



SDS Collective Call to Action during COVID-19

The Self-Directed Support (SDS) Collective consists of people using social care services, unpaid carers and SDS advocacy, support and campaigning organisations. Our aim is to work together to promote improved practice in the development of self-directed support throughout Scotland.

During these unprecedented times the SDS Collective acknowledges the challenges that we as a society face. We believe it is vital that we work collectively to find solutions that will help get us through these tough times.

Our key messages during COVID-19

- ✓ The values and principles of self-directed support are embedded in human rights and these must be recognised.
- ✓ The fundamental starting point is that people must continue to access the support that they need to assist them in staying as safe and as well as possible.
- ✓ All people who are directing their own support must be given clear, consistent and appropriate information on the measures taken to ensure their health and well-being.
- ✓ Personal Assistant employers and unpaid carers must have equity of access to appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and the training to use it. Adequate, clear information on the process to access PPE must be made available to all who require it.
- ✓ A 'one size fits all' approach is not appropriate. Flexibility is crucial at this vital time and must be actively encouraged. Personal assistant employers must be trusted to manage their budgets and to take good and autonomous care of their direct payment.
- ✓ Health and social care partnerships and local authorities must give people, especially those managing direct payments, clear guidance, support and reassurance that they will support the necessary flexibility, choice, control and use of resources without fear of repercussion.
- ✓ Everyone has the right to be made aware of local and national SDS independent support and information services to access support in order to develop contingency plans.

This vision requires courage, leadership, consistency and collaboration between all parties and a significant shift away from a 'top-down' approach to one where power can truly be transferred to citizens.

[How to get in touch \(including access to independent support and information organisations\)](#)

Via email- sdscollectivescotland@gmail.com

Facebook and Twitter- #SDSCollective