

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 January 2021
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care

Subject:	Proposed National Framework for Self-Directed Support
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of the response to Social Work Scotland's Proposed National Framework for Self-directed Support (SDS)

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Committee note the content of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1. Social Work Scotland's Self-Directed Support (SDS) Project Team has been engaged in widespread consultation with key national and local stakeholders in 2020 including local authorities, national partner organisations and supported people in the development of a national SDS framework. The framework will provide a set of co-produced standards, helpful resources and action statements, building on the Change Map, to assist local authorities in further implementation of SDS.
- 3.2. 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 outcomes focussed approach.
- 3.3. 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. A meeting was arranged for the SDS Project Team to meet with our SDS Team on 24 September, to discuss and share good practice, systems and tools and reflect on the appropriateness and relevance of the draft standards, and what would be required to implement them. After discussion, copies of the assessment, support plan and review tools were shared with them to provide further detail and improve their understanding.
- 3.4. The SDS Project Team reported that 17 local authorities contributed their comments and that the consensus general was that the standards are timely, inspiring and supportive.

4. Underlying Assumptions

4.1. There are three underlying assumptions within the proposed framework which underpin the Change Map and the standards, as well as being supported by the national and local authority stakeholders involved in the SDS project. They set a national direction of travel for SDS, based on current evidenced best practice.

4.2. Assumption 1

4.2.1. Assessment and the identification of resources is all part of the same process, and should not start with a budget but with the 'good conversation'.

4.2.2. This is a fundamental part of our guidance and assessment and care management procedures, where staff are encouraged and supported through our tools, to have a 'good conversation', where the supported person and carer provide their own views throughout the assessment process. A budget is only derived once the asset and strengths-based approach to the assessment is concluded. The statutory principles of the SDS Act, namely, participation, dignity, collaboration, informed choice and involvement are entrenched in our practice and processes.

4.3. Assumption 2

4.3.1. Community supports offer early help and support to people.

4.3.2. Community support models offer a universal approach where everyone is welcome to have a 'good conversation'. Our staff are well informed of local supports and offer early help and advice to anyone who needs it, especially those individuals who do not meet eligibility criteria for social care supports. Such community based early intervention has been shown to support people to maintain their wellbeing and remain independent, to reduce loneliness and to increase their knowledge of technological supports and adaptations.

4.4. Assumption 3

4.4.1. All Social Care processes need to be designed to meet the values and principles of SDS.

4.4.2. Our SDS Team have worked collaboratively with IT colleagues and have redesigned and improved systems and processes to support SDS, developing IT systems that enable effective recording, flexible person-led commissioning, and personal budgeting. These include assessment, outcome focussed support planning, review, finance, contracts, procurement and commissioning systems and processing.

4.4.3 Support Plan and Review module Training Programme was delivered from the 11 November 2019 until 13 January 2020, 16 courses and 162 front line staff attended.

5. The Standards

5.1. The Standards have been written for local authorities, outlining a direction of travel for effective implementation of SDS. They have been designed to be helpful, be measurable, provide more accountability to people who want more choice and control over their Social Care, provide the basis for a self-evaluation framework for local authorities.

5.2. The SDS Project Team have also opened up a 'Call for Comment' (closes 8 January 2021), which is primarily targeted at capturing opinions on the draft SDS Standards from the practitioners who would be expected to implement them. They also welcome comments from supported people and their carers to help inform the details

around what staff and leaders need to do to help them achieve full choice and control over their supports. They will then look to develop action statements that sit behind the standards, outlining what good SDS practice is. The 'Call for Comment' is being circulated to all councils, carers, supported people and third sector, for their feedback and opinions.

- 5.3. Each of the draft Standards are already fully implemented in our authority, all of which can be evidenced through good practice, case recording, the Social Work IT system, relevant procedures and frameworks and accessible public information.
- 5.4. Our robust IT system has been developed to capture the ethos of SDS and the need for a 'good conversation', through the assessment, support planning and review process. This has also improved our ability to react and be flexible and creative with personal budgets and individuals' support plans, especially during the current Pandemic.
- 5.5. Our fieldwork staff are also enabled to exercise professional autonomy and can set personal budgets within delegated parameters.
- 5.6 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 will form part of a wider framework, designed to assist local authorities with the next steps in their implementation journeys.
- 5.7 The SDS Project Team have also highlighted that the project findings correlate with the scope of the Independent Social Care Review and the commitments of The Promise.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. There are no implications for Climate Change in terms of the information contained in this report.
- 8.2. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained in this report.
- 8.3. There are no implications for the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. The national standards will ensure the ethos of SDS is embedded in practice with parameters to influence the implementation journey and full compliance with SDS legislation.
- 9.2. There are no sustainable development issues associated with this report.
- 9.3. There are no other issues associated with this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.

Val de Souza

Director, Health and Social Care

21 December 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Improve health, care and wellbeing
- ◆ Deliver better health and social care outcomes for all
- ◆ Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults

Previous References

- ◆ none

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Social Work Scotland's Proposed National Framework for Self-directed Support
[Proposed-National-Framework-for-SDS.pdf \(socialworkscotland.org\)](https://www.socialworkscotland.org/Proposed-National-Framework-for-SDS.pdf)

Contact for Further Information

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

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