

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Integration Joint Board		
Held on:	10th June 2026		
Agenda Item:	18		
Title:	South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership – Self Directed Support 2026 - 2027		
Summary:			
<p>The purpose of this report is to present the current approach to Self Directed Support across South Ayrshire and for the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) to approve updated Guidance.</p>			
Author:	Stewart Marshall, Interim Head of Community Health and Care Services		
Action required:			
<p>The IJB approves the Self-Directed Support Guidance (Appendix 1), the Fair Access to Care and Eligibility Criteria for Adult and Older People’s Services (Appendix 2) and the Resource Allocation Guidance for Adults and Older People’s Services (Appendix 3).</p>			
Route to meeting:			
Social Work Governance and SAC Cabinet			
Directions:		Implications:	
1. No Directions Required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Directions to NHS Ayrshire & Arran	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Directions to South Ayrshire Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Directions to both SAC & NHS	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equalities	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
		ICT	<input type="checkbox"/>

SOUTH AYRSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP – SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT 2026 - 2027

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the current approach to Self-Directed Support across South Ayrshire and for the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) to approve updated Guidance.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the IJB:

- 2.2 Approves Self-Directed Support Guidance (Appendix 1), the Fair Access to Care and Eligibility Criteria Guidance for Adults and Older People's Services (Appendix 2) and the Resource Allocation Guidance for Adults and Older People's Services (Appendix 3).

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Self-Directed Support (SDS) is the mainstream approach to the delivery of social care to individuals and their carers across Scotland. Underpinned by a strength-based approach, the delivery of SDS places the individual at the centre of the assessment process, recognising they are best placed to define their needs, make choices and take more control of their lives.
- 3.2 Improving the outcomes for individuals and their families by providing them with information and advice and working alongside them is central to the successful delivery of SDS. South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (SAHSCP) is committed to carrying out its statutory duty to deliver SDS to ensure individuals and their families have real choice and control over the care and support they require.
- 3.3 Every aspect of the SAHSCP approach is in line with the SDS National Framework of Standards, and the aim is to work in partnership with individuals and their families to enable them to live independently and enjoy being part of their local communities.
- 3.4 The delivery of SDS is an integral part of the SAHSCP overall vision set out in the Strategic Plan for residents across South Ayrshire to 'Start Well, Live Well, and Age Well'.
- 3.5 The Fair Access to Care and Eligibility Guidance for Adults and Older People's Services complements the Self-Directed Support Guidance and sets out the eligibility criteria used by social workers to determine both the severity of risk to an individual and the urgency of intervention required, in terms of access to social care services.

- 3.6 The Fair Access to Care and Eligibility Guidance for Adults and Older People's Services sets out the rationale for applying eligibility criteria and the four categories of need that are used to prioritise individuals receiving an assessment.
- 3.7 The four categories are in line with guidance produced by the Scottish Government and COSLA for Local Authorities on national eligibility criteria and waiting times.
- 3.8 The Resource Allocation Guidance for Adults and Older People's Services assist frontline practitioners and their managers with the appropriate allocation of Community Care resources to service users who have eligible needs under Self-Directed Support.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 The Self-Directed Support Guidance sets out the values and principles that underpin Self Directed Support, all of which are embedded within the My Life, My Outcomes Assessment Framework used by Social Work Services.
- 4.2 SDS has four Individual Support Options available to any individual who is eligible to receive social care support. The four options are as follows: Direct Payment, Individual Service Fund, Council Arranged Services and a Mixture Package of Care and Support.
- 4.3 The Self-Directed Support Guidance sets out the basis and arrangements for the four support options:

As cited earlier the Fair Access to Care and Eligibility Guidance complements the SAHSCP's Self-Directed Support Guidance providing information on procedures for service access, enablement, assessment, support planning and review.
- 4.4 Eligibility criteria assist SAHSCP to achieve fairness, consistency, and transparency in how decisions are taken.
- 4.5 The Eligibility Criteria prioritises needs into four categories: critical, substantial, moderate, and low, this is also in line with our approach to assessing levels of risk.
- 4.6 SAHSCP Eligibility Criteria was updated in 2018 to clarify that the Health and Social Care Partnership's main priority and focus was on individuals with the highest level of need and those most at risk (i.e. individuals assessed as having 'critical' needs). This priority and focus remain in place.
- 4.7 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been completed through the refresh of the Fair Access to Care and Eligibility Guidance, to ensure the document reflects the current IIA process of assessing impact on the wider community (see Appendix 4). No changes to services have been made during this refresh of guidance.

- 4.8 Individuals with non-critical level of need ('substantial', 'moderate', or 'low') will also continue to receive a service through our partnership arrangements with the third sector. This may include the provision of information and advice or a range of other support services.
- 4.9 For allocation of resources The [Social Work \(Scotland\) Act 1968](#) places a duty on local authorities to ensure that resources (the relevant amount) are made available to meet eligible care needs to a standard they consider suitable and adequate
- 4.10 In South Ayrshire we have adopted an 'equivalency model' for the allocation of resources under SDS. This means an individual with eligible needs under critical eligibility will be entitled to a personal budget which is equivalent to the cost of delivering a similar level of traditional services.
- 4.11 The equivalency calculation of a budget is similar across all four SDS Individual Support Options, meaning that regardless of what option is chosen, it will not put an individual at any disadvantage.
- 4.12 The Resource Allocation Guidance for Adults and Older People's Services ensures a ensure a fair, consistent and transparent approach to resource allocation across South Ayrshire
- 4.13 The professional judgement of the practitioner working alongside the individual and their carer is central to the assessment process. Adopting a co-productive approach to assessment and support planning, coupled with applying the eligibility criteria ensures the allocation of resources is both transparent and equitable.

5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- 5.1 This report aligns with the SAHSCP Strategic Priority "We are an ambitious and effective partnership.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

- 6.1.2 Financial monitoring arrangements for individuals in receipt of Option 1 Direct Payments as detailed in the Self-Directed Support Guidance.

6.2 Human Resource Implications

- 6.2.1 There are no human resource implications.

6.3 Legal Implications

- 6.3.1 The legal basis of the Social Care (Self Directed Support) Act 2013 is to offer greater choice and control to individuals who following an assessment have eligible needs.

6.4 Equalities Implications

- 6.4.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out on the Fair Access to Care and Eligibility Criteria for Adults and Older People's Services. The IIA Summary Report is attached. Whilst there have been no changes to services through the updating of this policy, an IIA was completed to ensure transparency and accountability around the changes to the eligibility criteria in 2018 and to align this refresh with the new IIA process.
- 6.4.2 Positive impacts have been identified supporting the ageing population, a trauma informed approach, consistently within rurality and supporting health and wellbeing. The Fair Access to Care and Eligibility Criteria also supports positive impacts within the human rights of individuals as regardless of income, wealth, deprivation and socio-economic background, for those who have eligible needs, they will receive the same service. Where charges may apply, additional support to maximise benefits will be provided.
- 6.4.3 Negative Impacts were identified in relation to age and disability. The criteria guidance relates only to those aged 16 and over and supports Adults and Older People. Mitigations to both these negative impacts have been included as for individuals who have a disability, appropriate support would be provided through the relevant disabilities team, who have their own criteria guidance around accessing supports. The same mitigations are in place for children and young people under the age of 16, who would be supported by the relevant children's service.

6.4 Sustainability implications

- 6.4.1 N/A

6.5 Clinical/professional assessment

- 6.5.1 N/A

7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- 7.1 Practitioners and key stakeholders have been involved in the scrutiny and review of the guidance listed in this report.
- 7.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Hunter, Portfolio Lead for SAHSCP

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Self Directed Support Guidance*
Appendix 2 – Fair Access to Care and Eligibility
Appendix 3 – Resource Allocation Guidance
Appendix 4 – Fair Access to Care and Eligibility IIA

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A



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