

Self Directed Support



Editor's note



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Welcome to the annual edition of East Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership's (HSCP) Self-Directed Support newsletter. The newsletter provides an opportunity to reflect on the Self-Directed Support activities that took place during 2025-26.

During the financial year we saw the introduction of a requirement for all Personal Assistants to register with the Protecting Vulnerable Groups scheme. There has also been a name change for our local Self-Directed Support independent information, advice and support service.

The current financial year – 2026-27 – will see the HSCP carry out our bi-annual Self-Directed Support consultation – read on to check whether you are eligible to complete the survey.

HSCPs and Councils across Scotland continue to experience significant and unprecedented financial challenges with our continued focus on how we can achieve the required savings without significant impact to our customers' and carers' frontline social care support services.

This newsletter is available to download or read online – visit <https://health.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/self-directed-support>

Kelly Gainty

Self-Directed Support Strategic Lead

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What is Self Directed Support?

Self-Directed Support is a way of organising care and support for people who are eligible for social care. It can enable individuals to have greater choice in how their support is delivered and the level of control that they wish to have over this.

Self-Directed Support is the mainstream route for people to access the support they need to live a full and independent life.



The Self Directed Support Options

There are four options contained within the Self-Directed Support legislation:

Option 1 Direct Payment

You can choose to receive your individual budget as a payment directly into a dedicated bank account. With this money, you can choose to become an employer where you employ your own Personal Assistant or you can purchase services/support from an individual, agency or other organisation.

Option 2 - Individual Service Fund

With this option your individual budget can be held and managed by the HSCP or a third-party organisation and would be used to pay for the support that you have chosen.

Option 3 - HSCP Arranged Services

With this option, discussions will take place with you regarding your individual budget and the support you require to meet your outcomes. You may have decided that the arrangements regarding who provides this support and when will be made by the HSCP, using their own services or services commissioned from another organisation.

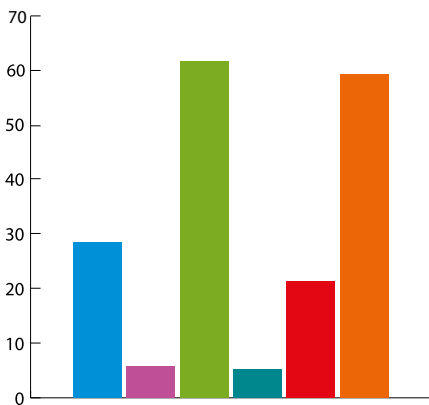
Option 4 - Mixture of options

You may choose to use several Self-Directed Support options to meet different parts of your support plan.

Statistics

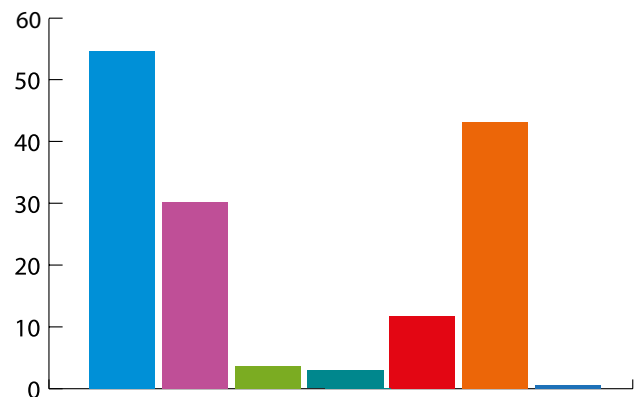
what did the numbers look like during 2025-2026?

Direct Payments – Self Directed Support Option 1 –



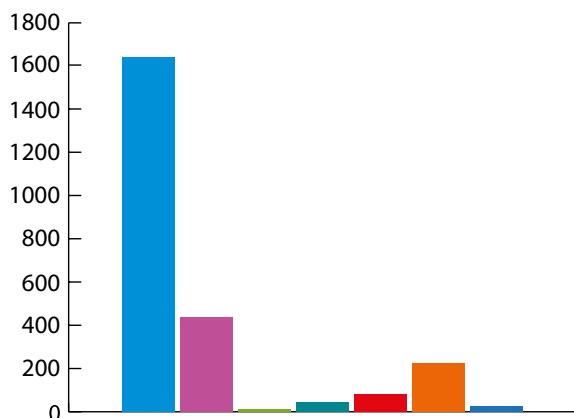
This is the option that provides the customer and/or carer with the maximum flexibility, choice and control. During 2025-26, 216 people used the Direct Payments option – a 6% decrease on the previous year’s figures. This continues to be directly related to the staffing challenges being experienced within the social care sector, particularly the recruitment of Personal Assistants. These challenges are being experienced by HSCPs and social care agencies across Scotland.

Individual Service Fund – Self Directed Support Option 2 -



The Individual Service Fund means that the customer and/or carer’s budget is paid to their chosen support provider or other organisation while the customer and/or carer arranges their support directly with the organisation. During 2025-26, 147 people used the Individual Service Fund option – a 3% decrease on the previous year’s figures.

HSCP/Council Arranged Services – Self Directed Support Option 3 –



This option means that the customer and/or carer have asked the social work practitioner to choose who will provide their support and arrange to pay for that support. During 2025-26, a total of 2,557 people used the HSCP/Council-arranged and commissioned services option. This is a 4% increase on the previous year. This increase continues to be impacted by the ongoing social care recruitment challenges that individuals are experiencing when trying to implement Self Directed Support Option 1 and Option 2.

Key:

- Older people
- Dementia
- Children / Families
- Mental health
- Physical disability
- Learning disability
- Addiction Support



East Dunbartonshire HSCP Self-Directed Support Implementation work plan 2024-2027 Completion of Year 2

East Dunbartonshire HSCP published its three-year Self-Directed Support Implementation Plan (2024-2027) in April 2024. This second year has seen the HSCP undertake activities contained within the plan that were categorised as ‘medium’, meaning that those activities should have been commenced and, in some cases been completed, by 31 March 2026. Most of the ‘medium’ actions have been completed during 2025-26 and those which we have been unable to fully progress, have been carried forward to the third year of the plan.

The third and final year of this plan will see the HSCP focus on activities including:

- Ensuring that third sector partners and the HSCP are not operating ‘in silos’ when raising awareness about Self-Directed Support

- Exploring the development of e-module training for social work practitioners
- Participating in national working groups which focus on the continued implementation of Self-Directed Support.

During the latter part of 2026-27 (January to March 2027), the HSCP will undertake a review of the plan and submit an updated three-year plan, for the period 2027 to 2030, to stakeholders for consultation. Keep an eye on our social media posts for updates.

The plan can be accessed on the HSCP section of the Council website, visit <https://health.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/services/a-z-of-services/adults-older-people/self-directed-support-implementation-plan-2024-2027/>



Are you eligible to take part in our surveys?

Self-Directed Support Survey

Do you receive social care support? Would you like to tell us about how your chosen Self-Directed Support option impacts your health and wellbeing?

The HSCP is holding its bi-annual Self-Directed Support Survey between August and October 2026.

If you use social care supports which are funded by the HSCP and want to take part in the survey, please email mycare@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

The results of the survey will be published in the HSCP's Annual Self-Directed Support Newsletter in February 2027.

For more information on Self-Directed Support, please visit our webpage -

<https://health.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/self-directed-support>

Older People Local Area Co-ordination Team

Have you had contact with the HSCP's Older People Local Area Co-ordination Team?

If so, we may call you over the summer of 2026 as part of a short telephone survey on services for older people.

Perhaps you were introduced to – or referred to – a local community club or group.


We are keen to know if we helped to improve your health and wellbeing.

Don't worry – any callers will properly identify themselves and no personal details will be taken. Feedback will help to shape our work going forward.

For more info on the Local Area Co-ordination Service for Older People, please visit the website -

<https://health.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/older-people>

You can also get in touch via Customer Services – call **0300 123 4510** or email customerservices@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



The HSCP is holding its bi-annual Self-Directed Support Survey between August and October 2026.

See post for details on how to get involved.

Have your say on Self-Directed Support

 East Dunbartonshire Health & Social Care Partnership

Survey on services for older people

If you've had contact with the HSCP's Older People Local Area Co-ordination Team, we may call you over the summer as part of a short survey.

 East Dunbartonshire Health & Social Care Partnership

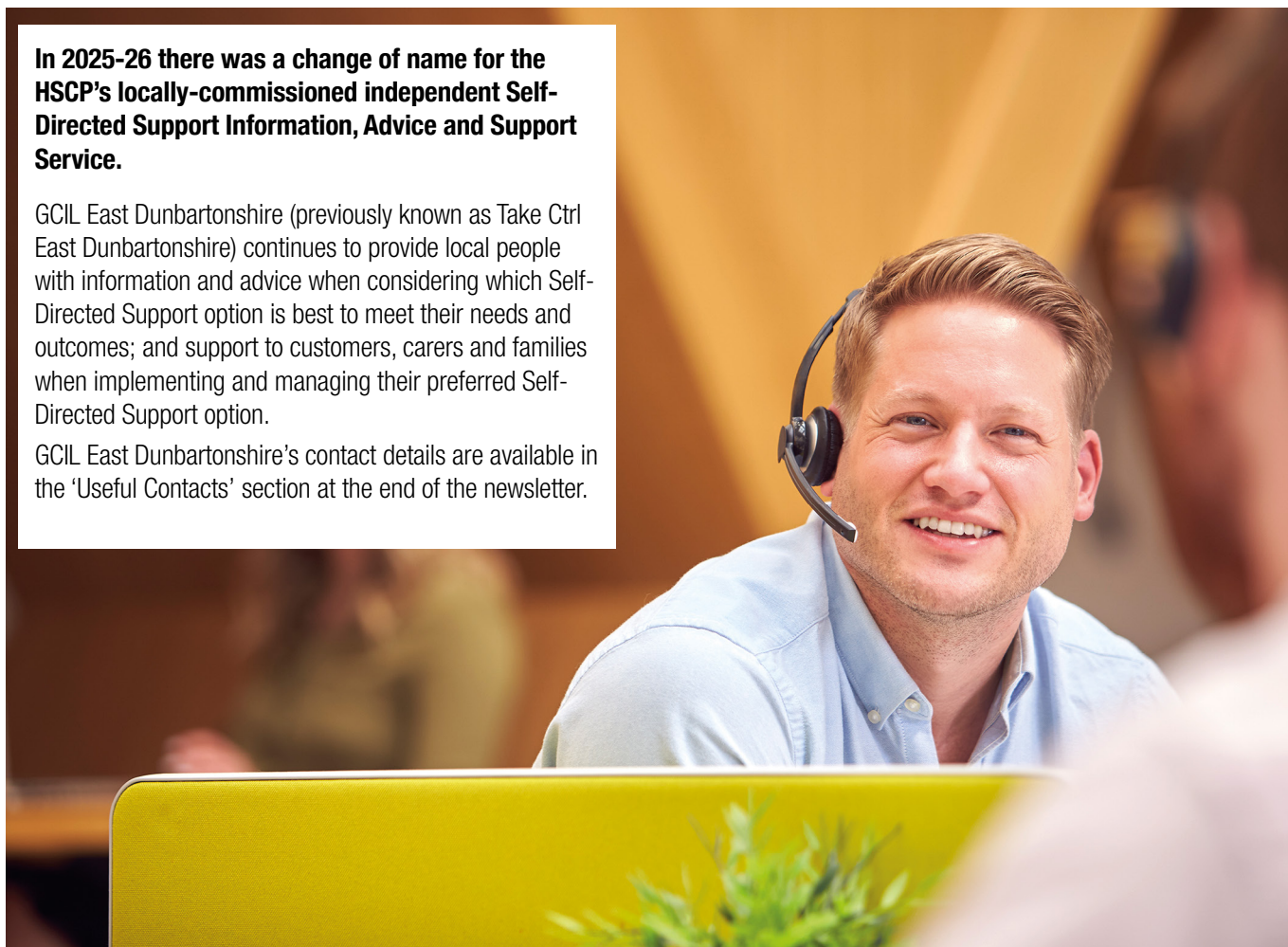
GCIL (Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living) East Dunbartonshire



In 2025-26 there was a change of name for the HSCP's locally-commissioned independent Self-Directed Support Information, Advice and Support Service.

GCIL East Dunbartonshire (previously known as Take Ctrl East Dunbartonshire) continues to provide local people with information and advice when considering which Self-Directed Support option is best to meet their needs and outcomes; and support to customers, carers and families when implementing and managing their preferred Self-Directed Support option.

GCIL East Dunbartonshire's contact details are available in the 'Useful Contacts' section at the end of the newsletter.



Personal Assistants – Liability Insurance Requirements

Self-Directed Support - Option 1: Direct Payments

Do you directly employ a Personal Assistant? If yes, do you know that you can pay for the annual employer's liability insurance cost from your individual budget? It is a legal requirement, where any person is employed, that the employer always has the correct liability insurances in place.

If you purchase social care support from a person who is self-employed, it is that person (the self-employed person) who has responsibility for ensuring that they have public liability insurance in place, funded by the self-employed person. It is your responsibility, however, to ensure that the

person you are purchasing social care support from, who is registered as self-employed, is both registered with HMRC and has an active public liability insurance policy in place. Please refer to the 'self-employed' section of your legal Direct Payment Agreement.

If you have changed your social care support and are now purchasing from a person who is self-employed, and your Direct Payment Agreement pre-dates September 2022, please contact your Social Work practitioner to arrange for an updated agreement to be issued.

Financial audits of Direct Payments

Are you new to the auditing activities for Direct Payments? East Dunbartonshire Council has developed an auditing presentation to help you understand what is involved in the auditing process.

Please visit <https://health.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/services/a-z-of-services/adults-older-people/self-directed-support/>



Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG) – Personal Assistants

New legislation was implemented on 1 July 2025 that makes it a legal requirement for Personal Assistants delivering social care support, on an employed or self-employed basis, to join the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme.

Information for both the Personal Assistant Employer and for the Personal Assistant is available online – please visit www.sdsscotland.org.uk/news/upcoming-changes-to-pvg-for-personal-assistants-what-you-need-to-know

The only exceptions are:

- Where the Personal Assistant is carrying out the role as part of a family relationship. A 'family relationship' refers to a relationship between two people who live in the same household and treat each other as though they were members of the same family
- Where the Personal Assistant is carrying out the role as part of a personal relationship and where there is no commercial gain, for example, they are not paid to work as a Personal Assistant.

As a Personal Assistant employer, or someone who purchases social care support from a self-employed Personal Assistant, you do not need to do anything in relation to this legal requirement. Responsibility for registration with the PVG scheme lies with the individual Personal Assistant.

It is the Personal Assistant's legal responsibility to join the PVG scheme if they wish to continue working in this 'regulated role'. As an employer, or the purchaser of support from someone who is self-employed, you cannot be held accountable if your Personal Assistant does not join the PVG scheme.

However, it is your responsibility as the person employing the individual or purchasing support from a person who is registered as self-employed to ensure that they are a member of the PVG scheme and request confirmation, from the Personal Assistant, of their registration within the scheme.

If a Personal Assistant – employed or self-employed – continues to work in this regulated role without being registered with the PVG scheme, they will be breaking the law.

Costs associated with PVG scheme registration

Scheme registration fees

The cost associated to register with the PVG scheme will be the responsibility of the employed or self-employed Personal Assistant. It is their responsibility to fund their registration fee.

The registration fee should not be paid from the Direct Payment budget. This decision ensures continuity and equity across the social care sector in East Dunbartonshire. Social care staff working in the Council/HSCP are required to personally fund their PVG registration fees.

Scheme statement fees

As per current practice, Direct Payment customers can pay, using the Direct Payment budget, for a PVG Scheme Statement, when employing a potential Personal Assistant to ensure that they are registered with the PVG scheme and are not barred from working in a regulated social care role. GCIL East Dunbartonshire can assist you, as part of the Personal Assistant recruitment activities, to apply for a PVG Scheme Statement.



Useful contacts

Useful Self Directed Support website links

The Scottish Government – Self Directed Support Website:
www.selfdirectedsupportscotland.org.uk

The Self Directed Support Legislation:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2013/1/contents>

Easy Read Guide to the Self Directed Support Legislation:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/guide-self-directed-support-scotland-act-2013/>

Self Directed Support (Direct Payments) (Scotland) Regulations 2014:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2014/25/contents/made>

Self Directed Support Statutory Guidance:
<http://www.gov.scot/publications/statutory-guidance-accompany-social-care-self-directed-support-scotland-act-2013-2/>

Self Directed Support Scotland - Personal Assistant Employer's Handbook:
<https://handbook.scot/the-pa-employer-handbook/>

Self Directed Support Values and Principles Statement:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/06/2426>

Self Directed Support Values and Principles Statement – Easy Read:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/06/8424/1>

Self-Directed Support Standards Framework:
www.gov.scot/publications/self-directed-support-framework-standards-including-standard-descriptor-practice-statement-core-components-practice-guidance-updated-2024/documents/

East Dunbartonshire HSCP – Meeting the Standards Framework:
<https://health.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/media/i2hhduae/sds-framework-of-standards-ed-hscp-information-booklet-sep-2025.pdf>



Useful local telephone numbers and websites:

GCIL East Dunbartonshire:

Suite 1, Enterprise House, Southbank
Business Park, Kirkintilloch, G66 1QX
Tel: 0141 776 2219 / 6342

Web: <https://gcil.org.uk/about/our-people/>

Email: GCILEastDunbartonshire@gcil.org.uk

Ceartas Advocacy Service:

Suite 5 – 7, McGregor House,
Donaldson Crescent, Kirkintilloch,
G66 1XF

Tel: **0141 775 0433**

Web: <https://www.ceartas.org.uk/>

Carers Link:

Milngavie Enterprise Centre,
Ellengowan Court, Milngavie, G62 8PH

Tel: **0800 9752131** or

0141 955 2131

Web: www.carerslink.org.uk

Social Work Emergencies (Out of Hours):

**Social Work Standby Service:
0800 811505**

Self Directed Support

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

A variety of information resources and links to external organisations are available on the Self-Directed Support page on the Council's website – please visit <https://health.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/self-directed-support>



Other formats and translations

This document can be provided in large print, Braille or on CD and can be translated into other community languages.

Please contact the Council's Corporate Communications Team at:

East Dunbartonshire Council, 12 Strathkelvin Place,
Kirkintilloch, G66 1TJ Tel: 0300 123 4510

本文件可按要求翻譯成中文，如有此需要，請電 0300 123 4510。

اس دستاویز کا اردو تراجم کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ براہ مہربانی فون نمبر 0300 123 4510 پر رابطہ کریں۔

ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0300 123 4510 ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Gabhaidh an sgriobhainn seo cur gu Gàidhlig ma tha sin a dhith oirbh. Cuiribh fòin gu 0300 123 4510

असुरोध करने पर यह दस्तावेज हिन्दी में भाषांतरित किया जा सकता है। कृपया 0300 123 4510 पर फोन कीजिए।

