

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE – 22 SEPTEMBER 2015

IMPLEMENTATION OF SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT IN ADULT SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, PEOPLE

ABSTRACT

This report presents to elected members the progress made in implementing the Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 within Adult Services.

Angus Council Social Work and Health Committee previously considered reports in respect of Self Directed Support (SDS) : report numbers 205/13 and 4/14.

A briefing for elected members regarding SDS was delivered in February 2015.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:

- (i) Notes the progress made in implementing this legislation within adult services.
- (ii) Notes the changes to service delivery arising from SDS implementation, the challenges therein, and the steps taken to address these challenges.
- (iii) Approves the extension to the timescale for completion of SDS reassessments for existing service users to 31 March 2016.
- (iv) Notes the introduction of a programme manager post for SDS implementation, to be filled by secondment from within Adult Services.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within Angus community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- The health of the Angus population is improved;
- People using health and community care services are enabled to remain active and independent within their communities;
- The housing needs of Angus residents are met;
- People play an active role in how health and community care services are designed and delivered;
- Carers are supported to undertaking their caring role;
- A good quality of life is enjoyed by all in Angus

3. BACKGROUND

The Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 has been implemented since 1 April 2014. This legislation is part of a 10 year strategy by Scottish Government to drive forward the change in the way the services are delivered so that they are shaped around the individual and meet the outcomes that the individual sees as important to them.

Under the legislation the local authority has a number of duties and powers. These are:

- A duty to have regard for the general principles of collaboration, informed choice and involvement as part of the assessment and the provision of support
- A duty to take reasonable steps to facilitate the person's dignity and participation in the life of the community
- A duty to offer choice and explain "nature and effect" of the choices
- A duty to act on choice, provide support and provide information
- A power to offer support to carers but a duty to offer SDS options for that support

Self Directed Support (SDS) is a way of providing support that means that the people are given choice and control over what kind of support they receive. It means that people can choose and arrange some or all of their own support instead of it being determined by other people.

The Act introduces four options that, following the completion of an assessment for outcomes, require the identification of financial resources to deliver these outcomes for the individual concerned. This is referred to as an individual budget. In Angus the method for allocating resources is the Resource Allocation System (RAS). When a person has been assessed as eligible for support that cannot be met through natural supports, personal strengths or through community resources, the local authority has a specific duty to offer the four options on how that support will be arranged and delivered. They are:

- Option 1. A direct payment by the local authority to the individual
- Option 2. The individual selects and directs the support
- Option 3. The local authority selects and arranges the support
- Option 4. A mix of the three options above

In each case the individual along with the worker will develop their support plan which details their agreed personal outcomes and how their support will be delivered to meet these outcomes using the available resources identified in their individual budgets.

4. CURRENT POSITION

The implementation of the Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 in Adult Services has required a major change in how we deliver our assessment and care management services and has involved staff changing their practice, learning new approaches, systems and processes. Despite much planning for the implementation, inevitably the practical experience of staff, service users and carers has led to changes and refinements being made as situations have arisen and knowledge has developed.

One of the main principles of SDS is that the individual must have as much involvement as they wish in both the assessment and provision of support. The assessment and support planning process is therefore often taking much longer than was the case prior to SDS. This additional involvement is of benefit to the service user and carer but additional time resources are required to provide this more in depth assessment, with the discussion and explanation of the SDS options.

Committee report 4/14 advised that all new and existing service users would have an SDS assessment by 31 March 2015. Taking into account the scale of change and the time needed for workers to become confident and competent in this new approach, this was not a realistic timescale and was not achieved, It is therefore proposed that the timescale be extended to 31 March 2016. This means that two charging systems will continue to operate until that date as service users are systematically moved across to the SDS contributions policy. This has not caused significant problems to date.

As at 10 August 2015, 56.2% of existing service users in adult services still required an SDS assessment. The date of 31 March 2016 is therefore still challenging. To achieve this timescale and to ensure that those service users who are receiving an Angus Council home support service have an SDS assessment by 31 October 2015, an additional small team of home care assessors had been established, funded from within existing resources. This team will operate until 31 March 2016 and will carry out reassessments of service users receiving home care services.

A snapshot as at 10 August 2015 of the SDS options that current service users have chosen finds the following:

SDS Options	No. of Service Users
Option 1	15
Option 2	82
Option 3	370
Option 4	19

To date the vast majority of service users are choosing option 3 whereby the Council arranges their care. The commissioning framework designed to deliver a greater mixed economy of service providers and therefore choice has yet to significantly increase home care capacity. This is proving extremely challenging when arranging care packages and the development of the market has become a key strand of the Help to Live at Home programme.

SDS implementation is the second biggest transformational change affecting social work services after health and social care integration. Whilst the Scottish Government allocated some short-term resources for implementation, these have reduced and are not expected to extend beyond the 2015/16 financial year. Managers are trying with only limited success to achieve the operational and strategic changes required on top of their existing duties; consequently, there is insufficient resilience to progress change at the pace which is necessary. To maintain a sustained focus on Self Directed Support in Angus a new post of Project Manager has been established. This post will play a key role in building on the progress to date and ensuring that Angus continues to develop and embed this approach across both Adult and Children's services. Key objectives in their work plan will be: review the procedures and accompanying forms for assessment of outcomes and budget allocation; promote the development of the market in social care (in tandem with SDS); support training for staff in SDS; improve service user understanding of SDS and review our systems from the perspective of service users; carry out benchmarking with other authority areas; increase understanding of SDS for Health, third party and private providers through health and social care integration; carry out a systematic analysis of the financial implications of SDS for the Council as more evidence emerges; and lead the change process for SDS for Angus Council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Eighteen months from the implementation start date there are some signs that service users are making choices which allow them to meet their personal outcomes at times and places other than via the Council's traditional services. This is likely to continue. The impact on services will continue to be monitored. There is also evidence that providers including Angus Council are looking at how their services can become more flexible and responsive to individual need and how they can offer increased choice. At the time of writing, it is not possible to identify all of the financial implications of SDS for Angus Council, and it remains debateable whether SDS will cost the Council more in financial terms or produce savings. This is very much the picture across Scotland.

Funding has been identified for the home care assessors SDS team from internal resources comprising one-of funding allocated to the Council by the Scottish Government (£96k) and 100% carry forward of resources from 2014/15. The Programme Manager post will be funded from the balance of the Council's 100% carry-forward monies (first six months) and from the Health and Social Care Integration Fund (eighteen months.)

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Human Rights

There are no human right implications arising directly from this report.

Equalities

The issues considered within the report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities' perspective and an equality impact assessment is not required.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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