

## Self-directed Support

July 2013

Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD) is the UK's leading pan-disability charity. Founded in 1948 in reaction to the lack of care and support available for disabled people, today we provide a wide range of services, including social care and employment support as well as working to improve the rights of disabled people around the world. Campaigning is at the heart of what we do and our policy and campaigns team works with disabled people across the UK to lobby for positive change.

### **Key points**

Leonard Cheshire Disability Scotland welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation regarding the guidance and regulations to accompany the Social Care (self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013. We would like to make the following points in relation to the draft guidance:

1. We believe that the guidance misses an opportunity to offer advocacy services for people applying for Self-directed Support (SDS) and that there may be a chance that people may present as having fewer support needs or as lower "risk" than is actually the case. We believe that offering advocacy for all people applying for SDS will enable people to better navigate this new system and get the most appropriate support available.
2. We would like to see a transparent appeal process built into the guidance in order that people applying for SDS can question decisions and receive clear feedback about how and why particular decisions have been reached.
3. Section 4 of the guidance addresses assessment for eligibility for SDS. We are keen to see that the initial assessment of an

individual's eligibility for support does not become pre-screening that prevents people from being properly assessed. We feel that a review process should be written into the guidance, and that advocacy should also be offered to individuals in order that everyone is able to access the most appropriate support.

4. SDS presents an opportunity for people to get the most appropriate support for them in the way that they want it delivered. For SDS to achieve its potential, we believe that the Support Plan should exist as a live document that can adapt to an individual's support needs if they change, without necessarily requiring a new assessment.
5. We hope that local authorities will offer a full range of services and support, and that local authorities will not direct the way that SDS budgets can be used – for example, we hope that authorities will not veto the use of budgets for particular services because they do not meet a particular criteria, if this service would meet the needs of the individual.
6. We believe that the guidance should require that the Support Plan is made available in alternative formats and that every individual understands the assessment process, decisions about their eligibility and their Support Plan.

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