



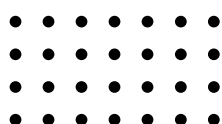
National SDS
Collaboration



Connected Conversations

Learning Report from Outcome 3
Conversations

**Easy
Read
Report
2025**



Connected Conversations

Easy Read Document

Outcome 3

About this document



This is an easy read information document



This information has been written by In Control Scotland and was shared with the National SDS Collaboration on 1st October 2025



The National SDS Collaboration is where people come together to talk about how to make self-directed support better in Scotland



Questions

1. What do you think about it?

☐ Good

☐ Bad

☒ Not sure

We asked people questions about their feelings about self-directed support



Tell us what you think

1. Do you think the idea is a good one?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Not sure

This is a report based on what people told us



These questions are about being part of the process to decide how you get support

Question 1



We asked people, have you ever been part of or asked to help with planning local social care?

This is what people told us:



People had mixed experiences when helping to plan social care



Some felt included and proud that their ideas made real changes



Others felt ignored, and said things like poor access and little support made it hard to join in

Question 1 continued



Many said their real-life experience was important but not valued



Many people said that promises of working together were not always kept

Question 2



We asked people, can you use your budget in different ways?

This is what people told us:



Some people had good experiences using their SDS budget, which gave them more choice and freedom.



Others said it was unfair, as what they could do depended on where they lived or who had helped them

Question 2 continued



Some people said their budget was only for personal care, not for things that would help them live more fully.



Complicated rules and delays made it hard for people to use their budget when they needed to.



Children's services were often more flexible than adult ones, so not everyone got the same fair choices.

Question 3



We asked people, were you told how much your budget is?

This is what people told us:



People have very different experiences finding out about their budget

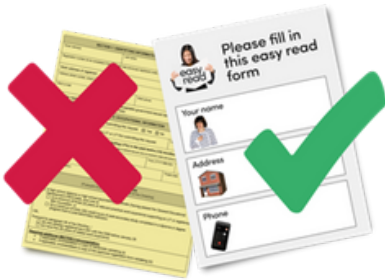


Some get clear information early, but others find out late or not at all.

Question 3 continued



Many feel left out of budget talks, with unclear rules that make planning hard.



This lack of clear information makes people feel left out and unfairly treated.

Question 4



We asked people, do you have a carers budget? If yes, what has it been like getting that?

This is what people told us:



Many unpaid carers don't know they can get a budget and often find out by chance or through friends and family.



Some carers have to fight hard to access support because the system is confusing, rushed, or unfair.

Question 4 continued



Budgets are often limited, only covering short-term help instead of giving real choice or support.



Because of this, carers can feel left out, stressed, and don't get the rest or support they need.

Question 5



We asked people what do you think should change or what could help make your life better?

This is what people told us:



People want to help make decisions about their lives and their budgets



Budgets should let people spend money on fun and personal goals, not just personal care.

Question 5 continued



People need clear and simple information about their budgets.

Carers need help and rest to stay healthy.



Old systems and not enough staff make support hard.



Support should help people join their communities and do activities

Conclusion



SDS isn't giving people real choice or control.



SDS needs to be fair, clear, and flexible so everyone can live full and independent lives.



Thank you to everyone who took part in this conversation