

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT TO THE PUBLIC AUDIT COMMITTEE, DATED 31 JULY 2014

AUDITOR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND (AGS) AND ACCOUNTS COMMISSION REPORT – SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT (SDS)

Thank you for your letter of 26 June 2014. The Committee asked for our response to a number of points, highlighted in bold font below.

Provision of guidance and sharing of learning in relation to the implementation of option 2 of SDS (see Exhibit 1 of the SDS report)

The Scottish Government has engaged in initial discussions with COSLA, Social Work Scotland, national providers and user information organisations to consider the practical and system challenges in relation to “Option 2” in the SDS Act (“notional” budgets). A national Option 2 working group has been established to explore the issues impacting on the implementation of Option 2 in practice, and ensure that it is offered in a way which is in keeping with the spirit of the legislation.

The group will help to inform a revised statutory guidance planned for Spring 2015, and will inform the development of any additional learning resources that may be required to encourage authorities to maximise the opportunities afforded to individuals under Option 2

Input on SDS and Commissioning from the national Joint Improvement Team will support this work and inform the development of Strategic Plans.

Development of a monitoring and evaluation strategy, including a set of indicators for councils to use to monitor and report on SDS implementation locally

The Scottish Government has developed an outline outcomes framework for SDS, summarised in the diagram at Annex A. We are working with local authority partners to develop this framework, including a more detailed collection of indicators beneath each outcome along with a summary of national data sources and potential local data sources to measure progress.

The outcomes framework will also form the basis for an in-depth evaluation study on the impact of SDS. The specification for this activity will be developed during summer 2014, and will have a wider remit, encompassing the strategic implementation of the SDS Act/Strategy and impact of the roll out of SDS along with the relevant support from local authorities and Scottish Government.

This evaluation study is expected to be a medium to long-term activity. In the short-term, progress will be monitored through:

- A national SDS Implementation Panel, chaired on behalf of Ministers by Scottish Government policy officials, and including representation from local authorities, key user information, carer and provider organisations. The panel will gather, identify, discuss and resolve implementation achievements and challenges during the first year of the Act’s implementation. The Panel will report to a new national SDS Delivery Group comprising of key national organisations with an interest in, and responsibility to, deliver the SDS strategy.

- A SDS implementation questionnaire was sent to local authority SDS leads in July asking about transformational funding and other issues. This will help inform the monitoring and evaluation strategy.
- We will collect and analyse SDS statistical information annually through the [Social Care Survey](#), next published in November 2014.
- We will continue to monitor information from the Health and Social Care Experience Survey regarding the views and experiences of social care users and their carers.
- We intend to publish a SDS analysis report after the first full financial year following the Act's commencement which will bring together information from the above two sources.
- Analysis and consideration of relevant Care Inspectorate inspections.

The Scottish Government is currently working with Local Authorities to develop further the data collected on SDS in the Social Care Survey from 2015 onwards. Proposals are being developed to collect information which will allow us to distinguish between 'new' SDS clients and 'ongoing' SDS clients. This information will allow for the analysis of data on individuals whose care needs are reviewed in the context of SDS. Depending on the data available at local level, the evaluation study may allow for further in-depth analysis on this issue.

From 2014, we will report on the number of individuals who take up each option on an annual basis. This data will be available at local authority and national level. We will use the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) to see whether deprivation impacts on uptake. We will also be able to track individuals longitudinally to determine how their choices change as their needs change.

Issues such as impact on the quality of peoples' lives will be addressed through the wider monitoring and evaluation strategy for SDS.

Yours sincerely

Paul Gray

Outcomes Framework for SDS

