

1. The following feedback was received from the SDS forum and the Borders Carers Centre

The Survey

- The Scottish Borders SDS Forum and The Borders Carers Centre are concerned because we consider the Consultation document to be confusing and difficult for people to understand and respond to. It is therefore very difficult for people to meaningfully express their views. The survey document gives poor and limited explanation or information. The accompanying 27 page document which gives information about the assessment process is not referred to in the paper document or the online document but is at the bottom of the first page on line under “Related”. There is no indication that this document might help people understand the process and how it might apply to them
- It asks questions which people do not have the information to enable them to answer for example in relation to “Care” “What do you think the financial impact would be for you”. We wonder how anyone would know. There is no explanation of what the cost of the equivalent SBC arranged services would be
- There is no explanation as to what an “Extended Short Break” is. Does this mean respite? Again it is hard for anyone to understand and make an informed choice of reply
- The taper rate is not explained in a way that would help an individual understand the implications for them
- Although the survey asks if you are completing it as an organisation the questions are all aimed at an individual so again organisations cannot make meaningful comment
- The survey document when asking what services the individual currently receive equates Direct Payments with Self Directed Support when it is in fact an Option in SDS legislation under which social care is now arranged
- Overall we consider it is difficult to see how SBC will obtain a meaningful result from this survey

Other comments

- The increase of the taper from 65% is a 40% increase which seems an unreasonable increase. It will inevitably have an impact on people who because of their disability, age or need have additional disability related expenditure. It will have an impact on people’s residual income. We consider it to be discriminatory. We also understand the change in the taper rate was not discussed at the Charging Policy Group but was added afterwards
- Currently individuals receiving a budget through the Learning Disability Service do not pay for any of their care. It is not clear whether this proposed new policy will apply to them. As they are not charged at the moment they are not likely to consider the proposed policy applies to them so are not likely to complete the survey
- Members who have used the Easy Read version have found it patronising
- Assumed income from savings is unrealistic given current interest rates