

Self-directed Support

Social Work Managed Support



This information sheet is one of a series about Self-directed Support (SDS). SDS aims to give people more flexibility and choice over their care and support and how it is arranged and paid for.

SDS was introduced across Scotland on 1 April 2014. If you are eligible for social care services we will now ask you how you would like to be involved in arranging and managing your own support.

SDS gives you four different options for managing your support. These are:

- Option 1: Direct payment
- Option 2: Individual Service Fund
- Option 3: Social Work Managed support
- Option 4: a mix of the above options

This information sheet explains more about **Social Work Managed support**. Social Work Managed support may be the best option for you if you want your social worker or care manager to choose and arrange support services for you.

For more information about the other three options or about SDS in general, please see our other information sheets. You will find more details about these sheets on page 2.

Individual budgets

People who are eligible for social care support will be informed of their **individual budget**. Your individual budget is an amount of money available to you to spend on your social care and support.

What is Social Work Managed support?

If you are eligible for social care support and choose to have Social Work Managed support, your social worker or care manager will work with you to find support that is right for you. It does not mean that you have given up all control over your support but means that you let us suggest which support would work for you and if you are happy with this suggestion we will arrange it for you. We will manage your individual budget for you.

Joan chose the social work managed option:

Joan lives with her husband Bob who provides most of the support Joan needs. Bob is finding this increasingly difficult and stressful. They both want Bob to provide most of the support but with some help and the opportunity for regular breaks for him. They feel they have enough on their plate and do not want to arrange and manage the support. They have agreed with their care manager that a local agency will provide support. Support is now available to assist Joan to get up and dressed and to get out to a weekly club where her friends then assist her. She gets to see her friends and feel more independent and Bob gets a chance to relax and do what he wants.

Is there anything I cannot do with Social Work Managed support?

Social Work Managed support can only include support that you and your social worker or care manager agree meet the needs identified within your assessment.

If you choose to use Social Work Managed support:

- You cannot employ your own staff.

If you wish to have more choice and control over your support, you may want to consider using a **direct payment** or **Individual Service Fund** for some or all of your support. See information sheet SDS for more information about these options.

How do I get Social Work Managed support?

Before we can offer you any support we must ask you to take part in an **assessment**. An assessment helps us to understand whether you are eligible for social care support. If you are eligible, we will talk about the things you want to achieve and the support you may need to help you along the way.

Once your assessment is completed we will give you our estimate of how much money you will get to spend on your support. This is called your **estimated budget**.

We will ask you to fill in a **support plan**. Your social worker or care manager will explain how to fill in the support plan and they will help you with it, if you like. You can do this yourself or with help from family and/or friends. Your support plan should explain the support you may get from family/friends and the community, and how your budget will be used to meet your needs in the way that you want. We will ask you how you want to arrange and manage your support. You can choose Social Work Managed support or any other option available under SDS.

If you choose the social work managed option then your social worker or care manager will agree the support plan with you and then arrange to put your support in place. We will agree with you a date to review your plan and make sure it is working well for you.

More information

If you have any questions about Self-directed Support or would like to get started, talk to your social worker/care manager, if you have one.

If you do not have a social worker/care manager or are not sure who they are:

- **Telephone:** 0300 100 1800 and choose '4' for Social Work
- **Visit:** www.scotborders.gov.uk/sds and use the 'Contact Social Care and Health online' link

There is more information available from:

- **Scottish Government:**
www.selfdirectedsupportscotland.org.uk
- **Borders Independent Advocacy Services (BIAS):**
 - o Telephone: 01896 752200
 - o Website: <http://www.bordersadvocacy.org.uk/>
 - o Email: info@bordersadvocacy.org.uk

- **Encompass (for more information on direct payments):**
 - o Telephone: 01896 759700
 - o Website: <http://www.encompassborders.com/>
 - o Email: admin@encompassborders.com

About this information sheet

This information sheet tells you about Social Work managed support. It is one of a series about self-directed support. We published this factsheet in April 2014. We will check that it is up to date in August 2015.

Other useful information sheets

Name	Reference
• An introduction to SDS	SDS-00
• Direct Payment	SDS-01
• Individual Service Fund	SDS-02