

IN CONTROL SCOTLAND

In Control Scotland is a Scottish charity that works with disabled people, local councils, and support providers.



They work to make care and support fairer for people.

They focus on self-directed support, which means that disabled people and unpaid carers are in control of the support they receive.

A guide to the Social Care
(Self-directed Support)
(Scotland) Act 2013

Easy Read version



The Scottish Government has made a new law about self-directed support. This guide tells you about the new law.



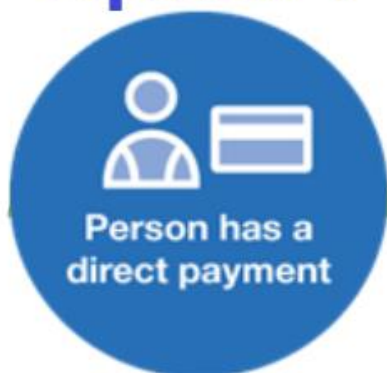
If you would like to read more about self-directed support, the Scottish Government have an easy read guide here: [A Guide to the Self-directed Support \(Scotland\) Act 2013 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

THE FOUR OPTIONS



In self-directed support there are four options that disabled people and unpaid carers can choose. These are:

Option 1



Option 1 – you take a direct payment.

This means the local council decide how much money can be spent on your support. You take this money and arrange your own support, employ care staff, or buy a service from a care organisation.

Option 2



Option 2 – you decide, and someone else arranges the support.

This means that the local council decide how much money can be spent on your support. You can choose a care organisation that you work with together to help you achieve the things in your support plan.

Option 3



Option 3 – the local council decides and arranges support.

This means that the local council decide how much money can be spent on your support. You ask the local council to choose and arrange the support that it thinks is right for you.

Option 4



Option 4 – a mix of any of the options, 1-3, to suit you.

OPTION 3 RESEARCH

The law says that people should have flexibility across all of the options.



In Control Scotland asked a researcher named Lou Close to look into option 3.

They did this because they felt that option 3 was sometimes less flexible than the other options.

She spoke to 10 local councils to find out what they had done to make things more flexible for people using option 3.



Lou spoke to Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire, East Lothian, Falkirk, Fife, Moray, and South Ayrshire.

She also spoke to Leeds, a council in England.



Most services for disabled people happen under option 3. It is usually the quickest way of arranging support, but it is usually the least flexible.



This is because it is difficult to make really large services flexible, as they need to support lots of people at the same time.

This is most difficult in rural areas of Scotland where there may not be much choice of providers.



Lou found out that there had been some changes made since the law was passed in making things more flexible, but the changes were not as big as they could be.



She found that some councils had tried smaller scale projects, and that some had been quite creative in using option 3.

She found this was usually only across teams or areas and not across all people receiving support.



This means that things have not changed as much as we would have hoped in the 10 years since the law started.

She also found that sometimes people think that option 3 is not self-directed support. This means that they sometimes do not think they need to be flexible or creative.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The report ends with 5 recommendations for local councils.

1

Make it clear that self-directed support is the way that care and support is delivered.

2

They should be more creative in how they buy services from providers.

3

There should be changes in the way that disabled people pay for their support to make things fairer for disabled people.

4

They should stop thinking about care as 'hours' and think about what people want to achieve in their lives instead.

5

They should change eligibility criteria to stop people having to be very sick or in crisis before getting support.