

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee

20 January 2021

SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES 2021-2024

Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)

(Report No. 21/6)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks approval of the Self-directed Support (SDS) Strategy 2021-2024 for Services for Children, Young People and Families (Appendix 1). It reflects key aspects of the legislation and guidance from Social Work Scotland (SWS) and outlines the plan to work with children, young people and their families to increase choice and control when receiving their social care support.

1. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The Scottish Government introduced the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act in 2013. This legislation was enacted on 1 April 2014 and places a duty on local authorities to offer people who are eligible, following assessment, a range of choices over how they receive their support.
- 1.2 The SDS Act reinforces the commitment that people, regardless of age or reason for need, have a right to direct their own social care support and that they should be involved in all decisions about their care. This places further emphasis on the need for local authorities to be transparent in their planning and promote the principle that families and individuals should have access to the support they need, have more choice about what support can include and have control in the decision-making process.
- 1.3 There are four options available when receiving [SDS](#):
 - **Option 1**
Taken as a Direct Payment (a cash payment)
 - **Option 2**
Allocated to a provider the person chooses (sometimes called an individual service fund, where the Council holds the budget, but the person directs how it is spent)
 - **Option 3**
The Council decides and arranges a service for the supported person

- **Option 4**

The supported person can choose a mix of these options for different types of support

- 1.4 The provision of SDS extends the principles that underpin work with children in need and their families under Section 22 and 23 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. This helps ensure the promotion of participation and dignity, meaningful involvement and the ability to make informed choices about care and support. This approach is fully compliant with the recommendations from the national independent Care Review, 'The Promise' and reflects these principles and aims. SDS can be described as the range of support a person is able to purchase or arrange in order to meet 'agreed' personal health and social care outcomes.
- 1.5 The implementation of 'personalisation' via SDS has been in place since 2010, following the introduction of the [National Self-directed Support Strategy 2010-2020](#). This was further enhanced by the Social Care (SDS) (Scotland) Act 2013. However, in July 2019, the Scottish Government launched the [Self-directed Support Strategy and Implementation Plan 2019-2021](#) (summarised in Appendix 2). This aimed to identify the practical steps needed to promote systems which value a culture which focuses on people's right to be in control of their own support and how they receive it.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 In Perth and Kinross, the principles of the national SDS strategy have been introduced, incrementally, across all social care services. Following the launch of the national strategy, it had been proposed that national guidance would be issued on how to develop appropriate services which reflected the needs of both adults and children and their families. This did not transpire as expected and consequently, local services have evolved more gradually in response to need.
- 2.2 Within Services for Children, Young People and Families (SCYPF), SDS was initially introduced in services for children and young people with disabilities. This has been positively received by families and is now firmly embedded in practice. Since 2016, this approach has been used more widely across all services.
- 2.3 Following significant national research, the Scottish Government introduced the refreshed national SDS Implementation Plan 2019-2021. The Implementation Plan is a guide to support local planning and delivery of social care support services. It proposes actions which help promote culture change and is intended to help build on the progress already made toward flexible, more inclusive and responsive services for adults and for children and their families. It is acknowledged that creative, individualised use of monies made available at an early stage, can prevent crises and lead to better outcomes and more efficient use of often scarce and valuable resources. The implementation of SDS complements the values associated with the Perth and Kinross Offer and promotes improved engagement with individuals, their families and communities to improve outcomes.
- 2.4 A major emphasis of the national programme is on adult social care. However, the ongoing development of policy and practice is also very relevant to the successful development of social care support with children, young people and their families. The Implementation plan prioritises three areas for improvement:

- **Leaders and systems** (Senior decision makers and systems will create the culture and conditions for choice and control over social care support).
- **Workforce** (Workers will enable and empower people to make informed decisions about their social care support).
- **People** (People will have choice and control over their social care support).

- 2.5 The Implementation Plan also proposes that Social Work Scotland (SWS) would work with local authorities to create a set of standards for the implementation of SDS across Scotland to ensure transparency and greater consistency in the provision of support for children and adults, making it easier for supported people to move from one area to another. This work has generated 11 national standards (Appendix 3) which local authorities have been asked to utilise in the development of SDS policies and practice.
- 2.6 Within Perth and Kinross in 2020/21, there is a total of £260,000 allocated to provide SDS within SCYPF. From this, a total of 118 applications for support have been made and £62,000 has been allocated to provide a range of resources to meet need. The remaining £198,000 is provided, specifically, to support children with disabilities. From this amount, 40.9% of families receive Option 1, solely, as a Direct Payment. It is anticipated, that as training is implemented, practice and understanding of how SDS can be applied will evolve to promote more flexible and creative use of funds.
- 2.7 The innovative use of SDS has taken time to embed within wider services and there is an ongoing training requirement for staff. The implementation process has enabled staff within SCYPF to benefit from learning from earlier work undertaken with adults. However, a collaborative response, providing choice and control in responding to need, has now expanded to a wider group of children and young people and there have been numerous examples of SDS supporting improved outcomes for children and their families (Appendix 4).
- 2.8 The wider use of such funding will, ultimately, support preventative opportunities for families to improve outcomes while, simultaneously, allowing more choice and control when supporting children and young people to achieve their potential.

3 The SDS Strategy 2021-2024

- 3.1 SDS has been implemented, gradually, in SCYPF and there is now a requirement to have a local strategy for Perth and Kinross which builds on existing collaboration with the community and helps promote increased choice and control over how and when some children, young people and families have their assessed needs met.
- 3.2 In developing this strategy, it has been important to make use of the national SDS Implementation Plan as a guide to planning. In doing so, In Control Scotland worked collaboratively with Services for Children with Disabilities to consult with parents/carers to ascertain their current understanding and expectations of SDS (Appendix 5). The parents/carers indicated that they struggled to get information on SDS and that what they found was complicated and required explanation. In Control Scotland also consulted with staff across SCYPF to ascertain their current understanding of SDS, and their ability to have creative conversations with children,

young people and families about how their assessed support needs can be met (Appendix 5a and Appendix 5b).

- 3.3 Staff commented that they felt supported to be more creative when meeting need. However, they also found the process of applying for SDS to be complicated and felt that this lacked transparency.
- 3.4 The Standards for Practice developed by SWS (which will be finalised in March 2021) have been incorporated into this strategy and will be utilised, in conjunction with the areas for improvement within the Implementation Plan, to develop key performance indicators.
- 3.5 The aim of the SDS strategy is to provide clear direction for policy and processes in addition to promoting hope and aspiration to assist children, young people and their families to achieve their life potential. It outlines the importance of working in collaboration with families and partner agencies to achieve positive outcomes.
- 3.6 This strategy also emphasises the importance of working with staff and partner providers to increase knowledge and build confidence in being able to have creative conversations about meeting need. Every effort will be made to simplify and improve transparency in the SDS process.
- 3.7 Most importantly, the strategy aims to improve early intervention to help prevent crises. To do this effectively, partner providers must be included to identify needs at an earlier stage, all parties must be involved in co-creation and the building of capacity to develop a confident workforce able to have SDS conversations at an earlier stage and to be able to provide flexible and innovative packages of care and support.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The SDS legislation has been embraced within SCYPF. The introduction of the national Implementation Plan 2019-2021 placed responsibility on local authorities to review local SDS policies and processes and to learn from this programme of reform which focuses on specific improvement areas. This strategy is a blueprint to help promote a change in culture of how children, young people and their families can be supported in Perth and Kinross. Ultimately, the intention of the strategy is to improve transparency and develop consistency, by encouraging choice and control for those assessed as 'in need' of support to help them to achieve their life potential.
- 4.2 It is recommended that the Committee:
 - (i) Approves the Self-directed Support Strategy for Children, Young People and Families 2021-2024; and
 - (ii) Supports the development and inclusion of key performance indicators within the annual Business Management Improvement Plan for 2021/22.

Authors

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	Yes
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	None
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	N/A
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to Objective No. i and iv.

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Objectives.

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to Objective No. i and iv.

- 1.3 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area:

- Inclusion and Equality

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report other than reported in the main body of the report.

Workforce

- 2.2 N/A

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 This report has been considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. No further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

- 3.3 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 the Council also has a duty relating to climate change and, in exercising its functions must act:

- In the way best calculated to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets.
- In the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaption programmes.
- In a way that it considers most sustainable.

The information contained in this report has been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

Legal and Governance

- 3.4 The Head of Legal and Governance Services has been consulted and there are no legal implications.

Risk

3.5 N/A

3.6 N/A

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 This report has been developed in consultation with Managers and staff in Services for Children Young People and Families, the Health and Social Care Partnership and ECS Finance.

External

4.2 N/A

5. Communication

5.1 There are no additional implications other than those covered within the report.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

2.1 The Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act in 2013; National Self-directed Support Strategy 2010-2020; and Self-directed Support Implementation Plan 2019-21.

3. APPENDICES

3.1 Appendix 1 - SDS Strategy for 2021-2024
Appendix 2 - SDS Implementation Plan 2019-2021
Appendix 3 - Proposed National Framework for SDS
Appendix 4 - Examples of how SDS has been used
Appendix 5 - Parents Consultation
Appendix 5a - In Control Scotland - SDS Survey Feedback August 2020
Appendix 5b - In Control Scotland – Education & Children's Services Staff Consultation Survey Results