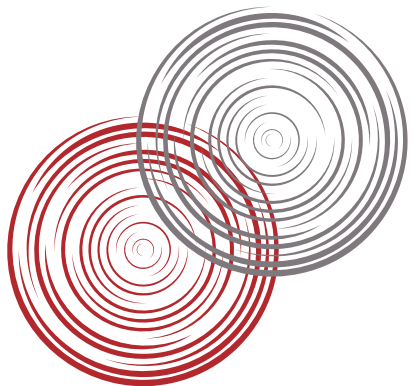
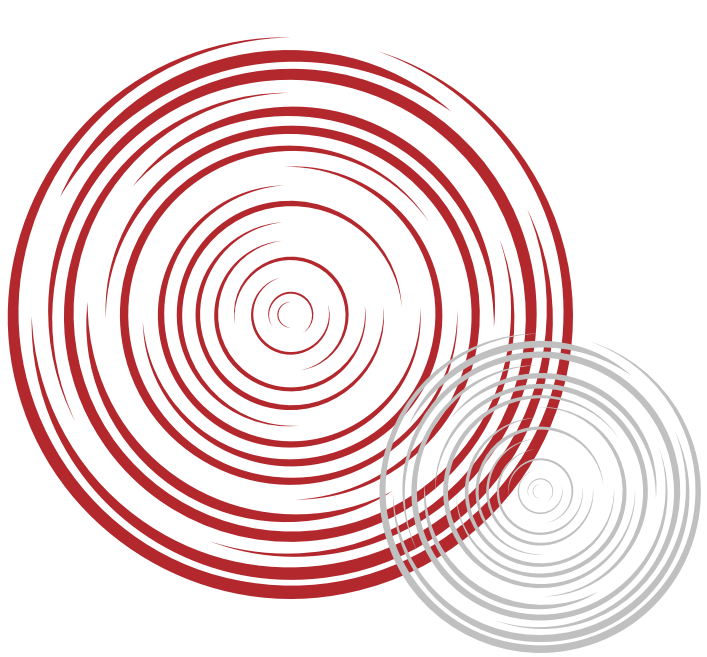




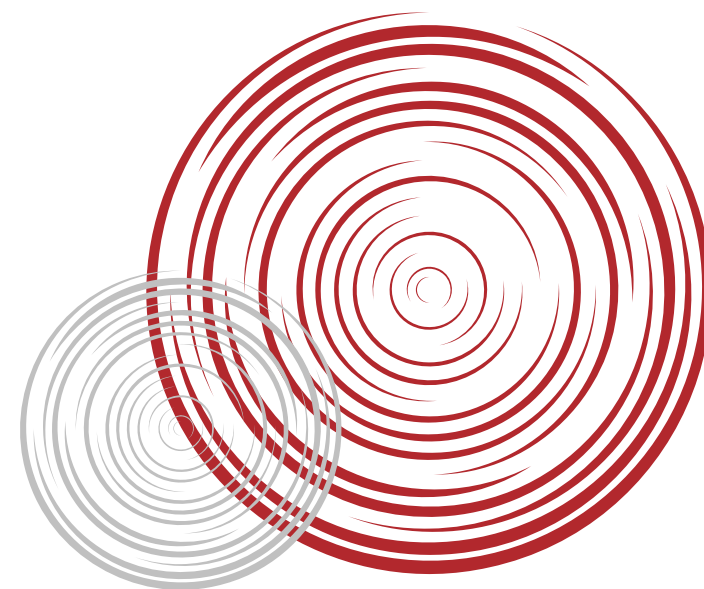
Self Directed Support Pooling Budgets Seminar

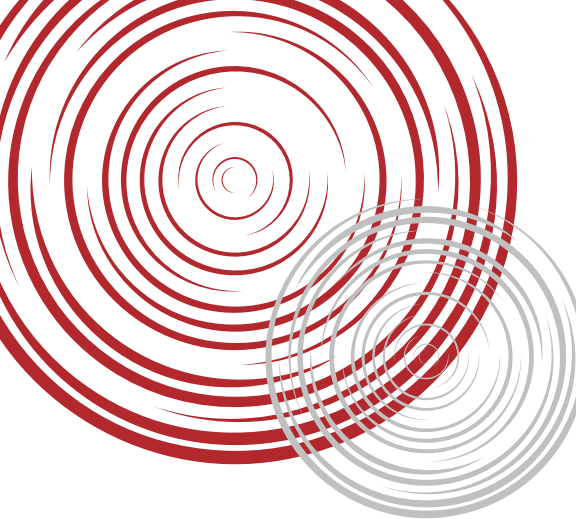
Dr Danielle Farrel
February 2024





in  **Control**[®]
Scotland





When the Self-Directed Support legislation was first implemented in Scotland, the concept of people pooling their resources to achieve shared goals was a new and exciting possibility. Over a decade later it is rarely spoken of, despite the Statutory Guidance stating that assessment, support planning and review should:

“recognise opportunities to pool expertise, share common approaches and combine resources at every stage in the supported person's pathway . The pooling of budgets should be the choice of, and controlled by, supported person and carers .”

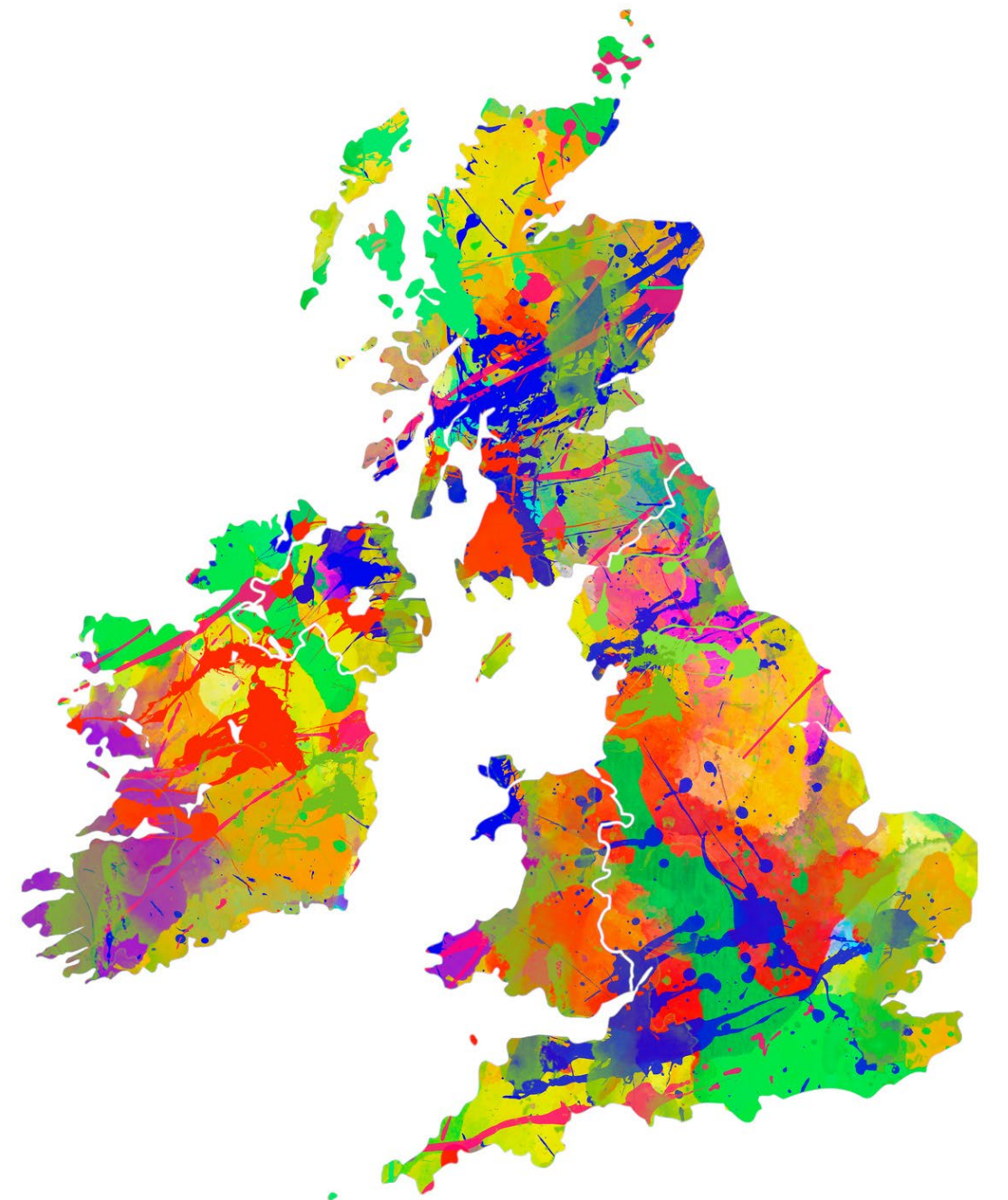
The Social Care (Self- directed Support) (Scotland) Act, 20 13 Guidance



Who Participated?

31 people from 17 Organisations participated
These included :

- Local authority SDS Leads
- Support providers
- People supporting unpaid carers
- Independent support organisations





Questions we explored...

- Is the pooling of SDS budgets frequently offered as an option across Scotland?
- Can you give a variety of examples around how the pooling of budgets can be used?
- Do Local Authorities have the pooling of budgets outlined in their Direct Payment Agreements or is there a separate agreement?
- Are support providers frequently pooling budgets with the people they support, and if, so how do they manage this?
- How are budgets being used flexibly when they are pooled?



Questions we explored continued...

- What needs to be put in place to enable the pooling of budgets to be used more frequently within Self-Directed Support?
- What is required in terms of a framework around the pooling of SDS budgets?
- What needs to change?
- Are there specific policies and procedures already in place around this area? If not, is this something that needs to be put in place?



Discussion

What experience of pooling budgets do you have in your local area?



Learning Themes

- 1: Limited data, knowledge, and confidence affect uptake
- 2: Examples are limited, but there is much to learn from
- 3: There is a need for guidance and tools to support pooling budgets
- 4: Support providers' experiences offer the strongest insight
- 5: Flexibility can be variable
- 6: There are some practical things that would make pooled budgets a reality



Recommendations

1. There is a need for clear, coproduced guidance in key topic areas, most notably around financial management and accountability for employment and decision making. If adopted, this would reduce the inconsistencies of approach that we have heard and increase confidence in offering pooled budgets.

2. There is a need to gather and share positive examples of pooled budgets, and to give practitioners and SDS budget holders the opportunity to learn from and share with each other.



Recommendations Continued

3. Local authorities should be consistent in all information they provide around SDS options including pooling of budgets. Local authorities should also publish and highlight that this type of information is available on their website.

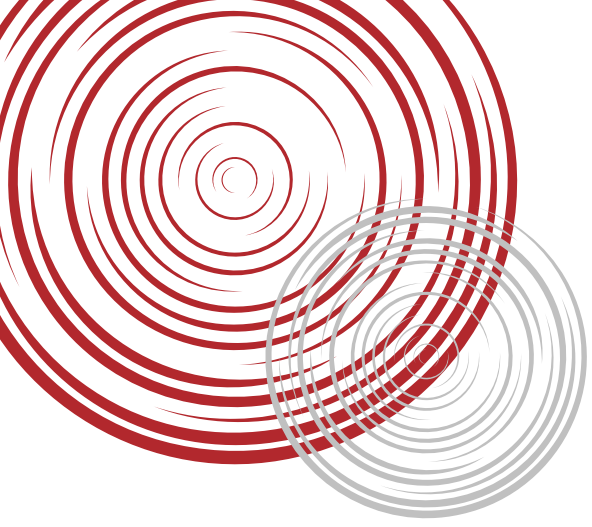
4. The option of having an employment intermediary should be explored further. This independent support would mean that PA employers have further support than they do currently around managing their role as a PA employer.



Discussion

Do you have any questions?

What needs to change to better support this approach?



Keep in touch!

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