

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Director of Community Health & Care Partnership

Community Health and Care Partnership Committee: 21st May 2014

Subject: Self-Directed Support Policy Approval

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To provide the committee with a report on the implementation of the Self-Directed Support Act and to seek approval for the draft SDS policy and Procedures.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Committee is requested to approve the draft SDS Policy and Procedures.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 came into effect on 1st April 2014. The Act focuses on client involvement and on having clear outcomes for service users.

- 3.2** The main changes and additions provided by the 2013 Act are –

- Duty to have regard to the general principles of collaboration, informed choice and involvement as part of the assessment and the provision of support (with respect to adults, children/families, adult carers and young carers).
- Duty to take reasonable steps to facilitate the person's dignity and participation in the life of the community
- Power to provide support to carers (of adults) following a carer's assessment
- Duty to offer four options to the supported person (1 - Direct payment, 2 - Directing the available support, 3 - Services arranged for the person by the authority, 4 - a mix of other 3 options)
- Duty to explain the nature and effect of the 4 options and to "signpost" to other sources of information and additional support

- 3.3** The 2013 Act incorporates the existing arrangements for direct payments as one of the four options available for the provision of support.

- 3.4** Duties and powers that are not affected by the introduction of the 2013 Act are –
- Duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
 - Duties in relation to children affected by disability
 - Carers assessments
 - Duty to prepare plans for community care services (adult)
 - Duty to appoint chief social worker
 - Power to make arrangements with voluntary and other organisations
 - Duty to promote social welfare (adults)
 - Carers assessments (carers of adults)

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** The SDS policy has been developed to support the implementation of the 2013 Act. (*Appendix I*) West Dunbartonshire CHCP is committed to the implementation of self-directed support, ensuring individuals and families have choice and control over the support they receive
- 4.2** The procedures which accompany the draft policy may be subject to further revision in line with the Scottish Government's guidance on self-directed support.
- 4.3** To assist the implementation, a new Single Sharable Assessment has been developed to allow care managers/professionals to discuss and offer all four options to service users and their carers.
- 4.4** To support the process, a support plan is used to record the agreed outcomes for the individual. The needs and outcomes identified in the assessment process will inform the support plan.
- 4.5** Resources allocated under SDS will be supported by an Individual Resource Framework. This is a transparent financial assessment tool based on WDC CHCP's financial processes.
- 4.6** West Dunbartonshire CHCP has created a dedicated SDS support team to support the implementation of the SDS agenda.
- 4.7** An independent support service has been commissioned with Carers of West Dunbartonshire to provide advice, guidance and support to those interested in SDS.
- 4.8** A dedicated SDS website has been developed to provide the public with easy access to a step by step guide to the many facets of SDS. This includes an explanation on what SDS is; who can get SDS and how to get the support required. The website provides both a dedicated telephone number and e-mail address for SDS enquires.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** The SDS team has produced a Newsletter for staff, updating them of current developments. This contains information on the SDS telephone number and e-mail address.
- 5.2** Staff Support - We have developed a Link Workers system across CHCP services. They are available as a point of contact within their team and can offer peer support to their colleagues. The Link workers are currently completing the Open University course 'Foundations of Self Directed Support' and attend regular workshops supported and facilitated by an Open University tutor.
- 5.3** Link Workers meet with the SDS Team on a monthly basis to discuss and consider the implementation of SDS in West Dunbartonshire and share best practice.
- 5.4** Staff Training - The SDS Team have delivered half hour training sessions twice per day. The purpose of these sessions was to give staff attending a general "overview" in terms of the requirements and impact of the new legislation.
- 5.5** A further rolling training programme is in place to update staff on the new Policy and Procedures for SDS. This training will be available to all CHCP staff involved in assessments and reviews and will run over ten session for up to 50 staff per session.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** The financial cost of SDS implementation has been met by funding from the Scottish Government.
- 6.2** An Individual Resource Framework (IRF) has been developed which will be completed by care managers as part of a process pathway for assessing each client's eligibility for services. The IRF will assist in the allocation of resources by producing an indicative budget banding, which will assist the client / care manager in the decision on the type of care chosen by the client based upon the agreed outcomes from the Single Shared Assessment (SSA).
- 6.3** The completed IRFs will be continually evaluated to ensure that they are completed consistently across client areas and the budget bandings will be compared against the current cost of packages for clients during their review process.
- 6.4** SDS packages will also be monitored under the normal budgetary control procedures and any variances or financial implications reported to the CHCP Committee.

- 6.5** Charging Policy – A review of the CHCP policy on charging for services will be undertaken in light of the recent government guidance on charging for SDS services.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** The CHCP would fail to uphold its statutory obligations within the Act if it did not implement the Act and create transparent processes.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed.
(Appendix II)

9. Consultation

- 9.1** In partnership with RNIB, (through a government sponsored pilot), Lomond & Argyll Advocacy, The Carers Centre, In-Control Scotland, Positive People Development, ADSW and the Scottish Government, the SDS Team have delivered a rolling programme of formal and informal training, information and consultation events.
- 9.2** These events have enabled us to positively engage with over 500 Representatives across CHCP staff, Service Providers, Carers and Service Users.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** The implementation of the SDS Act will contribute to the realisation of the council's Strategic Plan 2012/17 in that it will:
- Improve life chances for children and young people.
 - Improve care for and promote independence with older people.
 - Improve the wellbeing of communities and protect the welfare of vulnerable people.



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Person to Contact: David Elliott, General Manager, Learning Disability Service.

Appendices: (I) Draft Policy, (II) EIA (III) Self Directed Support Procedures.

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All council wards