**Meeting of the National SDS Collaboration**

**Wednesday 2nd July at 1pm**

**Chaired by:** Donald Macleod, Chief Executive, Self Directed Support Scotland

**Attended:** Anna Shaughnessy, April O'Neil, Brett Rogers, Diane Hamilton, Donna Murray, Elaine Mitchell-McCutcheon, Elaine Torrance, Ellie Craig, Frank Reilly, Gary Colquhoun, Gillian Heavie, Gordon Dodds, Grant Laidlaw, Heather Palmer, Hilda Campbell, Jackie Eaton, Jane Kellock, Jaynie Mitchell, Jeremy Adderley, Jill Laspa, Joanne Finlay, Joanne McGee , Karen Procek, Katie Forbes, Kaye Robertson, Mark Han-Johnston, Megan O’Hara-Knight, Robert White, Sharon Leitch, Sharon Mcleod, Sharon Stevely, Susan Douglas-Scott, Tracy Cameron, and Zoe McIntyre.

**Apologies:** Alastair Minty, Alison Bavidge, Andy Miller, Anne-Marie Monaghan, Ashley Mazs, Becky Duff, Carla Bennett, Catherine Mathieson, Cheryl Taylor, Ewan Carmichael, Fiona Kane, Geri McCormick, Grace MacDonald, Hannah Tweed, Iain Ramsay, Jack Blaik, John Campbell, John Skouse, Karen Heber, Laura Finnan Cowan, Lewis Shaw, Lisa Paul, Lyn Pornaro, Michelle Fleming, Morag Duncan, Pauline Lunn, Peter Scott, Rachel Mackay, Ronald Culley, Sheila Hanney, and Veronica Dunn.

1. **Welcome (DM)**

Susan Douglas Scott (SDSc) introduced herself to the NSDSC and updated on progress of interim National Care Service advisory board so far.

**Action-** ZM to pass outstanding questions from meeting chat to SDSc to feedback to NSDSC at next meeting.

1. **Feedback and moving forwards for outcome 2: Enhanced worker skills, practice and autonomy (KP)**

[Presentation on outcome 2 of Connected Conversations](https://nationalsdscollaboration.scot/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/NSDSC-Connected-Conversations-O2.pptx) was delivered.

1. **Reflection in discussion groups**

Themes discussed included:

* Appreciation for Connected Conversations work, even if evidence is not surprising.
* Difference between practice and policy identified, and difference between both needs reduced.
* Awareness of issues in how SDS is not being implemented fully on the ground.
* Budgets cuts are currently a great concern within SDS processes.
* Lives and views of disabled people should be central to SDS implementation.
* Role of NSDSC in exploring how best to have active involvement of leaders in SDS implementation.
* Social workers being empowered with knowledge about SDS and how to challenge decisions made by their managers.

1. **Current issues**
   1. **Getting It Right for Everyone (GIRFE) update (GL)**

A presentation and [accompanying information](https://www.gov.scot/publications/getting-it-right-for-everyone-girfe/) about GIRFE was shared.

**Action-** DM to invite EMM to next NSDSC Steering Group meeting.

* 1. **COSLA Update (JL)**

[Care Reform Bill](https://www.gov.scot/news/care-reform-scotland-bill-passed/) passed. [Health and Social Care Service Renewal Framework](https://www.gov.scot/publications/health-social-care-service-renewal-framework/documents/) introduced.