



moray Self Directed Support

Social Worker Information Handout



What is Self Directed Support?

If you are eligible for long term support from community care you will be allocated a social worker who will carry out your Self Directed Support (SDS) assessment. Your social worker will tell you how much money you have as an indicative budget which will therefore allow you to plan and decide the best way to use this money to meet your outcomes. SDS recognises that individuals are the experts in their own lives and aims to offer them choice, control and flexibility over the support they receive. There are four options within SDS which will be explained to you by your social worker. You will be offered to choose from the four options.

The four options are as follow:

- Option 1** – The Local Authority can make a direct payment for you to arrange your own support.
- Option 2** – You can choose your support and the Local Authority or a third party (ISF provider) makes arrangements for the provision on your behalf.
- Option 3** – The Local Authority **selects** and **arranges** the appropriate support on your behalf.
- Option 4** – A mix of options 1, 2 and 3 for specific aspects of your support.

Further information can be obtained from the SDS Team on 01343 563420 or alternatively via the national SDS website www.selfdirectedsupportscotland.org.uk

Glossary

Eligibility – Moray Council use an eligibility criteria to determine who is eligible for support. Moray Council's eligibility criteria can be found at www.moray.gov.uk > social care and health > getting support > eligibility criteria.

Financial Assessment - If you receive a personal budget or care from Moray Council's Social Work Service you may be required to contribute towards the cost of the services you receive/purchase. This will be determined through a financial assessment.

Indicative Budget – is an estimated calculation of what the level of funding for an individual to meet outcomes in their spending on a support plan. This is determined through a supported self-assessment questionnaire.

Supported Self Assessment Questionnaire – used to assess what support is needed and identify any risks to the assessed persons health and wellbeing.

Resource Allocation System – a tool for calculating an indicative budget from the self-assessment questionnaire..

Support Plan – a document that identifies how an individual's support needs will be met.

Outcomes – are positive changes that the assessed person has decided will help support their needs. Outcomes can be identified in the assessed person's support plan

Individual Service Fund (ISF) – This is part of Option 2. You will still have the choice and control over how your money is spend but a third party will hold the budget on your behalf.

Financial Contribution

Once you have had an assessment on your social care needs and you are deemed to be eligible for social care support, you will be offered a financial assessment.

- You may have to pay a financial contribution. The contribution an individual is required to make is based on the council's financial assessment process
- The financial assessment will include specialist advice and assistance to support individuals to maximise their income through claiming for welfare benefits to which they may be entitled
- The proportion of the contribution the individual will be required to make will not be influenced by the size of the care and support package required
- Your contribution will be based on the total cost of your support package and not on the services you receive.
- Part or all of the individual's contribution can be abated/ waived in cases of hardship or exceptional need; or as the outcome of a risk assessment.
- If you would like to know more about how a financial contribution is calculated please contact your social worker for further information.

Option 1 Direct Payments

You may choose Option 1 to purchase the right support to meet your agreed outcomes.

A direct payment, for example, could be used as follows:

- To employ a Personal Assistant
- To purchase short breaks/respice
- To purchase support from an agency or provider
- To purchase activities, memberships and items of equipment to meet your agreed outcomes
- Support to find employment, voluntary jobs or educational classes and support to attend

NB: at present it cannot be used to purchase long term residential or nursing home care

Option 2

You can choose the support that you require and Moray Council or a third party provider (Individual Service Fund) will make the arrangements on your behalf.

Moray Council can hold the budget for you and make all of the necessary arrangements on your behalf to meet your agreed outcomes. Alternatively, you could use an Individual Service Fund (ISF).

What is an ISF?

An ISF is aimed at giving you as much choice, control and flexibility as that of a direct payment without you having to control the budget.

Your chosen ISF provider will manage the budget for you and make the necessary arrangements on your behalf. They will submit financial returns to Moray Council on your behalf to monitor how the funds have been spent.

If the plan is not working for you, simply contact your ISF provider who will work with you to make any changes to your plan allowing you to meet your agreed outcomes in a more suitable way.

For further information regarding an ISF please refer to Option 2 Individual Service Funds booklet.

Option 3

You will work alongside your social worker and discuss what support you need, however you will not have to arrange for the support services to be put in place.

Moray Council will therefore select the service and make the necessary arrangements on your behalf meaning that you do not have to take on any direct, on-going or day-to-day responsibility for planning and controlling how the available resources are used.

Therefore by choosing Option 3 you are in agreement that Moray Council will select and arrange the appropriate support on your behalf.

Option 4

Option 4 is a combination of Options 1, 2 and 3.

Option 4 may be attractive to people who would like to experiment with a direct payment or ISF for a small aspect of their support or to meet a small portion of their outcomes.

Option 4 can offer you truly person centred support by allowing you to mix and match the options to best suit your individual needs. Option 4 allows you to retain the choice and control over certain elements of your support yet also allows Moray Council or a third party to manage elements of your budget on your behalf.

Remember, if your plan and chosen option are not working for you, you should contact your allocated social worker to request a review.