

## From National Strategy to Implementation of the 2013 Act



In November 2010 the Scottish Government published their 10-year strategy to grow Self-Directed Support and in February 2012 a Bill on SDS was introduced into the Scottish Parliament.

The Bill was passed by Parliament in November 2012 and received Royal Assent in 2013, making official the Social Care (Self-Directed Support) (Scotland) Act.

The Social Care (Self-Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 came into force on 01 April 2014. Together, the Act and strategy aim to deliver the Scottish Government’s vision for Social Care where support is based around the citizen, not the service.

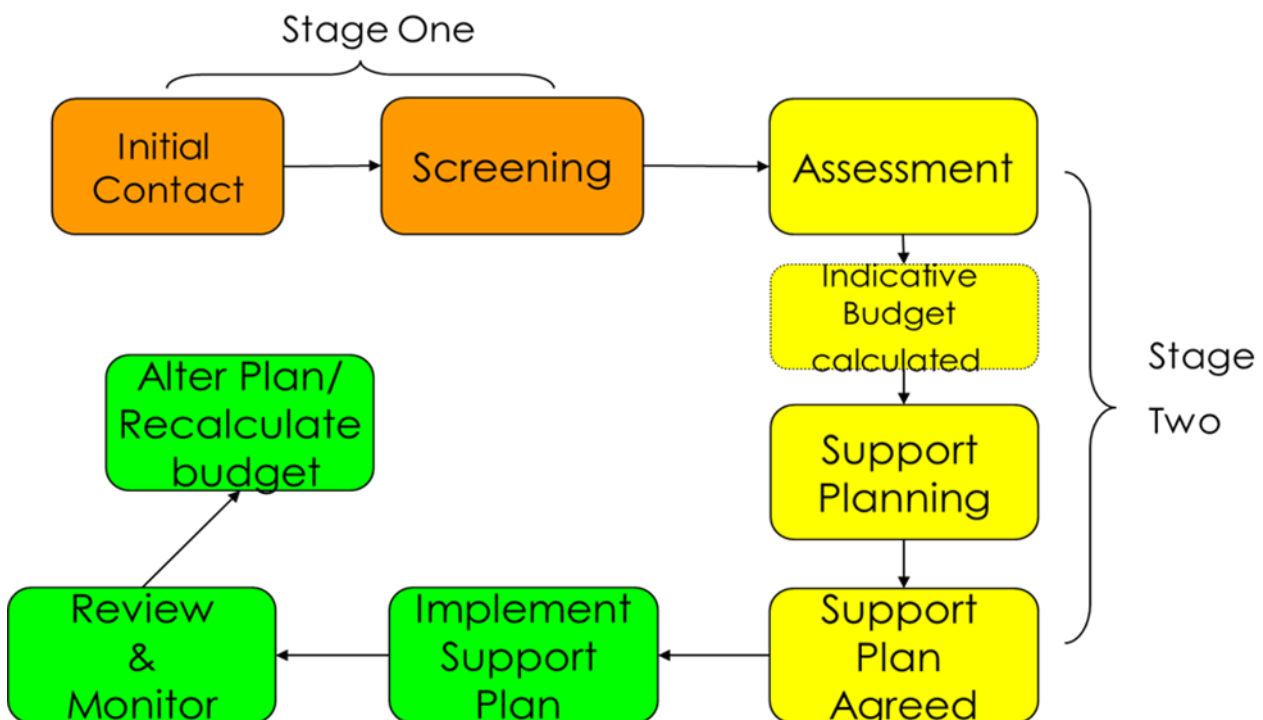
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Support-Social-Care/Support/Self-Directed-Support>

## Self-Directed Support (SDS) Team

The SDS team was brought together to help Aberdeenshire Council prepare for the implementation of the 2013 Act. As the Act comes into force, team manager, Yvonne Strachan said “We would like to thank all those involved in the development so far, the pathway group, pilot participants, service user reference group, staff teams and others who have helped prepare for the changes. There is still a lot of work to do and we feel confident that everyone will work together to achieve the best outcomes.

## New Pathway

From 01 April 2014, all new referrals and those approaching review will use the new Pathway. To support staff adjust to the new outcome focused assessment, planning and review processes involved, the SDS team will be setting up a helpline for practitioners.



## Arcadia information on Self-Directed Support for Social Work staff

Updated information is being added to the Self Directed Support section of Arcadia Services >> Housing and Social Work >> Self Directed Support

>>Direct Payments – a range of information on Direct Payments

>>Initial Contact Form and Sample Decision Letters – a word version of the initial contact form and sample decision letters to service user and referrer where appropriate advising them of the outcome of the initial contact with Social Work. Some of these letters can be customised to provide additional information.

>>Supporting Resources

In Control pilot Evaluation reports

Self-Directed Support Newsletters

Support Plan template and checklist for practitioner (as used in the pilot)

Public information is available on the Council website

[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/sds](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/sds)



### In Control Pilot

The report on the second year of the pilot is available and a workshop is planned to look at transition arrangements for those on the pilot.

Following on from the year one evaluation, there were 79 new referrals, although not all progressed in the timescale required as the pilot closed for referrals in October 2013 to enable the Council to make preparations for the full implementation of SDS.

During the second year, service users affected by substance misuse were included, the use of standardised support plans and Individual Service Funds introduced, and outcome focused review documentation was developed. A support plan checklist was also developed to support practitioners.

Key recommendations highlighted the need to ensure appropriate sources of advice and information in relation to identifying community/mainstream resources. This led to an information group meeting and agreeing to further develop the Grampian CareData service.

Keeping processes simple for the end user was recommended, particularly in relation to making changes to support plans and maximising flexibility. It is proposed that decision making in relation to individual budgets remain with the practitioner in line with delegated spend limits.

The move to outcome focused support led to the proposal that the Charging Policy should move from charging for services to a contributions based assessment. A four weekly payment cycle was also recommended and this has now been implemented.

It was recognised that interim/emergency arrangements need to be available and appropriate arrangements followed up by entry onto the outcome focussed pathway.

Ongoing training for staff and further public awareness raising was felt to be desirable. An introduction to Self-Directed Support is mandatory training available to all Social Work staff on ALDO (Aberdeenshire Learning and Development Online). Approximately 250 front line workers involved in assessments have also completed two day's training to induct them to the changes and the new Pathway.

## Commencement arrangements

The Minister for Public Health - Michael Matheson MSP in a recent letter about Self-Directed Support stated that, "The ultimate aim is to support independent living, to deliver better outcomes for individuals and to ensure that all individuals can participate fully in society regardless of their circumstance or disability."

Independent living means all disabled people having the same freedom, choice, dignity and control as other citizens at home, at work and in the community. It does not necessarily mean living by yourself or fending for yourself. It means rights to practical assistance and support to participate in society and live an ordinary life.

<http://www.ilis.co.uk/>

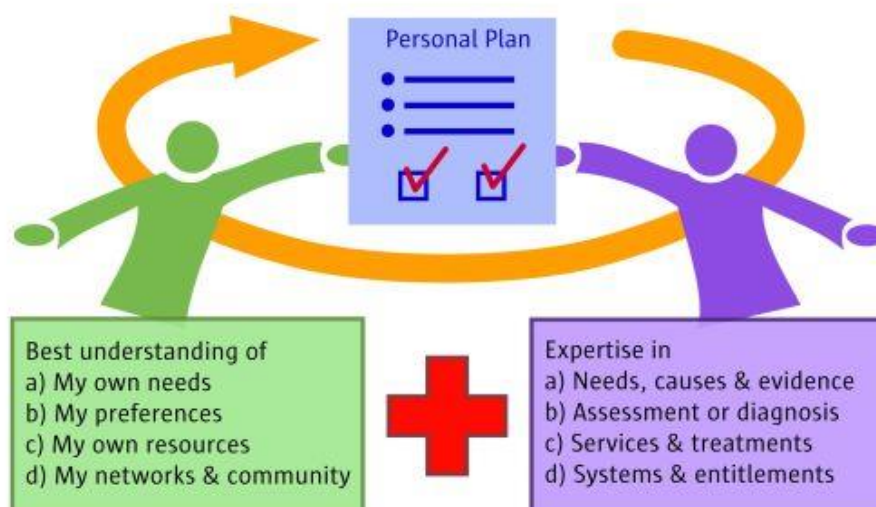
## National Guides on Self-Directed Support

A Range of Guidance is to be launched over the coming period to coincide with the 2013 Act coming into force. The detailed guidance notes are designed for professionals (care managers or other professionals doing this assessment/review role). There will also be guidance for people who use services, and guidance for service providers. The guide for professionals has helped inform Aberdeenshire's revised Care Management Handbook.

My Support, My Choice is the title given to the guide to Self-Directed Support for people who use support. Providers & Personalisation (P&P) worked with Self Directed Support Scotland (SDSS) to produce this guide, which was developed by a group consisting of people who receive support and professionals from the social care sector and was later 'road tested' with people who use support in different places across Scotland.

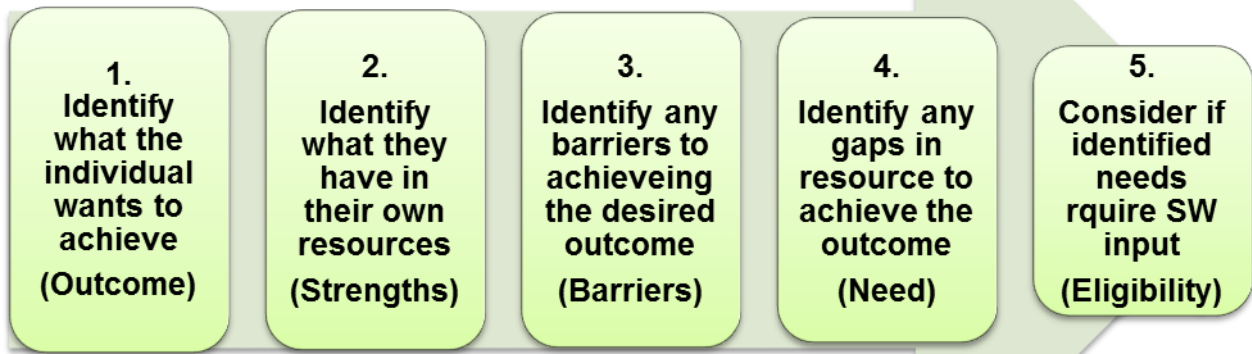
Providers & Personalisation also aim to produce guidance on Self-Directed Support for social care providers which focusses on best practice in both supporting informed choice and working within the new structure and systems that SDS will bring.

## Coproduction



Simon Duffy

## Outcome Focused Assessment and Support Planning



### Areas of support / Outcome focus:

In the Aberdeenshire guidance, a SHARARRI key outcomes framework has been developed to ensure that assessments and support plans focus on those things which are generally acknowledged to be the most important things that people want to achieve in their lives.

Safety	Health & Wellbeing	Achievement	Responsibility
Accepted	Relationships	Respect	Involvement

People are currently circulating useful materials from England. This is the link to one by “In Control” on Individual Service Funds: <http://www.supportplanning.org/IndividualSF/>

This website also has useful materials to help people plan what they need. This is the link for people with mental health problems: <http://www.supportplanning.org/MentalHealth/> and this is the one for older people: <http://www.supportplanning.org/OlderPeople/>

### Advice and Information Service Tender

To support SDS, implementation and delivery, the Council invited independent providers to tender to provide (a) General Advice and Information (b) Resource Mapping (c) Option Selection and / or informing the support planning process (d) Support individuals to become employers. Policy and Resources Committee will make a decision on the chosen provider approval on 3 April; details of the successful applicant will then be available.

### Grampian CareData

Helpline 01651 872727 (Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm)

<http://www.grampiancaredata.gov.uk/>



**Your** Life.

**Your** Choices.

Aberdeenshire Council Self-directed Support Team - Telephone: 01467 623258

E-mail: [selfdirectedsupport@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:selfdirectedsupport@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) Website: [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/sds](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/sds)



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