

Easy read summary

Self-directed support



ACCOUNTS COMMISSION 

AUDITOR GENERAL 

Prepared by Audit Scotland
August 2017



What is in this report?

This report tells you if councils and health and social care partnerships are doing a good job with Self-Directed Support.

Audit Scotland makes sure that councils and partnerships spend their money on the right things. Audit Scotland also checks that services are the best they can be.

The auditors at Audit Scotland asked lots of people what they think. We really liked hearing from people who get support and their families.

We asked lots of social workers what they think too. And we asked support providers and government people too.



What is Self-Directed Support?

If you need support your council and a social worker should listen to what you want. The law says that they must help you find support that is right for you.

You can ask for more information. You can ask for someone else to help you understand and choose.

They should tell you how much money they will spend on your support. They call the money your budget.

Self-Directed Support is sometimes called **SDS**. Self-Directed Support is sometimes called personalisation.



What do people think about Self-Directed Support?

Some people think **SDS** is fantastic. These people have chosen the best support for themselves. Their life is much better now.

Some people think **SDS** is not working well for them. Some of these people did not get to choose. Some of these people could not find support that is right for them.

Audit Scotland says that too many people are not getting to choose their support.

How many people do not get to choose their support?

No one is sure how many people are not getting to choose.

Audit Scotland says the Scottish Government and councils and partnerships should get better at counting. They should know how many people do not get to choose.





Is everyone doing a good job with Self-Directed Support?

Lots of people are trying very hard to do a good job. Some social workers say it is difficult because of all the changes.

Some social workers are not sure what they are allowed to do. Their managers are quite strict about how much money they can spend on people's support.



Why do councils and partnerships say it is difficult?

More and more people need support. There are lots more older people now who need help.

Managers and social workers and support staff all say they wish they had more money to spend on people's support.

Audit Scotland agrees it is difficult for them when they do not have much money. Audit Scotland says they should have better plans. Audit Scotland says they should listen more to people who need support.



Why do some people still not get the support they want?

In some places not enough people want to work as support staff. Some support staff do not want to work in the evening or at weekends.

Some councils and partnerships are taking a long time to make sure there is enough support for everyone to choose from.

Councils and partnerships have been busy making lots of other changes that the Scottish Government wants.



Are councils and partnerships good at giving people SDS?

Audit Scotland says the Scottish Government and councils and partnerships are getting better. Audit Scotland says the Scottish Government and councils and partnerships still need to make big changes so that everyone can get the support that is best for them.

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The full report is available in PDF and RTF formats,
along with a podcast summary at:

www.audit-scotland.gov.uk 



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