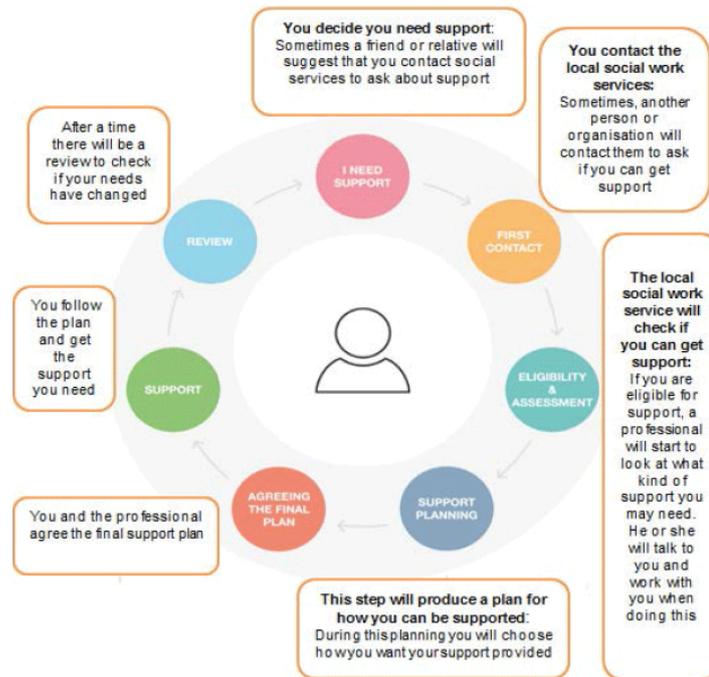


The More That Changes, The More That Stays The Same



SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT THE START

Research by the Learning Disability Alliance Scotland

In association with

The Coalition of Carers in Scotland,
Carers Trust UK, MECOPP and Carers
Scotland



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Getting the Choice

Most people were still getting services arranged directly by their social worker.

Some people were getting Direct Payments to buy their service directly but this was about as many as had done before the new law came in.

A few people were beginning to get an Individual Service Fund. This is where they get a budget and can make choices about what services to help them but they don't have to handle the money themselves.

More people with learning disabilities were getting an Individual Service Fund than anyone else. But this was thanks to 3 areas, Moray, East Ayrshire and North Lanarkshire who were trying hard. Other areas haven't started yet.



Flexibility

Lots of people want flexibility in how they spend their new budgets, so they can try out new things. 6 councils such as West Lothian and East Ayrshire Councils were doing this.

Other councils said that you could only buy services they or the Care Inspectorate had approved already.



Getting Budgets

12 councils in Scotland were using a points based system that meant the answers you gave in the assessment gave you a budget. Some questions gave you more points and other questions took some points away.



18 councils in Scotland were using the answers you gave in the assessment to help a social worker judge how best to help you.



Just about every council did it differently which made it hard to understand. Most councils had a system so that if the budget you got wasn't right then you could get it changed.

We think the point based system will make too many people unhappy and means that a lot of people will want to complain about what they are offered.



Complaining.

Some councils were trying to set up new easy to use complaints systems to sort our problems quickly. Other councils wanted people to use the Social Work Complaints system.



Our Conclusion

We think that things have been very slow which is disappointing as councils have had a long time to get ready for this.



We are also worried that some councils are forgetting that people can have very complicated lives and that the help of a professional social worker is needed to help sort it out.

