

Briefing Note for Executive Committee on 14th February 2017

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1. To update Executive Committee on progress in implementing the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013. This is in response to a request from the Executive Committee to detail how we are progressing with the increase in uptake of self-directed support, and the impact on services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 came into force in April 2014. Its aim is to ensure that people eligible for social care support have control and choice over their support arrangements. There are a range of new duties within the Act, and the key ones are:
 - a) As part of the assessment and provision of support there is a duty to have regard to the general principles of involvement, informed choice, collaboration, and participation and dignity;
 - b) To inform people of the options to manage their support i.e. direct payment, individual service fund and/or social work managed;
 - c) To inform people of their budget;
 - d) To promote a variety of providers and a variety of support.
- 2.2 There has been significant work to ensure effective implementation, including a staff training programme, the recruitment of support planners to provide support to teams and a pilot Local Area Coordinator role to provide a preventative role. The Council also introduced a new charging policy in 2014 and new assessment documentation was integrated into Frameworki in November 2015.
- 2.3 There are currently 1187 adult service users (Dec. '16) receiving support through the Act. This is a significant increase from the 377 people who received support through self-directed support last December, and is approximately 50% of current clients. The new assessment process, which supports the duties within the Act, supports social work practitioners to meet their new duties with all new clients and through reviews.

3. CHALLENGES OF SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT

- 3.1 The Act is in year seven of a ten year national SDS strategy and it is recognised as a large scale transformational change.
- 3.2 Whilst the number of people using SDS will continue to increase the target of all clients receiving support that is self-directed by December 2017 is ambitious.
- 3.3 Some key challenges in meeting the performance target include:
 - a) The market has been challenging for providers with recruitment of staff being difficult, particularly in some areas of the Borders. This makes it more challenging for people to have choice. There are also still some block contracts in place, for example with providers of sheltered housing for housing support. This is a particular challenge in children's services where

there is one main provider of services for children with a disability.

b) New clients are included in the SDS figures as they will use the new assessment process. The outstanding target relates to service users who will move to SDS at review and the timescale for this has depended on an assessment of their priority for review.

4. ACTION TO MEET THE TARGET

- 4.1 Following the recommissioning of care at home providers there has been an increase in the number of providers offering all the SDS options. There is ongoing commissioning with providers to increase user choice and Children and Families services have held a recent event for providers to increase awareness of opportunities within Scottish Borders.
- 4.2 Two new reviewing staff have been appointed to ensure speedy reviews and in the learning disability service providers will assist in this process to prevent delay.
- 4.3 It is understood that Scottish Borders is progressing well nationally in the roll out of SDS. National figures are over a year old so it is not possible to make an accurate up to date comparison but recent comments from the Care Inspectorate/Healthcare improvement Scotland team inspecting older people's services indicate that the Partnership is performing well in relation to the number of people using SDS.

5. SUMMARY

- 5.1 The SDS Board has reviewed the rate of take up of self-directed support. Recognising that the existing target is ambitious, given the transformational change required, it proposes to reprofile the target. It is recommended that the performance target is reprofiled with the expectation that 95% of adult clients are using self-directed support by April 2018. The actions outlined in this report will enable this target to be achieved.