**Meeting of the National SDS Collaboration**

**Wednesday 6th August 1pm**

**Chaired by:** Pauline Lunn, Director, In Control Scotland

**Attended:** Alastair Minty, Alison Upton, Anne-Marie Monaghan, April O'Neil, Ashley Drennan, Becs Barker, Brett Rogers, Cheryl Taylor, Claire Younger, Debbie Forsyth, Don Morrison, Donna Murray, Elspeth Critchley, Ewan Carmichael, Gordon Dodds, Grant Laidlaw, Iain McGregor, Iain Ramsay, Jane Kellock, Jaynie Mitchell, Jeremy Adderley, Joanne Finlay, Laura Finnan Cowan, Laura Hendry, Matt Crilly, Megan O’Hara-Knight, Michelle Fleming, Morag Duncan, Narek Bido, Pauline Boyce, Pauline Lunn, Robert White, Sharon Dickson, Sharon Mcleod, Sharon Stevely, Toni Valbonesi, Victoria Brown, and Zoe McIntyre.

**Apologies:** Andy Miller, Becky Duff, Beth Anderson, Calum Carlyle, Donald Macleod, Frank Reilly, Hilda Campbell, Karen Procek, Kaye Robertson, LizAnne McCahill, Rob Gowans, Sean Macaskill, and Susan Kelso.

1. **Welcome**

Narek Bido, Sharon Dickson, Toni Valbonesi, and Victoria Brown were welcomed to the NSDSC for the first time. No actions arising from previous minutes.

1. **Addressing Outcome 3: Systems and Culture**
   1. **Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation: Consultation on Definitions of Care (SB/SD)**

SB and SD facilitated presentation and group discussion around definitions of care [link to presentation here].

**Action-** Share the chat transcript with Sharon and Victoria to capture the comments and questions raised.

**Action-** Chair to invite SB and SD to future NSDSC Steering Group to share progress on producing definitions of care.

* 1. **Implementation Drivers (JK)**

JK explained relevance of Implementation Driver diagram [link here] to outcome 3. The diagram illustrates the importance of supported persons' choice, workforce skills and practice, organizational systems, and leadership.

* 1. **Experience of Working Together for Change (CT)**

CT shared positive experiences from participating in the course, highlighting improved relationships between supported people and social workers.

* 1. **Ethical procurement/commissioning (GD/PL)**

GD provided an overview of the draft ethical commissioning and procurement principles, emphasizing the importance of full involvement of people with lived experience. PL discussed the link between procurement legislation and self-directed support values and principles, highlighting ongoing projects to develop flexible and person-centred approaches.

1. **Reflection in discussion groups**

Key points include:

* The need for early involvement of people with lived experience, the importance of compensation for their time, and support to gain skills needed to engage in decision making processes.
* The importance of trust, co-production, and addressing fatigue and re-traumatization in consultation processes.
* There are local attempts to influence better SDS implementation, but effectiveness and interconnectedness with other local authority areas varies.
* The challenges of technical jargon in procurement.
* Examples of inflexible budget use were shared, emphasising the need for person-centred approaches and the role of local authorities in supporting flexible budget use.

1. **Current issues**

**Implementation of right to breaks for carers SG / COSLA (JF)**

JF provided an overview of the new Care Reform Act, which includes a right to breaks for carers. Work being done to determine how to define what a ‘sufficient’ break is.

JF also updated NSDSC on the Independent Advocacy Social Care Fund, which offers up to £50,000 for new collective, peer, or citizenship projects.

JF mentioned the Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing's commitment to engaging with stakeholders and attending upcoming events.

**5. AOCB**

Date of next meeting – 3 September 2025