

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 February 2022
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care

Subject:	Self-Directed Support: Progress Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ◆ provide an update on Self-Directed Support and highlight areas of good practice being further developed

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s): -

- (1) that the content of the report be noted.

3. Background

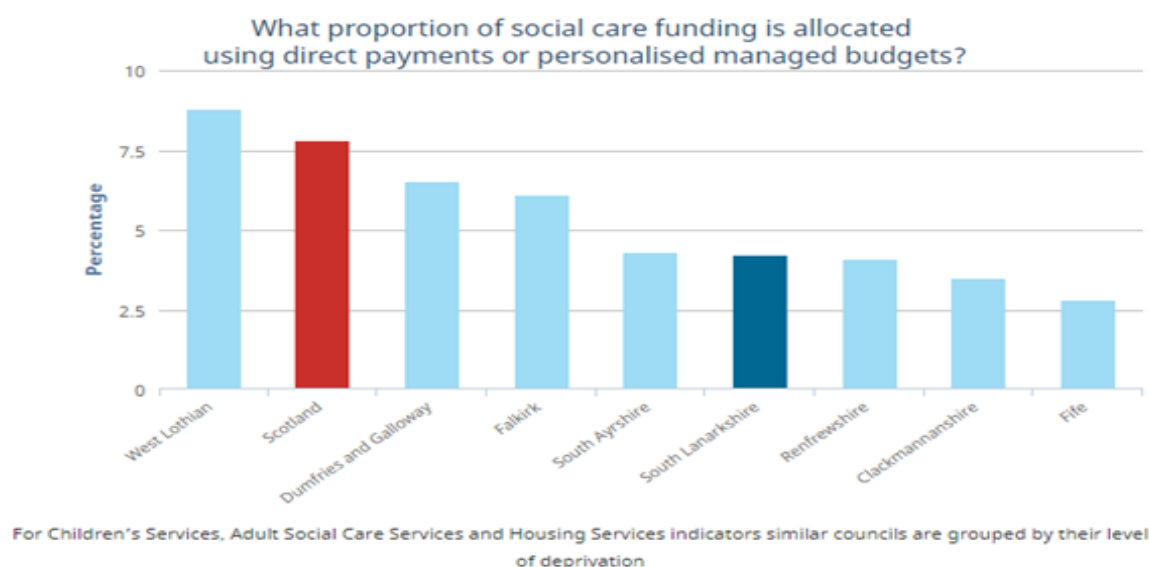
3.1. The Social Care (Self-Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 came into force in Scotland on 1 April 2014 with the aim of providing children and adults with more choice and control over how their Social Care needs are met. The Act gives local authorities the power to extend Self-Directed Support (SDS) to carers following a carer's assessment, meaning carers are able to choose from the same range of options provided to other people accessing Social Care Services. The Act placed duties on local authorities to provide options to allow individuals to choose how much involvement they want in the organisation and design of their care and support.

3.2. The Self-Directed Support Act 2013 puts a duty on local authorities to be transparent about the resources available to provide support and offer a choice as to how that support is managed/ delivered/ organised through the following four options:

- ◆ Direct Payment (a cash payment)
- ◆ Personalised Managed Budget (PMB) where the budget is allocated to a provider the person chooses (sometimes called an Individual Service Fund) where the Council holds the budget, but the person is in charge of how it is spent
- ◆ the local authority arranges the support
- ◆ a mix of the above

3.3. The Social Care (Self-Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 and detailed Practitioner Guidance set out the principles and policy for delivering SDS. However, since the legislation was enacted, Care Inspectorate and Audit Scotland scrutiny has found that SDS has been implemented partially and inconsistently across Scotland. Evidence shows that some local areas have embedded SDS well, while others are challenged to make the changes required for successful SDS implementation.

- 3.4. In response to this, the Scottish Government launched a SDS Implementation Plan for 2019-2021. The plan set out the actions that public and voluntary organisations would take to support authorities to build on their progress towards more flexible and responsive Social Care support, co-produced with communities and supported people.
- 3.5. The Improvement Service conducts comparative analysis over a range of local authority functions. One such indicator is SW2 Direct Payments as a percentage of total adult spend. The indicator refers to the percentage of total Social Work spend allocated via direct payments (DP) or Personalised Managed Budgets (PMB) / Individual Service Fund (ISF).
- 3.6. The 2019/20 data indicates that since 2010/11, the proportion of total Social Work spend allocated via DP and PMB / ISF has grown steadily from 1.6% to 9.0%. All 32 authorities have reported growth during this period.
- 3.7. Glasgow and North Lanarkshire account for a significant proportion of this growth, where expenditure via DP and PMB/ISF has grown from £5.2 million to £150.5 million. Excluding Glasgow and North Lanarkshire, the spend on Direct Payments and PMB/ISF as a percentage of total Social Work spend increased from 1.6% to 5.6%.
- 3.8. In terms of South Lanarkshire, the percentage of SDS spend for Options 1 and 2 continues to improve: with an increase from 3.7% in 2018-19 to 4.2% in 2019-20, with our ranking improving from 24 to 22. This upward trend is in line with the Scottish and the family group average - however, the result is still below the Scottish average of 8.99%. As this measure is in relation to SDS Options 1 and 2 only, this could be an indication of satisfaction with Option 3. However, to continue to increase uptake of Options 1 and 2, resources need to be released from existing service provision budgets.



- 3.9. The data suggests a relationship between deprivation and the uptake of DP and PMB. Those councils with lower levels of deprivation have a statistically higher uptake of Direct Payments (5.3% compared to 2.7% in the most deprived areas). Councils with higher levels of deprivation have a statistically higher uptake of PMB (6.5% compared to 1.6% in the least deprived areas). This finding is supported by the Scottish Government's examination of the uptake of Direct Payments and the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) which shows that people living in less deprived areas are more likely to choose Direct Payments.
- 3.10. A robust action plan was developed following the themed inspection of SDS, which included dedicated training sessions for all staff across the locality; and specific system improvements and guidance for staff, which has now been completed.
- 3.11. The policy and legal context in which Social Workers operate is increasingly complicated. The drive towards public sector reform aims to create more joined up local services based within communities and supported by regional and national initiatives and arrangements. SDS is one strand of Fairer Scotland for Disabled People, the Scottish Government's delivery plan for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Moreover, the Independent Review of Adult Social Care promotes a human rights-based approach and calls for full exploration of SDS options. This is likely to increase the uptake of SDS support in the future.
- 3.12. The Social Work Scotland SDS Project Team have led the co-production of a framework of eleven standards to support the implementation of SDS. These were agreed by COSLA on the 19 March 2021. An additional standard relating to finance is currently being developed and will be published shortly.
- 3.13. As part of the consultation process, the SDS Project Team met with the Care Inspectorate and discussed local authorities who had good tools, documentation, and processes in place in relation to assessment/care planning/reviews and resource release/allocation which also take an outcome focussed approach. The Care Inspectorate nominated South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) to be part of the consultation as they highlighted that we were doing well in these areas. South Lanarkshire's SDS team consist of Service Manager lead, SDS advisor with a finance background, part time team leader with data collection background, a newly appointed team leader to support social workers and newly appointed finance manager and finance officer to support a direct payment framework.
- 3.14. The SDS standards will ensure consistent and best practice and provide the structure and framework for future developments and service improvements and enhancements. The standards form part of a wider framework, designed to assist local authorities with the next steps in their implementation journeys.

4. Current Position

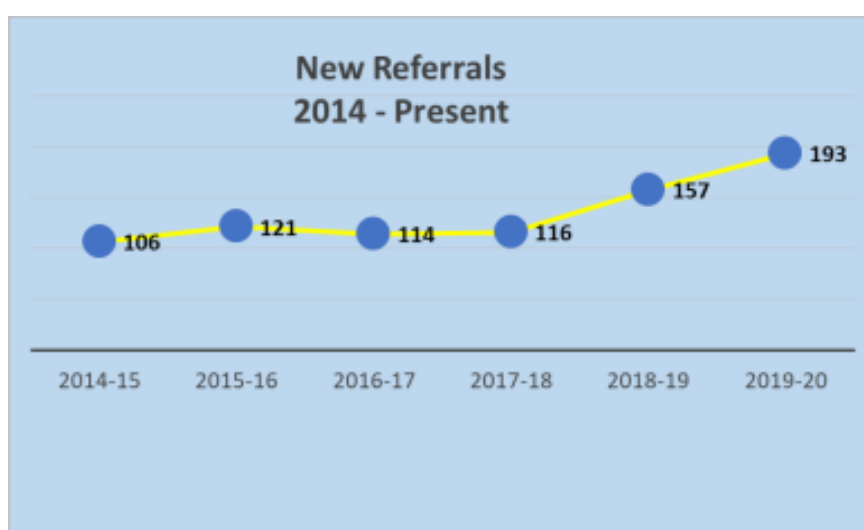
- 4.1. Options 1 and 2 are the primary means of delivering the intentions of the SDS strategy to hand over choice and control to service users by providing either a DP or full direction over how the individual Personal Care Budget is spent. Option 1 is the only option where supported persons can employ their own Personal Assistants (PA's).

- 4.2. Each year councils are required to submit a statutory Social Care Return. Part of this return provides details on the numbers of supported persons and values attributed to SDS Options. Information must be returned on every person who has had an assessment or review of their needs and who has chosen to receive support through one of the SDS Options. Clients are included if they received support at any time during the financial year. The number of people recorded with an SDS Option for 2020-21 is set out within the table overleaf.

Year	2020/21
Option 1	630
Option 2	33
Option 3	2351
Option 4	113
Total	3127

- 4.3. The costs attributed to those people with a support plan in place is £43.3m, with Option 1 (DP) accounting for £8.2m (or £8.5m when including Social Work Children and Families).
- 4.4. Several key developments have been introduced to strengthen our approach to SDS in South Lanarkshire. In-line with the legislation and Audit Scotland recommendations, these developments aim to put SDS at the forefront of service review activity so that it is outcome driven and not led by a service focus. These include:
- ◆ The revised 'Living the Life You Choose' assessment went live on 8 November 2021. This means the new version will be the only assessment available to staff, with the pre-SDS assessment being removed. This will confirm SDS as the mainstream approach to Social Care assessment and will bring into the scope of SDS a significant number of people previously supported through Care at Home Services who were not offered the SDS Options for their support. It is envisaged that most people will want to retain an Option 3 (Council arranged and managed) service but for the first time, their SDS option will be fully recorded.
 - ◆ An electronic Adult Carer Support Plan (ACSP) is in early stages of development and will be linked to the 'One Assessment' above. The new assessment will show a summary of carer support and will automate the carer budget calculation based on a transfer of points from the cared-for person to the carer, taking account of the frequency of support. Guidance will be issued to staff on use of carers support budgets and services available via Lanarkshire Carers.
 - ◆ A review of our public information will be commenced. This will include what people can access through the Council's web portal as well as links with our partner agencies. SDS information will also be accessible on the Integration Joint Board's website, with action taken to strengthen links for Health Care colleagues to be able to access information through the health web portal also. Recent reports such as the My Support My Choice – South Lanarkshire clearly support good quality information and advice as the cornerstone to effective choice and control.

- ◆ Central to the uptake and ongoing support of DP is the availability of an independent information and advice services. This vital service is pivotal to the success of Option 1, but also relevant to all SDS Options. This has been recognised in all the major reports; evaluation studies; and reviews conducted by Audit Scotland, Care Inspectorate and Self-Directed Support Scotland. It is intended that we review and strengthen our partnership with Take Control South Lanarkshire as our primary independent information and advice agency. The service has seen a marked increase in referrals over the past five years (as illustrated in the graph overleaf).



- 4.5. The national standards will ensure the ethos of SDS is embedded in practice.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. Additional posts have previously been approved to increase care management and support infrastructure to create capacity to better deliver on the Self-Directed Support and Carers Acts. This recruitment is ongoing.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. South Lanarkshire currently have 265 eligible carers with budgets ranging from £130 to £13,294. The current financial year commitment is £1.1m. A recent change to the methodology allows carer's budgets to be based on a fixed sum of £109.90 per point derived from the assessed eligible need. Taking a scenario of the maximum anticipated points available (80%) would result in an annual carer budget of £8,792. Provision is available for the approval of a higher budget if there are circumstances that warrant additional funding principally due to specialist replacement care cost. This will allow for greater consistency across localities with less variability in allocation. The change will result in some individuals receiving a different amount (some less and some more) than what they currently have. Any change would only be applied following a review.

6.2. Two new finance posts came into effect on 20 December 2021 (having been approved by Social Work Resources Committee on 21 June 2021). This will mean that the monitoring and review of Direct Payments will be the responsibility of the local SDS Team. They will work collaboratively with fieldwork colleagues and provide a more forensic support and audit activity (incorporating a framework based on the CIPFA monitoring matrix). This will allow for a more robust governance of Direct Payment activity. The initial target recovery has been set at £350,000 per annum.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

7.1. There are no Climate Change, sustainability and environmental implications associated with this report.

8. Other Implications

8.1. There are no other issues in respect of this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy, or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Soumen Sengupta

Director, Health and Social Care

20 January 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ protect vulnerable children, young people, and adults
- ◆ improve later life
- ◆ deliver better health and social care outcomes for all
- ◆ support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration

Previous References

- ◆ none

List of Background Papers

- ◆ none

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact: -

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