

Self-directed Support Week



13 - 17 June 2016

June 2016

It is now two years since Self-directed Support (SDS) legislation was implemented. As you know SDS is basically about an 'approach'. It is a way of working that is based on certain values and principles and should be in place for anyone working within social work.

SDS isn't just for social work; this approach can be used by anyone in the Council, health service and third or private sectors because it is about a way of working with people. The meaning of SDS has often got lost in statements about individual budgets

and the four options. It certainly should enable you to have choice about how your budget is spent, and how it is managed, but the SDS approach can be used, budget or not.

In last year's edition of the SDS Week newsletter Carol described her experience of SDS and of choosing her own staff team with her provider as 'it's not rocket science'. This year, Mr Anderson's experience below is based on a listening member of staff and some helpful connections.

Are we promoting the SDS principles?

Last summer we asked people whether they felt that they had participated as fully as they wanted in their assessment and in the planning of their support, that is whether the SDS principles of involvement, collaboration, choice, participation, and dignity had been part of this process. The majority of people felt that all the principles had been met and the highest rating was that 91% of people felt that they were treated with dignity.

Supporting community connections

A new one year Local Area Co-ordinator post is starting in the Hawick area from mid-June. This post will help older people and people with a disability who are feeling isolated to renew, or make new, interests and friends.

For more information contact Andrea Darling at the Hawick office on 01450 374545.



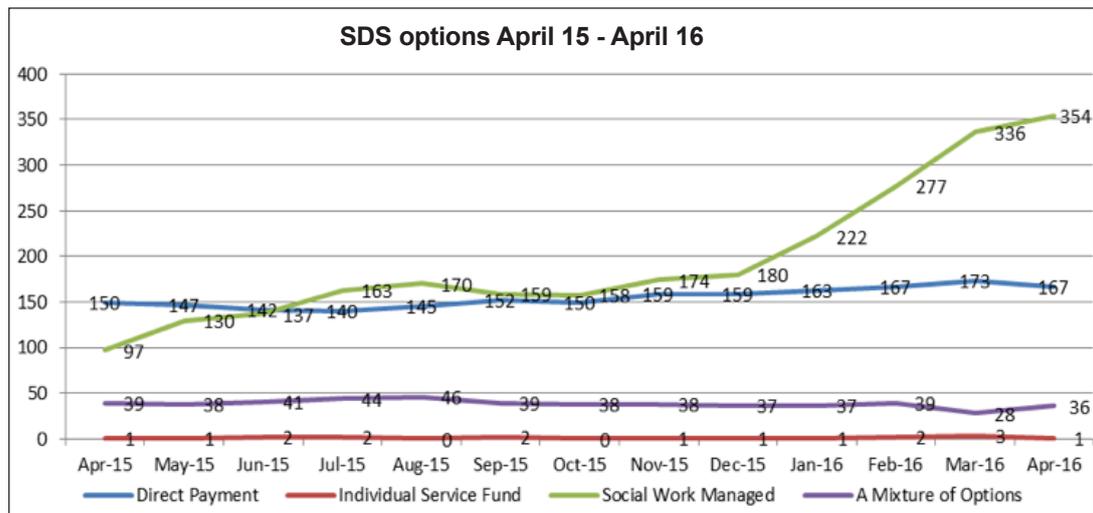
It's not just about the budget

Mr Anderson was persuaded to call social work because his family were worried that following a period in hospital he had lost confidence in going to the shops or for walks with friends. He had lost interest in food and was struggling to manage his home. Following a conversation with a duty social worker it was agreed that she would make a referral to the Red Cross Buddy Service. Mr Anderson would follow up information about a local butcher who provides fresh, ready-made meals and with a company that provides assistance with housework.

He now walks weekly with the Red Cross walking group and with his old friend, going for coffee after. He phones the butcher to order meals, with the occasional trip to the supermarket to catch the bargains. His confidence is gradually returning and he can catch up with his Red Cross Buddy by phone if there is anything troubling him.

What SDS option are people choosing?

Over 500 people are using the SDS approach, the number having doubled over the last year. Originally most people chose to manage their individual budget through a direct payment. The majority of people are now asking their care manager to arrange their support (354 people).



More on the Individual Service Fund (ISF)

The ISF option means that people can choose their support provider but do not need to manage the money as the Council pay the provider directly. Many people like this option because it is choice and control without having to manage the money. This should be a very flexible option for people, but for this reason can be difficult for providers to offer.

Four people have chosen to use an ISF. Amie McDermott of the Hawick Team has helped two people to set this up with a local provider, Hawick Care Company. Amie says that her clients have liked the control they get with the ISF. They each have had an agreement with this agency for a set amount of regular support and this has been flexible - with a bit of notice! The flexibility, notice needed and any individual requirements are written up in this agreement. Amie's clients have banked hours if they don't need support one week and then use this when they do. Laura Holmes of Hawick Care Company feels that it has worked successfully and that it is a positive option for people.

If you have ideas about how we can develop Individual Service Funds, contact Susan Henderson, SDS Lead, at: sahenderson@scotborders.gcsx.gov.uk

Wanted - Caring People!

People with a direct payment are often looking to recruit staff. Information events are being planned across the Borders to:

- let people know the about these job opportunities
- hear from an employer and an employee about what the job is like
- get information on where to look for jobs and where to get advice.

Kerry Renton, employee to three people who use a direct payment, gave a snapshot of her role in a Question & Answer session at the Duns information event in April.

What hours do you work? I work with one client for about 15 hours over various shifts in the week, another person I work with for 12 hours while the third person I support one day a week.

What training have you done? I have done a variety of training such as one day courses in first aid and moving and handling. I have now achieved my SVQ 3 in Health and Social Care.

Are the jobs well paid? I think so. I am paid different rates with each person that I work for, and I am paid for annual leave.

What do you like about your job? I like the range of roles, and it's my choice who I work for. It's a chance to get to know the people you are helping and you get a chance to make a difference to people.

To find out more, contact Encompass at admin@encompassborders.com or on 01896 759700.

SDS Forum

In line with SDS principles we are setting up an SDS Forum which we hope will contribute to the future development of SDS. Members of the Forum will be individuals and carers who are using SDS. It is hoped that the Forum will be able to:

- provide good quality information
- encourage and enable the sharing of experiences of SDS
- connect individuals with relevant organisations
- work in partnership with the local authority and voluntary organisations.

It is also hoped from this that individuals and carers will:

- be better informed and able to offer support to each other and support the implementation of SDS in line with its principles.
- have an opportunity to comment on policies and strategies that impact on their needs e.g. representation on the SDS Working Group.

Also, that the Forum will become an independent voice reflecting the reality of the provision of SDS.

The first meeting of the Forum took place on 9 June to explore further what individuals and carers would want from the Forum. Anyone who is interested in joining the Forum should contact Elspeth Critchley at ercritchley@icloud.com or Niccy Kershaw at n.kershaw@encompassborders.com or Encompass, Anderson's Chambers, Market St, Galashiels, TD13AF Tel : 01896 759700