

AGENDA ITEM

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Title/Subject: Self Directed Support
Meeting: Integration Joint Board Audit Committee
Date: 17 December 2018
Submitted By: Head of Adult Social Work Services
Action: For Noting

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report provides a further update on the Partnership's response to the 'Audit Scotland Self Directed Support: Progress report 2017'.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. The IJB is asked to note the progress that is being made towards addressing the recommendations in the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. In 2014 Audit Scotland published a report on how well prepared local authorities were for the implementation of the Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013. They found that councils still had a lot of work to do to make the 'cultural and practical changes needed to successfully implement SDS'. In August 2017 Audit Scotland published a follow-up report. The aim of the follow-up audit was to establish whether councils, integration authorities and the Scottish Government were making sufficient progress in implementing SDS to achieve the aims of the ten year SDS Strategy.
- 3.2. Key messages in the 2017 report were as follows:
- **Social care** - Most people rate their social care services highly
 - **Choice and Control** - not everyone is getting the choice and control envisaged in the SDS strategy
 - **Personalisation** - Staff are positive about the principles of personalisation and SDS
 - **Staff Support** - Front-line staff who feel equipped, trusted and supported are better able to help people choose the best support for them
 - **Significant pressures** - Authorities are experiencing significant pressures from increasing demand and limited budgets for social care services
 - **Flexibility of provision** - There are tensions for service providers between offering flexible services, managing their costs and making extra demands on their staff

- 3.3. The Scottish Government SDS policy team is working in partnership with all other stakeholders to provide a new Work Plan for 2018-2020, to support further implementation and to address the recommendations within the Audit Scotland 2017 report. The new Work Plan is likely to be focused on the same outcomes that are in the current [Work Plan \(2016-2018\)](#):

- Supported people have more choice and control
- Workers are confident and valued
- Commissioning is more flexible and
- Systems are more widely understood, flexible and less complex

4. AUDIT SCOTLAND RECOMMENDATIONS

There were a number of recommendations in the report for local authorities and progress on these was reported to the Falkirk IJB Audit Committee on 5 December 2017. This section provides a further update on this work.

Directing your own support

- We continue to work with local organisations, particularly Forth Valley Self-Directed Support (FVSDS), to ensure that service users and carers are provided with the information and support they need to explore the different options.
- Focussed work is underway with Social Work teams to ensure that outcomes focussed assessment is embedded in practice and that service users and carers are supported to plan their support with as much flexibility and choice as possible. This is being led by a Team Manager seconded to the Self-Directed Support Team.
- The numbers of service users now recorded as having made a choice in relation to SDS options continues to increase. In 2017/18 over 500 people had chosen non traditional options under SDS compared to 109 in 2016.
- Work continues between Children's' services and Adult services on more timely identification of young people who may need support as they move into adult services. This now includes young carers with the implementation of Carers (Scotland) Act since April 2018.

Assessing needs and planning support

- Training continues for staff in Adult Services and includes further development of local training tools to support this. There are a number of national training tools and workers are encouraged to make use of these. Work is continuing to ensure that the OLLE (Falkirk Council's eLearning platform) has direct links to relevant national and local learning resources. This includes risk management and risk enablement. Falkirk Council's Corporate Risk Coordinator is supporting this work with the Workforce Development Manager.

- The introduction of updated, outcomes focused Eligibility Criteria in October 2017 was accompanied by guidance and briefing sessions for front line teams. Further work is ongoing as described above, with a Team Manager, working directly with front line teams to embed outcomes focussed assessment and support planning and the Falkirk Eligibility Criteria Framework into front line practice.
- There are some interim changes being made to the SWIS system to improve the processes for assessment and make identification of outcomes and SDS options easier to record.

Commissioning for SDS

This work is on-going and includes input from the SDS team on the following:

- The new Option 3 Framework promotes outcomes focussed support planning and flexible support.
- Option 2 contracts are now in place and work is ongoing with providers to make use of these contracts for those people who wish to choose their care and support provider under Option 2.
- A Provider Forum has been set up in Falkirk with Support from the Contracts and Commissioning Team and a Community Care Service Manager. A presentation was delivered to providers on the Option 2 contract process and follow-up work with each provider, regarding sign-up to Option 2, is planned.
- The individual Budget Calculator has been tested and a report submitted to managers. This will assist with the process of agreeing annual, individual budgets for support to enable a flexible approach to support planning for service users and carers with providers
- Further development work is needed to improve the development of assets based, community led support options. This is an area of work that continues to be explored.
- Work on a new Social Work Information system, Liquid Logic, will ensure SDS embedded in the assessment process.

Implementing the national SDS strategy

- There are already good examples of joint working between community health staff and social work staff. This has led to good joint support arrangements; however this needs further development to ensure consistent approaches.
- There remains a need to include health colleagues in more SDS focussed training.
- The replacement of the SWIS system will enable better recording of outcomes, SDS Options and data collection relating to these, thereby supporting outcome focussed practice. The configuration of the system will include the relevant procedures and pathways for good recording.

5. CONCLUSIONS

There has been ongoing work to embed an outcomes focussed approach into local social work practice. It is recognised nationally that this is an area that presents a number of challenges including understanding outcomes, recording of outcomes and crucially measuring the impact of support towards achieving outcomes.

Falkirk's performance in encouraging uptake of non-traditional SDS update options is improving when compared nationally. The level of understanding of SDS principles, values and options is increasing amongst staff and the wider sector. SDS principles must be embedded in practice, systems and processes across the Partnership.

Resource Implications

The implementation of SDS is currently managed within existing implementation funding, to support Adult and Children's Services to mainstream SDS and embed it in practice. The level of implementation funding available for 2018-19 was unchanged from 2017-2018. The funding for 2019-20 is not yet known. Given the Scottish Government's acknowledgment that there is still a significant amount of work to be done, it is anticipated that there may be little or no change to the implementation funding for 2019-2020, though this is not guaranteed.

Impact on IJB Outcomes and Priorities

The implementation process for SDS within Falkirk remains closely aligned with the Scottish Government Strategic Objectives, as stated in the National Strategy and the SDS Work Plan (2016-18), and with the Strategic Outcomes outlined in the Falkirk Partnership Strategic Plan 2016-19. The intention is that all progress towards implementation will contribute towards the Partnership's outcomes. The current assessment process, identification of personal outcomes and identification of eligible support need is underpinned by these outcomes.

Legal & Risk Implications

No local legal or risk implications have been identified in relation to this report.

Consultation

No consultation is required for this report.

Equalities Assessment

There is no requirement for an Equalities Assessment in relation to this report.

Approved for Submission by: Patricia Cassidy, Chief Officer

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