Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Bill

South Lanarkshire Self-Direct Network

1. Are you generally in favour of the Bill and its provisions?

Yes, we are generally in favour of the Bill and its provisions.

2. What are your views on the principles proposed?

We are in agreement with the 3 principles that have been proposed. We would also like to stress the importance of information, advice and support being readily available to enable individuals to make the best possible use of the opportunities that Self-Directed Support provides.

3. What are your views on the four options for Self-Directed Support proposed in the Bill?

We believe that the 4 options will provide more choice and control for individuals and create a more flexible, creative approach to providing support which will enable a person-centred approach that will result in better outcomes.

4. Do you have any comment on the proposal that the Self-Directed Support options should be made available to children and their families, together with the proposal that the degree of control a child may have over the process should vary with age?

We welcome that the Scottish Government has taken on board our previous comments that consideration should be given to an age range being introduced for children to have a degree of control over the process.

We agree with the proposal that the Self-Directed Support options should be made available to children and their families and agree with the age ranges outlined within the easy read version of the bill.

5. Are you satisfied with the provisions relating to the provision of information and advice, together with those concerning the support that should be offered to those who may have difficulty in making an informed decision?

We agree with the provisions made relating to the provision of information, advice and support that should be offered. We also believe that welfare and financial guardianship should be applied if an individual cannot make an informed decision.

6. Are you satisfied that the method for modernising Direct Payments in the Bill will result in the change that the Government seeks?
Yes. The method for modernising Direct Payments in the Bill will result in the change that the Government seeks. The change will enable Direct Payments to be used in a more flexible, creative way and improve outcomes for individuals.

7. **Do you have any views on the provisions relating to adult carers?**

We agree that a discretionary power should be made available to enable local council’s to continue to decide if Self-Directed Support should be available to carers.

8. **Do you agree with the approach taken by the Scottish Government not to place restrictions on who may be employed by an individual through the proposals in the Bill?**

We agree with the approach taken by the Scottish Government not to place restrictions on who can and cannot be employed the only exception being the employment of close relatives which should still remain at the local council’s discretion.

9. **Do you have any views on the assumptions and calculations contained in the Financial Memorandum?**

We don’t have any specific viewpoints on the assumptions and calculations. We understand though that additional money is required to be spent initially on information, advice, support, training and capacity building.

In relation to costs as stated in Pt 8 we agree that employment of close relatives should only be at the discretion of the local council and that also cases should be looked at on an individual basis and decided on merit.

With regard to Direct Payments being paid gross or net we believe that there should only be one charging system in operation and that charging should be on a net basis.

We agree with the Scottish Government’s viewpoint that further consultation is required prior to the introduction of Direct Payments for Residential Accommodation.

10. **Are you satisfied in the assessments that have taken place in regard to these matters and in the conclusions reached by the Scottish Government?**

Yes. We are satisfied in the assessments that have taken place and the conclusions reached.
11. Do you have any comments on any other provisions contained in the Bill that you wish to raise with the Committee?

The only other aspect would be in relation to pre-assessment the flowchart mentions this would be carried out by local council’s. We know that local Council’s have a duty to assess however reference has been made in the past to other organisations carrying out this task. We feel that additional clarification is required on this point and on whether additional funding will be made available as is being provided for information, advice, training etc.

South Lanarkshire Self-Direct Network
26 April 2012