

The options for Self-Directed Support (SDS)

This factsheet aims to provide you with an overview of the choices available with SDS.

In 2020/21 there were 105,790 people in Scotland who were choosing to receive their support through one or more of the SDS options.

We want to help you feel empowered to make the right choices for you or the person you support.

What are the 4 options?

When it comes to choosing the option that works best for you, or the person you support, social workers should work with you to make a plan for your care and support.

Your local authority should then make sure that you have enough budget to achieve the plan that you have agreed with a social worker.

Your local authority should make sure that the way any decisions about your social care are made are fair and easy to understand.

There are 4 options that local authorities must offer to people who are eligible for social care:

- **Option 1:** With option 1 you receive a direct payment, the amount decided by the local authority, and they use it to arrange their own support. This can include employing staff and/or buying goods and services.
 - With option 1 you have full choice and control over your support, but you also have the most responsibility for arranging support.
- **Option 2:** The supported person decides on the support they want, and that support is arranged on their behalf. Once the local authority has decided how much money they will give towards your support you can then use the money to choose goods and services. The support is then arranged on your behalf.

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- With option 2 you have full choice and control over how your support is arranged but you don't have to manage the money.
 - **Option 3:** After you and the local authority have a discussion, the local authority decided and arranges support for you. With this option you ask the local authority to chose and arrange the support that they think is right for you.
 - With option 3 you are not responsible for arranging support and have a less direct choice and control over how your support is arranged.
 - **Option 4:** This option allows you to use a mixture of the options to arrange your care and support. You might want to have direct control over some parts of your support but not all of them.
 - Option 4 allows you to pick what you want to have control over and what parts you would like to leave to your local authority to decide.