

Self Directed Support - FAQs

Importantly - Everyone who is receiving social care from us will have Self Directed Support explained to them at the time of their review. No one will be expected to purchase their own care unless they want to.

1 Question How is (Self Directed Support) going to affect my care?

Answer Your needs will still be met and can still be arranged by the Council. With Self Directed Support it means that you could also arrange for the care services you need but only if you want to do that

2 Question I don't want anything to change to my care package - will I have to change?

Answer The new model of social care will be phased in to all clients from 1 April 2010. However, for some clients there will be very little change to how their needs are currently met.

3 Question I already have Direct Payments - what's the difference?

Answer Direct Payments are the mechanism by which money is transferred from the LA to the individual for those clients who wish to control their own budget

4 Question Are there specific things you can or cannot use the money for?

The rule of thumb which we are using to determine how an individual budget can be used and what can be purchased is: 1.) The Support Plan must meet ALL identified eligible outcomes in the most cost effective way. 2.) Must be legal. 3.) Must be sustainable. 4.) Must be safe for the client. 5.) Must not be used for services that can

Answer be provided by another source. *If it achieves all five, then go live.*

5 Question How much money are we talking about to fund individual needs per person

There is no set amount per individual. The amount allocated for a person's support will depend on their eligible level of need, as happens now. The difference is that the person will know how much money is being allocated

Answer rather than simply being told what service they can have

6 Question What is the maximum amount an individual can have - will it vary from person to person, and how will you balance the needs of each person with what money available - will you hope that some people need less money?

Answer There is no set amount per individual. The amount allocated for a person's support will depend on their eligible level of need, as happens now. The difference is that the person will know how much money is being allocated rather than simply being told what service they can have

7 Question If there is no 'new money' change implies some will gain, some will lose. Who will be the losers and why?

Answer No change will be made to existing clients without a review to make sure that their needs will continue to be met. However, under the new system, and with the changing demographics there will be need to be a more equitable spread of the resources, and this will include looking to meet needs in different and increasingly cost effective ways. We hope that clients, providers, voluntary organisations and the community will work with us to develop a range of cost effective alternative provision

8 Question Can the SDS budget be used for transport

Answer The costs for transport will be the same as they are now, and will depend on the individual. You will need to discuss this with your care manager at the time of your review

9 Question How will we safeguard vulnerable adults against potential financial abuse from others in the community while giving them control and choice

Answer

Our Safeguarding VA Board are very aware of the potential of this type of abuse in respect of SDS. On an individual basis all support plans have a risk assessment so that known risks are identified and managed. Safeguarding is a community responsibility not just the local authority. As a result of this question we have asked for this to be raised at the Safeguarding Board.

10 Question The last thing I want is to have more decisions to make.

Answer

You will be given as much choice and control as you are willing and able to undertake. Support, either from the LA or from independent organisations would also be available to you to help you with the process if you need advice, guidance or someone to act on your behalf

11 Question Why have I received this letter?'

Answer

We are writing to everyone who receives assistance from Adult Social Care to let them know about Self Directed Support and according to our records you are receiving a service.

12 Question Does this affect people who pay for their own care?

Answer

People who pay completely for their own care would not receive an Individual Budget from us. In fact, people who pay for themselves do already have the Choice and Control that Self Directed Support will bring. However, people who pay for their own care can have an assessment from us and be given advice and guidance on how they can get the care and support they need.