Panel is having a meeting with Parliament next week on the SDS Review.  **SiRD Update**  No SiRD project available to give an update today. Generally, Inspiring Scotland are in the final stages of funding decisions for 2024-2027 and will be in touch with applicants soon. Some SiRD projects are involved in the IMPACT research, looking at PA wellbeing across the country. Two expert groups will be set up in connection with that, with work beginning at the start of next year. More info in PA and Employer expert groups - project is seeking expressions of interest before 15 Dec: <https://www.sdsscotland.org.uk/pa-employers-and-personal-assistants-sought-to-shape-work-on-wellbeing/>  **SDS Scotland Update**  PA Programme Board steering group has met with the Minister about sustaining and building capacity. A brief discussion about the review of independent scrutiny and regulation was also had, raising concerns that regulation may not achieve what is needed.  MHJ has been looking at how people access independent SDS information. A group have met twice, and are developing a questionnaire, which will be further refined, including an easy-read version, to be deployed in the new year. MHJ also continues to look at how evaluation is handled in the third sector, with a view to developing a tool.  We now have an overall structure for the online PA Handbook, next we will be looking to create content.  [SDSS’ annual conference](https://www.sdsscotland.org.uk/event/sds-national-voice-2024/) is planned for 28 March 2024. Group members were invited to come forward with anything that would be appropriate to showcase during the conference.  *Comments:*  PL - We could do a session on our work on option 3.  **In Control Update**  Option 3 research has been published ([Emerging Practice in Self Directed Support Option 3](https://www.in-controlscotland.org/_files/ugd/fd9368_c16c74c842eb43f5a098533505e4dac1.pdf)).  In Control Scotland have two pieces of work ongoing around SDS option 2, one of which is about engaging with service providers, in recognition that their voice is often not heard. The plan is a short questionnaire and focus groups, looking to identify gaps in understanding and training, with a view to nourishing a stronger offer from providers in SDS option 2.  The other side of the option 2 work involves initial research looking at the tools available within local authorities (LAs) to support option 2, looking at what is already in use, and identifying what could be developed to support LAs.  Working Together For Change Programme is a national programme, coming out of Partners in Policymaking, inviting supported people, carers and practitioners to come together to share ideas, and build a toolkit to make change, in the community or personally. The programme is halfway through, going really well. In Control Scotland are looking to contact supported people in the Ayrshires, particularly, to find out what their experience is of SDS. |  |

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| **Scottish Government Updates** | **Actions** |
| Internal recruitment continues to increase capacity in the Scottish Government (SG) SDS team.  The timeline for the SDS Implementation Plan monitoring and evaluation plan has been pushed into 2024.  Next week the SDS funded organisations will be meeting for a six-month round table meeting to check progress and consider activities for 2024-2025.  The national budget is likely to be very tight going into next year, there will need to be some tough decisions in terms of next year’s budget.  Post-legislative scrutiny of the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 (PLS) continues, with the [public call for responses](https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees/current-and-previous-committees/session-6-health-social-care-and-sport-committee/business-items/post-legislative-scrutiny-self-directed-support) having a closing date of 5 January, and a report due to come out later in 2024.  A [letter has been published on the parliamentary website](https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/committees/health-social-care-and-sport-committee/correspondence/2023/national-care-service-minister-response-december-2023.pdf) from Ms Maree Todd regarding the development of the National Care Service. (link is above).  The work around PA policy continues, however the area that needs to be more robust in terms of data is SDS option 1. This data needs to be improved, to gauge the number of PAs currently working under option 1 and to assess how many PAs might be required in the future. We will be working with payroll providers to try to fill this gap. |  |

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| **Highlight Presentation – In Control – Emerging Good Practice in Option 3** | **Actions** |
| *(double click to access these slides)*  PL and LC gave a presentation on the SDS option 3 research which In Control Scotland have recently published. Presentation slides including recommendations of the report can be found above, and the full report and easy-read version are linked below.  Full research paper [Emerging Practice in Option 3 Nov 2023 (in-controlscotland.org)](https://www.in-controlscotland.org/_files/ugd/fd9368_c16c74c842eb43f5a098533505e4dac1.pdf)  Easy read version [Option 3 Research (in-controlscotland.org)](https://www.in-controlscotland.org/_files/ugd/fd9368_f591e613223141e4940f182f665d1d42.pdf)  Group members were invited to contact PL directly in connection with anything from today’s presentation or updates - [pauline.l@in-controlscotland.org.uk](mailto:pauline.l@in-controlscotland.org.uk)  *Comments and Questions (summarised):*  DMy - Will removal of care charges help?  LC – If we are following the aspirational model of SDS, then the budget is only one part of the support around an individual, including their community and other resources around them. That’s really where the conversation should stop, rather than expressing care in terms of hours etc.  DMy - Can we really have a difference between personal care and social care needs?  BR - For me it's about Social Care being seen as an investment rather that a cost! Health don't also have eligibility criteria so need to be equity.  DMy - What is the role of the Excel Framework for Care and support Services? A lot of LAs seem to default only to providers that are on the framework, which can work against a person-centred approach. The Excel Contract expires in 2024. It may be a good time for them to consider this report.  GD – SG launched our Dementia Strategy in May 2023, and we would be interested to know whether there were any positive examples coming through specifically for people with dementia.  LC – We aren’t hearing a lot of examples of people with dementia exercising real choice and control through option 3, and sadly a big part of that could be the demand within Older Adults, since most people with dementia come into that category.  PL – We do have some single examples of people with dementia using options 1 and 2 creatively, which we could share. These examples tend to be the exception rather than the rule.  JMe – We find that some providers in our area aren’t prepared to go onto the option 3 framework, because they won’t provide 30 minute or 15 minute visits, as they don’t consider it to be ethically acceptable.  LC – We have also found in some cases that providers would rather only be on the option 3 framework, but not option 2, depending on which pays more.  JMe – The same providers might be available through option 1 as well, at a different rate from option 2 or 3, sometimes differing as much as £10 an hour, which is a big disparity.  LC – We also found that there was a big emphasis on cost per hour for providers, but then when we asked the same question for in-house services, it often turned out to cost a lot more, so that’s an interesting and quite hidden disparity as well. |  |

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| **Any Other Business** | **Actions** |
| The next meeting of this group will be on **Wednesday 10th January 2024**. [Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzA1MDdiODEtMTcwOS00ZmM5LTg1NDEtOTZmMmEyMWI4N2Zj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223f56ffd8-b90c-4687-b8ed-f572197e94cf%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%226b5f8009-5ce2-4c65-922f-43460a4bf777%22%7d). |  |