

Self-directed Support

SDS FORUM

The principles of collaboration, participation, informed choice and involvement are central to Self Directed Support. People can choose how their care is provided to them and who provides it for them and should have as much control as they choose over how their budget is spent.

In line with these partnership principles we have set up an SDS Forum which we hope will contribute to the future development of SDS. Members of the Forum are individuals and carers who are using SDS regardless of which of the 4 SDS options they choose.

It is hoped that the Forum will be able to provide good quality information and encourage and enable the sharing of experiences of SDS and will connect individuals with relevant organisations and work in partnership with the local authority and voluntary organisations.

Suggested outcomes are -

- Individuals and carers will be able to work in partnership with the local authority and voluntary organisations sharing information and best practice.
- Individuals and carers will be better informed and able to offer support to each other and support the implementation of SDS in line with its principles.
- Individuals and carers will have an opportunity to comment on policies and strategies that impact on their needs e.g. representation on the Local Authority SDS Working Group.
- The Forum will become an independent voice reflecting the reality of the provision of SDS.

At the meetings so far we have been involved in looking at and commenting to the local authority on SBC leaflets on Social Care, Eligibility Criteria, Charging Policy and Assessment. We are suggesting that there should be a comprehensive Information Pack to be sent out to people at the point they are referred to Social Care. We have also found meetings are a great opportunity to share experiences and support each other. At a recent meeting the Lead Officer for SDS and a Team Leader from one of the Social Care and Health teams joined us and we had a very interesting discussion.

Anyone who is interested in joining the Forum should contact –

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