Evaluation of Self Directed Support Test Sites in Scotland

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Scottish Housing and Support Conference

Self-Directed Support Context

- Part of wider policy change
- SDS not new
- Scottish Government test sites 2009/11
- National Strategy
- SDS Bill
- Parallel policy developments in housing

SDS Strategy

- Scottish Government & COSLA - 10-year strategy for SDS in Scotland:

  "What individuals and families have after making an informed choice on how their IB is used to meet the outcomes they have agreed. SDS means giving people choice and control".

- *The <u>process</u> for deciding on SDS is via co-production*

- *The <u>mechanisms</u> for getting SDS can involve a DP or the person can decide how the Council allocates their IB to arrange support from a provider.*

  "Some may choose to leave the decision on how their support is provided to the council." (Scottish Government, 2010, p7)
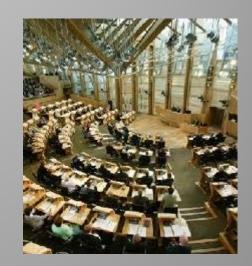
National Strategy cont.

- Section 2.6 stresses need to take co-ordinated approach to personal and housing support
  - Recognises personalisation and choice are core values within housing support

"Some people have direct payments that include funding for housing support, allowing them to take a holistic approach to arranging their personal and housing support". *(pg?)*

Draft Social Care (Self-directed Support) Bill 2010

- Local authorities to provide
  - Choice and control
  - Wider eligibility
- Consolidates & clarifies law on DPs
- Consultation

Test Sites Evaluation Team

- **Evaluation Managers** - Dr Julie Ridley & Dr Helen Spandler, School of Social Work, University of Central Lancashire

- **Dumfries & Galloway test site leads** - Dr Michelle Cornes & Professor Jill Manthorpe, Social Care Workforce Research Unit, King's College London

- **City of Glasgow test site lead** - Dr Ann Rosengard, Ann Rosengard Associates

- **Highland test site lead** - Simon Little, Kinbank Consultancy

- **Adult protection and financial** - Susan Hunter & Dr Tony Kinder, School of Political & Social Science and Business School, University of Edinburgh

- **Disability activist & Chair of 2011 stakeholder event** - Bill Gray & Margaret Gray, Disability Equality Trainers

Evaluation Purpose

- **Assess impact of implementation of 3 Test Sites:**

  - Describe SDS policy, activity, and practice
  - Develop tools and frameworks with Test Sites
  - Examine implementation
  - Assess impact
  - Identify implications

Three Themes

Leadership & training

Reduce red tape

Invest to save, bridging finance
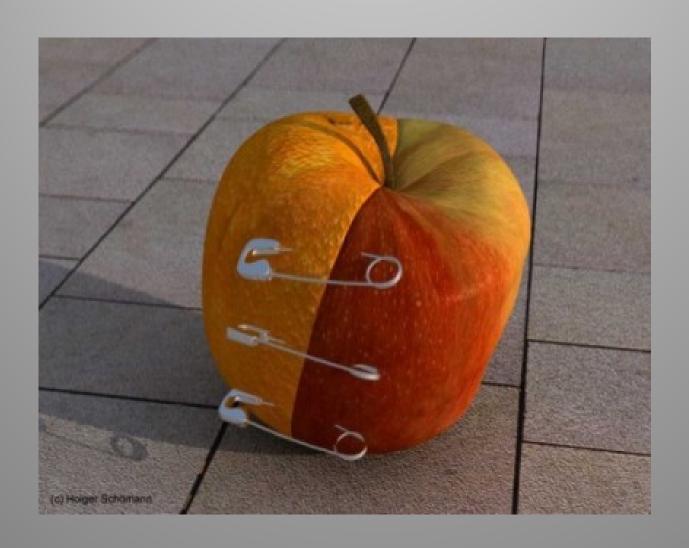
Evaluation: Three Stages

- Implementation of SDS uneven in Scotland
- DP system overly prescriptive & bureaucratic
- Inadequate independent (user-led) support
- SDS perceived as professional-led

Early Reflections on Three Themes

- Leadership identified as key component
- Cutting red tape – *"every penny has to be accounted for; there is a high level of scrutiny..."* (Special Interest Group)
- Investing to save – *"at a time when resources are diminishing...is there going to be any scope for bridging finance..."* (Local Government Organisation)

Different Entities

Summary of Test Sites

- **Dumfries & Galloway**
  - Applied *In Control* method to help transform social care
  - Community development approach

- **Glasgow**
  - Built on the Council's IB pilot for people with LD
  - Focused on testing & refining assessment and allocation processes; informed by *In Control* model

- **Highland**
  - Primarily aimed to increase DPs
  - Promoted SDS to young disabled people
  - Adapted *In Control* model
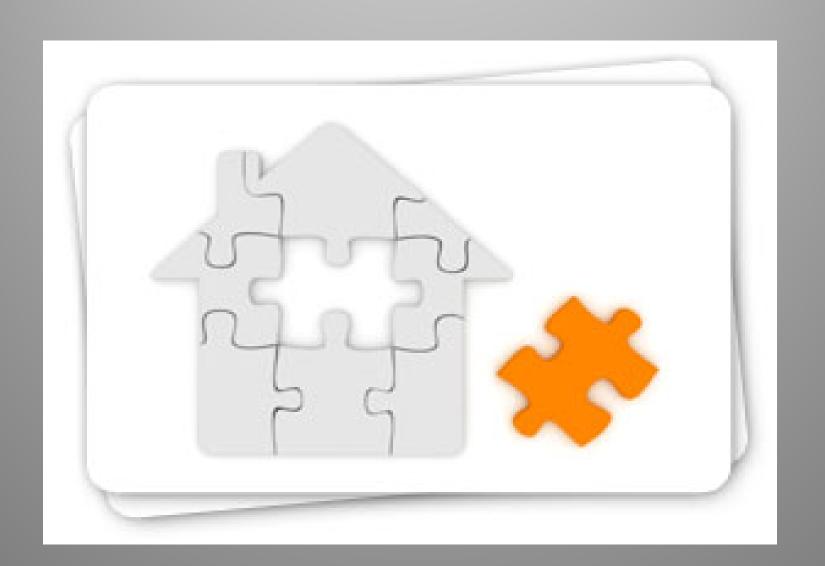
Service Users - Summary

- 132 individuals in total

- Majority people with learning disabilities – 64%

- More men (52%) than women (48%)

- Age profile differed

- All white British/Scottish

- SDS Option
  - 107 DPs (71 self managed, 36 managed by third party)
  - 24 Individual Service Funds

- Funding streams mainly SW + client contribution

- Only one test site using housing funding

Implementation

- Achieved flexibility & choice
- High levels of satisfaction with outcomes
- Leadership – impact of dedicated resource
- Training – Not all staff had had training
- Irony – more bureaucracy to 'reduce red tape'
- Development of new systems
- Bridging finance – not the big issue expected

Housing Implications

Housing Implications of Study

- Many disabled people have housing and related support needs
- Some housing needs and preferences emerged e.g.
  - left long-stay hospital care or children's services
  - new needs – adaptations, equipment, support
  - moving from shared to independent housing
  - accessed supported accommodation
  - flexible support enabled positive community living
- Catalyst to housing gains?

Support to Leave Hospital

- Mary was held up in hospital awaiting discharge because of the support she needed to return home. Her family carer had power of attorney. SDS funded intensive care in her family's home until 'they got something else in place for her'. It enabled early discharge 'surprising the psychiatrist', 'excellent agency support' and aids (Vicon Review camera and PC to record a visual diary to aid memory etc). The SDS support was valued by both the service user and their family who did not have to take much time off work. Sadly she was later re-admitted and the family expressed some uncertainty about the future.

Support to Independent Living

- Sue was living in a shared flat but was keen to live independently and to work. She accessed SDS through a day service and was supported throughout by a health professional who was convinced her situation could be improved. Since embarking on SDS a year ago she accessed her own housing association tenancy with support and she works and receives training in a community café run by the local neighbourhood centre. She was very positive about her support and feels her life has changed for the better. She feels part of the local community. Housing and housing support were important.

Scope For Better Process & Positive Outcomes

Housing Issues for SDS

- Assessment should consider housing needs
- Monitoring of SDS should:
  - Identify outcomes e.g. for suitable / better accommodation; sustainable community living
  - Contribute to local planning to address homelessness prevention and accommodation and related support needs
  - Identify gaps and shortfalls e.g. in joint work
- In principle housing support & social networks could be part of SDS package.

New Law on SDS

- The Bill is included in the 2011/12 programme, is still being prepared and timing will depend on wider issues affecting parliamentary business

- After being introduced to Parliament the Bill will be the subject of 3 stages –

  (1) Parliamentary debate

  (2) the focus of a Parliamentary Committee

  (3) voted on (prior to Royal Ascent).

Challenges

- To ensure housing support needs considered
- Could housing support assessments do more to maximise choice and/or control?
- To ensure equality of access e.g. for homeless people, refugees
- Consider potential for homelessness prevention and housing sustainability via SDS e.g. shared support
- Ensure service user voice in policy & practice
- What at the key messages re housing support & SDS for Scottish Government?

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- Full Report and Research Findings No.109/2011 available @

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/socialresearch

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