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

Cath Steven (individual)

I live in the Glasgow City Council area and am the main carer for my 19 year old disabled daughter. My daughter was assessed last year, April 2011 by Glasgow City Council under the Self Directed Support system and a budget was implemented from Dec 2011. My daughter’s day support and respite are provided by a specialist service which is able to meet her complex health and disability needs.

The budget allocated under the SDS by Glasgow City Council has halved her day support and respite care. I am afraid to say that my experience of SDS is not a good one as due to her services being reduced, I am unable to work part time (I had to leave my job to look after her the days that she's at home)

I also was told by Glasgow City Council that it was my choice to use the service and that I could use a cheaper service and get better use of the SDS budget.
When I advised the council that I use the service as it meets my daughter’s needs and this surely was the point in Personalisation/SDS, the response from Social Work Dept was "it's up to you".

It seems to me that Glasgow City Council have used the SDS process as a cost cutting exercise rather than a needs led package in my daughter's circumstances.
They carried out the assessment by completing a Self Evaluation Questionaire (SEQ) which was basically a tick box exercise and this was then used to decide the budget for my daughter.

I also cannot understand why Glasgow City Council have already completed the SDS process, when your committee members are undertaking a visit to hear from people who will be affected by the provisions within the Social Care (SDS) Bill. Is Glasgow City Council then premature in applying SDS, or am I missing something? How can a council implement a system which is currently going through the Scottish Parliament?

I apologise for my ignorance regarding laws, bills, etc and the process of going through Parliament, but I would like to know why Glasgow City Council have applied the SDS system if it is not yet been decided by the Scottish Parliament.

Mrs Cath Steven
21 April 2012