### SOUTH AYRSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP

### SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT IMPROVEMENT JUNE 2023 (Updated March 2024)

The following improvement plan will support the further development of Self-Directed Support processes within South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

This updated plan is influenced by the recommendations resulting from the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland Joint Inspection of Adult Services (March 2023) across the partnership. The inspection found Self-directed Support to be embedded as an approach and recommended that the partnership should continue their monitoring and improvement of Self-directed Support processes.

In line with the National Self-Directed Support Improvement Plan 2023-2027 and the four outcome areas which were agreed based on consultation in development of the previous plan (The Change Map), four key areas where changes were required to take place in order to improve the application and processes of Self-directed Support were identified. These are:

- 1. Supported person and carer's choice and control.
- 2. Enhanced worker skills, practice and autonomy.
- 3. Systems and culture.
- 4. Leaders understand and help staff realise SDS principles and values.

Achievement of the high-level outcomes will in turn support the strategic objectives relating to Self-directed Support detailed in the South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan 2021-2031, particularly.

- Strategic objective 3 'We work together to give you the right care in the right place'. (Self-Directed Support)
- Strategic objective 5 'We are an ambitious and effective partnership' (Quality improvement and assurance)
- Strategic objective 6 'We make a positive impact beyond the services we deliver' (Outcomes based assessment and support)

The plan is further influenced by the values and principles of the South Ayrshire Wellbeing pledge, the aim of this being to empower our communities to start well, live well and age well. Achievement of the high-level outcomes will direct work within the parameters of this pledge.

SOUTH AYRSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE OUTCOMES					
CURRENT SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES					
ACTIVITIES FOR	SAHSCP ACTIONS	PROGRESS (BRAG)	LEAD OFFICER	LATEST UPDATE	
IMPROVEMENT					

Benchmarking other local	SDS Lead officer reached out	SDS Lead	New Ayrshire SDS Leads
authority areas sharing of	to peers in East and North		group established. Ongoing
solutions, tools and good	and the three have	Ayrshire SDS Leads Group	meetings scheduled for
practice.	combined to create an		support, sharing of practice
	Ayrshire SDS Leads group		and SDS development.
	for networking,		
	benchmarking, development		Also, the Pan Ayrshire group
	and sharing of good		share and monitor the
	practice.		contract for AILN
Develop an e-learning	SDS Introductory module	SDS Lead Officer	Module created and
introduction to SDS module	created by SDS Lead to		uploaded onto COAST by
for COAST.	cover the duties, values and	Organisational Development	Organisational
	principles of SDS and to	Team	development. Now
	ensure that all staff have a		reviewed and is now live on
	good general knowledge		COAST (as of 29/06/2023).
	and awareness of how to		
	promote and support		To date there have been
	service users curious about		around 450 completions by
	SDS.		staff.
Create and promote a new	Update current web page to	SDS Lead Officer	Web page is up and running
public facing web page for	create a more interactive		and has been generating
SDS.	and user-friendly page in	Planning and Performance	enquiries and feedback.
	line with new corporate	(Communications)	The page takes the form of
	branding.		interactive buttons with
			information, hyperlinks and
			SDS service users experience
			videos.

Design and disseminate new	New leaflets with up-to-date	SDS Lead Officer	New leaflets created on
SDS leaflets.	contact details to be		completion of the web page.
	created. Leaflets with mirror	Planning and Performance	Leaflets mirror the branding
	the webpage with the same	(Communications).	and information of the site
	branding and will be	,	with QR codes to scan for
	disseminated as required.		information.
Promote SDS to the wider	Plan a cycle of SDS social	SDS Lead Officer	Social media presence for
public via SAHSCP social	media posts with Planning		SDS up and running.
media pages (Facebook and	and Performance	Planning and Performance	
Twitter).	(communications).	(Communications).	
SAHSCP involvement in SDS	SDS Lead officer	SDS Lead Officer	Ongoing participation in the
national practice networks	involvement in national	Social Work Scotland	listed practice networks.
for the shared development	practice networks for shared	SDS Practice Network	This is generating shared
of tools and practice in SDS.	development of tools and	SDS Community of Practice	practice, development ideas
	practice.	In Control Scotland	and good practice examples
		Workstreams	for adaptation.
SAHSCP key part of new	Involvement in pan-Ayrshire	Ayrshire SDS Leads group	Aim is to identify and
pilot project 'Working	collaboration of people who	(South, East and North SDS	facilitate change projects
Together for Change',	know best what needs to	Leads)	which will improve the way
facilitated by In Control	change in the delivery of	In Control Scotland	social care is delivered and
Scotland and funded by	social care through personal	(facilitator)	experienced.
Scottish Government.	experience (service users,	AILN	
	families, social work staff,	Community Brokerage	
	service providers).	Service providers (TBC)	
SDS System Review and	SDS System review of	TBC	Draft process procedure in
develop of current SAHSCP	process.		place. Governance approval
processes for the planning			required.
of SDS, in particular, option			To be applied to all relevant
2 processes.			social work teams
			supporting the use of SDS
			funding.

Develop an e-learning	SDS practitioner level	SDS Lead Officer	The SDS Practitioner Toolkit
practitioner level SDS	training modules to be		from Social Work Scotland
training module on COAST.	developed. These to include	Organisational Development	has now been published.
	topics such as Equal		This has been shared via
	conversations, outcomes		email, by communications,
	and support planning.		on the staff newsletter and
			is also available in the Staff
			Zone of the SDS Webpage.
Facilitate the creation of an	Identify key people to join	TBC	Link in with existing
SDS Champions Group for	the champions group who		Champions groups
SAHSCP.	are best positioned to		
	promote and support SDS		
	values and principles and to		
	share good practice and our		
	own success stories.		

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

# ACTIVITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT AND HOW THESE WILL BE ACTIONED IN SOUTH AYRSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP

NATIONAL OUTCOME AREA 1					
Supported person and carers' choice and control over their support					
ACTIVITIES FOR	ACTIVITIES FOR SAHSCP ACTIONS PROGRESS (BRAG) LEAD OFFICER LATEST UPDATE				
IMPROVEMENT					

1.1 Access to SDS support, brokerage, advice, advocacy and tools.				
1.1.2 Provision of access to	Pan-Ayrshire agreement in	Ongoing commissioned	Pan Ayrshire – Contract	Meeting organised with
SDS advice, independent	place with Ayrshire	service agreement in place.	managed by NAHSCP	AILN to discuss barriers and
advocacy, brokerage and	Independent Living Network			progress.
preventative support.	(AILN), providing free		Ayrshire SDS Leads group	
	guidance, advice and		involvement.	Information about SDS
	support for Options 1 and 2.			advice through
			Julie Gerrard / Claire Jarman	commissioned service (AILN)
				added to new webpage and
				will also feature on leaflets.
				Contract has been extended
				for another year
1.1.4 Brokerage: continue to	Link with Brokers when in		TBC	Community Brokerage
deliver the SQA award for	place			Network were non-
brokerage, develop a			This is led by East Ayrshire	operational. There is now a
National Brokerage				new service manager in
Framework for Scotland.				place and there have been
Support Practitioner				all new Brokers employed.

understanding and		East Ayrshire are taking the
knowledge of community		lead on this work. One
brokerage and develop the		Broker has been assigned to
approved Brokers		South Ayrshire. Contact
Community of Practice.		made and now awaiting
		feedback.
		Response from Brokerage
		received from email sent
		Nov 2023seeking intro
		meeting April 2024.

1.2 Improving the availability and flexibility of SDS options.				
1.2.1 Work to address key	Investigate lengthy		Social Work Scotland	SDS Lead part of Social Work
barriers to use of SDS	processes and extended		Practice Network	Scotland National
Option 2 in Adults' and	paperwork linked to delays			Workstream on Option 2-
Children's services.	in provision of support.		SDS Lead Officer – Julie	sharing solutions to address
			Gerrard	barriers (series of 5 sessions
	Develop safe systems for e-			facilitated).
	signatures to prevent delays		Ayrshire SDS Leads	·
	in providing care.		·	Ayrshire SDS leads group set
				up and running to share
	Authorisation for increased			solutions and developments
	practitioner autonomy.			to address key issues.
	Blanket budget ceiling for			•
	team leader approval?			New SDS procedures have
				been approved by
	Electronic v pen and ink			governance. Additions to be
	signature			made with regards to CF,
				MH and LD. Awaiting
				additional narrative from LD
				and MH services. This had

			been received for CF
			services.
1.2.2 Support provider		Key providers, social work	Working together for
engagement with Option 2		staff, senior management,	change pan Ayrshire project
		finance	
		SDS Lead Officer	
1.2.3 Develop and roll-out of	Develop better working	SDS Lead Officer	System review facilitated by
tools and contractual	processes for option 2.		In Control Scotland. Initial
models for Option 2 to	Support and participate in a	In Control Scotland	discussion held with regards
increase workforce	review of process facilitated		to their facilitation due to
confidence and efficiency in	by In Control Scotland. Link	Finance / Revenues and	colossal task. Links made
offering it.	in with EAHSCP current	Benefits	with EAHSCP who are
	review.		currently undergoing this
		Social Work teams	review process. Meeting
	Electronic v pen and ink		with In Control, Contracts
	signature		and Commissioning and SDS
	For ease of completion and		Lead 12Apr 2024.
	to aid the speed of putting		
	SDS in place.		Ayrshire SDS leads group to
			support, share and develop
	Quality Assurance		tools and models.
	procedures and framework		
	for option 2 providers. LD		SDS Lead involvement
	Pilot work		within the Social Work
			Scotland Workstreams 2
			(Resources and Tools), 3
			(Self-evaluation and
			Improvement) and 6
			(Budget approval processes-
			RAS or equivalent). Sessions
			progressing well and useful
			tools, information and

		solutions are being networked and shared.
		Practitioner toolkit – SDS Lead part of review group

1.3 Increase public information about SDS and improve its reach.				
1.3.1 Promote SDS using	Develop a new, user friendly		SDS Lead – Julie Gerrard	New SAHSCP webpage has
agreed common language	public facing webpage.			been up and running for
reflecting good practice,	Ensure that this includes key		Planning and Performance	some time now.
including through	messages about SDS, FAQ		Officer (Communications)	Request made to the comms
information sessions.	and answers and links to			team with regards to
	supporting organisations.			content and frequency of
				social media SDS posts.
	Promote SDS through			
	SAHSCP social media pages.			Initial enquiries made with
				regards to Easy read licence
				and supported use of this to
				create documents.
	Leaflets and related printed			
	information, including Easy			Colour branding for SDS
	Read, to be developed			promotion highlighted for
	alongside the webpage with			incorporation into webpage and related documents and
	SDS branding across both.			leaflets.
				leanets.
				SDS Posters, leaflets and
				postcards have been printed
				to co-ordinate with the web
				page.

1.3.2 Ensure SDS	Development of Easy Read	SDS Lead – Julie Gerrard	Initial enquiries made with
communications are in	document formats.		regards to Easy read licence
accessible formats. This		LD Service (license holder	and supported use of this to
includes communication	Creation of SDS handout to	for Easy Read).	create documents.
about support planning and	be available to those who		
the promotion and	prefer not to access the	Planning and Performance	This will be on consideration
signposting of appropriate	information online	Officer (Communications)	of legal requirements with
tools and language services.			regards to capacity and with
	Addition of SDS content to		acknowledgement that
	the Strictly Seniors		overall responsibility of
	publication		consent may lie with
			someone other than the
			service user
			(POA/Guardian). To support
			service user to be informed
			but not necessarily to the
			level of consent.

	1.4 Support Personal Assistant employers.				
1.4.1 Maintain and develop the Personal Assistant	Promotion of the Personal Assistant Employed		SDS Lead Officer	Links to these documents included on the COAST e-	
Employer Handbook and	Handbook and resources via		Planning and Performance	learning module and on the	
related Personal Assistant	webpage and leaflets and		Officer (Communications)	SDS webpage.	
Employer resources.	also through good conversations when			New SDS Handbook is due	
	assessing care and planning			to be published. To sit with	
	support.			PA Employer and Employee handbooks and the SDS	
	Ensure highlighted			Practitioner Toolkit.	
	documents remain the most				
	up to date.				

NATIONAL OUTCOME AREA 2				
	Enhanced worker skills, practice and autonomy			
ACTIVITIES FOR	ACTIVITIES FOR SAHSCP ACTIONS PROGRESS (BRAG) LEAD OFFICER LATEST UPDATE			
IMPROVEMENT				

	2.1 Improve SDS Practice Resources				
2.1.1 Finalise, publish online and promote practitioner toolkit as a guide to SDS practice resources.	Monitor the progress of publication of this documentation and ensure that it is highlighted to staff – via SAHSCP communications and also used to update staff training- in particular practitioner level SDS training.		SDS Lead Officer	Involvement in national networks tasked with creating tool kit – Social Work Scotland Practice Network, SDS Community of Practice.  Practitioner Tool kit has been published and widely shared throughout the partnership (email, electronic, web page, HSCP communications, and staff newsletter).	
2.1.2 Update and roll-out of practice guidance to support	Communicate this information throughout		SDS Lead Officer	COAST e-learning module contains this information	
implementation consistent with the refreshed SDS	relevant staff teams.		Social Work teams	and is due to be rolled out live.	
statutory guidance and	Ensure information is		Finance / Revenues and	SAHSCP SDS Web page now	
revised SDS Framework of	tailored to role and at		Benefits	has a staff zone with practice guidance	

Standards (See also theme	different levels according to		documentation at the touch
4.3).	involvement.		of a button.
	Ensure all practitioners are		New SDS operating
			procedures to be included
			on this also.

	2.2 Social work education and incorporation of practice development for SDS.				
2.2.1 Ensure the principles	Promote SDS learning within		SDS Lead Officer	Session with Pan Ayrshire	
of SDS are reflected in the	the SAHSCP student social			Social Work Students	
emerging post-qualifying Advanced Practice	work cohorts.		Practice Development Officer (Social Work)	reserved for SDS workshop.	
Framework for Social Work,	Link in with Practice			Workshop delivered March	
including describing the	Development Officer (Social			14 <sup>th</sup> 2024. This comprised of	
knowledge, competencies	Work) to provide pan			an introduction and	
and skills required across	Ayrshire SDS intro sessions			discussion around SDS and	
the full breadth of social	as part of induction.			also a session on good	
work roles (to be launched				conversations.	
Sep 2024).				The SDS Practitioner toolkit	
				was also shared with the	
				student group.	
				Further links/sessions will	
				be available.	
2.2.2 Review of current SDS	As above. Link in with		National Practice Networks	Involvement with national	
training at both local and	Practice Development			networking streams for	
national level, consistent	Officer to create and		SDS Lead Officer	national level training	
with an alignment to the	facilitate SDS Workshops for			updates.	
developing Advanced	social work student cohorts		Social work teams		
Practice Framework for	across Ayrshire.			Benchmarking with East and	
Social Work.				North AHSCP via the newly	

Further develop SAHSCP SDS	D/SMT support for	created Ayrshire SDS Leads
training to include both	mandatory role specific roll	group.
introductory training	out	Introductory training
suitable for all relevant staff		completed and live on
as well as a practitioner		COAST.
level training, both via		
COAST e-learning modules.		The SDS Practitioner Toolkit
		has been published and
		shared widely as per 2.1.1.

NATIONAL OUTCOME AREA 3				
	Systems and Culture			
ACTIVITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT	SAHSCP ACTIONS	PROGRESS (BRAG)	LEAD OFFICER	LATEST UPDATE

	3.1 Improved involvement of supported people in planning.				
3.1.1 Review the involvement of supported people and carers in planning and evaluating social care support services and make improvements where identified.	TBC		TBC	Working together for change project  This has reached an end for the partnership involvement. In Control Scotland are now finishing the final part of the work which should be presented on completion.	
3.1.2 Enabling flexible use of	Progress work towards		SDS Lead Officer	Web page has a 'Spending	
individual budgets in	practitioner confidence in			Your Personal Budget' sheet	

accordance with the	supporting the flexible use	Social Work team leads	which outlines what service
supported person's choice,	of SDS budgets.		users can, can't and may be
outcomes identified in their		Principal Social Workers	able to use their SDS budget
support plan and desired	Ensure that staff understand		on.
degree of control.	the requirements when		
	using a budget and the rules		Staff Zone on SAHSCP SDS
	safeguarding the use of this.		webpage- full of tolls,
			guidance, legislative
			information etc.
			Introductory COAST SDS
			course online and also the
			Practitioner Toolkit is
			available to give further
			practical guidance for staff
			(tying this in with statutory
			duties, SDS principles and
			values).

:	3.2 More ethical and equitable processes for commissioning, resource and budget allocation.				
3.2.1 Develop and share	Continue SDS Lead		National Practice Networks	SDS Lead involvement with	
good practice on	involvement in national SDS			national networking streams	
commissioning for SDS, and	networks which are		SDS Lead Officer	which are currently	
ensure processes align with	currently focussing on			focussing on good practice	
the most up-to-date			Social Work Teams	and commissioning.	
guidance and principles.					
				SDS Lead focus on the	
				promotion of guidance and	
				principles. Highlighting that	
				these have recently been	
				updated and ensuring that	

			all relevant staff (including frontline and senior management) complete the introductory training course. This will start the process and support the required culture change to ensure SAHSCP truly embrace the principles and values of SDS.
3.2.2 Work to further develop the flexible use of budgets for short breaks for carers, for example promoting examples where positive outcomes have been achieved, and sharing learning about the flexible use of SDS budgets.	Creation/ adaptation of innovative projects which capture the flexibility of budgets and provide the best possible solutions for service users and their families.	SDS Lead Officer	SDS Lead involvement in the In Control Scotland 'Good Practice in Option 3' project (seeking to gather and share information on innovative use of flexible budgets under option 3).  SDS Option 2 quality assurance audit work; Collation and sharing of real examples of flexibility, how this was achieved and the outcomes this has given to service users.
3.2.3 Supporting local review, good practice and	Conduct a review of system facilitated by In Control	SDS Lead Officer	Progression towards culture change and increase of SDS
improvement of Resource	Scotland.	Contracts and	knowledge and
Allocation Systems, for		Commissioning	understanding required
example, testing of		_	firstly.
calculation methodology,		Finance	
and sharing learning and			Involvement in national
good practice more widely.		Legal	Social Work Scotland

		Improvement network
	In Control Scotland	workstreams

3.3 Improving referral pathways.				
3.3.1 Work to improve referral pathways by embedding choice and control early in the hospital discharge process, including linking to community-based initiatives ad support to facilitate early intervention.	Develop processes and pathways within the Racecourse Road facility for SDS		TBC	Initial discussions and meeting held with Racecourse Road Unit.  Training to be completed by staff within the team. This will be easily facilitated via the COAST e-module.

3.4 Effectively mainstreaming SDS principles into relevant policies.				
3.4.1 Ensure that SDS is embedded into key national priorities including NCS, the Promise, Dementia Strategy, Ethical Commissioning and GIRFE themes as they develop, drawing on stakeholder evidence and	SAHSCP improvement projects focussed embedding SDS principles and values into practice.		TBC	Key individuals identified to take part in each project.
expertise.				

## **NATIONAL OUTCOME AREA 4** Leaders understand and help staff realise SDS principles and values

ACTIVITIES FOR	SAHSCP ACTIONS	PROGRESS (BRAG)	LEAD OFFICER	LATEST UPDATE
IMPROVEMENT				

4.1 Supporting local authorities to ensure principles of SDS are incorporated into local planning systems.				
4.1.1 SAHSCP to embed SDS	Development of culture		All SAHSCP staff and leaders	This includes frontline/carer
within relevant local policies	change to progress thinking			staff who have good
and plans reflecting SDS as	around SDS and to embrace			relationships and daily
the way social care support	this into everyday practice			contact with potential and
should be delivered,	for all relevant staff.			current SDS users and so can
including access to peer				offer initial point of contact/
support to share learning.				direction for further advice.
				SDS Procedures in place.
				Updated SDS Policy
				completed
4.1.2 Support SAHSCP	Development of culture		SAHSCP Leaders	Phased improvement plan
leaders to innovate, embed,	change to progress thinking			highlights and prioritises
implement and sustain good	around SDS and to embrace		SDS Lead Officer	improvement activity.
practice to ensure that all	this into everyday practice			
care groups have access to	for all relevant staff.		All SAHSCP staff	Regular attendance/input to
SDS, incorporating good				Governance meetings, DMT,
practice on self-evaluation	Promotion of the SDS			PAC etc.
and evidence on where	Framework of Standards			
challenges and	and SDS Practice Guidance.			
opportunities exist.				

4.2 Improved data and reporting on information, choice and quality of options to aid planning.

4.2.1 Improve data-	Established baseline on		Baseline of current service
gathering approaches to	current SDS users for each		users by SDS option
better determine extent	of the options.		established using Care First
that individuals are			data May 2023.
accessing their preferred	Awareness that different		
option and their personal	figures for options do not		Revisit of data at regular
outcomes are being met.	show trends or reasons for		interval (every 3 months) to
	selection of each option.		allow trends of uptake to be
	This can vary due to a		identified and followed.
	number of socioeconomic		
	circumstances.		Involvement in SDS Social
			Work Scotland
			improvement work,
			including the development
			of KPI around SDS.

4.3 Ensuring leaders are supported through access to shared good practice.				
4.3.1 Promote the SDS	Promote the SDS			Promotion of standards
Standards. The refresh will	Framework of Standards			through training and
use the principles of	through online training.			awareness.
Equalities Impact				
Assessment, Fairer Scotland	Develop this within			Pan Ayrshire Social Work
Action Plan and Islands	practitioner level training			Student group SDS
Community Impact	once the introductory			workshop on SDS
Assessment to ensure that	module has gone live.			Framework of Standards
they cover all equality				and Good Conversations
groups, care groups				(March 2024).
including informal carers,				

islands and diverse			
geographies.			
4.3.2 Continue to support	Promote the SDS		Promotion of standards
local areas to embed the 12	Framework of Standards		through training and
Standards. Where relevant	through online training.		awareness.
and appropriate, support			
local authority	Develop this within		Pan Ayrshire Social Work
implementation of	practitioner level training		Student group SDS
SDS Framework of	once the introductory		workshop on SDS
Standards in three priority	module has gone live.		Framework of Standards
areas:			and Good Conversations
4.3.2.1 Standard 3:	Development of systems		(March 2024).
Relationship-and strengths-	and processes that better		
and asset-based approaches	align with the standards and		
across care groups and	legislation, in particular		
across all SDS options.	option 2 processes.		
4.3.2.2 Standard 8: Worker			
Autonomy (particularly in			
assessment, support			
planning and determining			
personal budgets).			
4.3.2.3 Standard 12: Access			
to Budgets and Flexibility of			
Spend (including improving			
processes and approaches to			
approving personal			
budgets).			