



self directed support news

Early implementer trial — we're off!

We are now in the 'early implementer' phase of self directed support (SDS), where people who use our services work with us to trial the SDS process in Leeds.

The early implementer team has been busy over the last two months, visiting service users across the city to talk about SDS. We asked people to think about how they would change their support if they had a personal budget, and asked if they would like to be part of the trial. Most people were keen to be involved.

We have already begun to complete self-assessment questionnaires with some service users. Most people have opted to fill in the form with the help of one of the early implementation social workers, though some have looked at it with a friend or relative beforehand.

The self-assessments are beginning to be entered into the resource allocation system,

which works out the size of personal budget the service user will have. People are also being offered a new financial assessment to make sure they are getting all the right benefits, and to assess how much they'll need to pay towards the cost of their support.

Any issues are being recorded straight away, and action plans agreed to resolve them. This will help iron out any problems and ensure our processes and procedures are right before we roll out SDS to all service users in Leeds.

Over the coming weeks we expect to be able to tell people the size of their budget. We'll then move on to the support planning phase, when service users start to think about how they will spend their budget to meet their social care support needs.

For further information, contact the SDS early implementer team on 0113 395 1221.



News from the experts by experience reference group

A team of 'experts by experience', known as the SDS and Peer Support group, works closely with the SDS team, helping to make sure the decisions it makes are relevant and helpful to service users. The group consists of current service users who receive direct payments, and a carer.

Two members of the group, Carole Harrison and Sandra O'Donovan, are on the SDS Project Board and others are involved in the Communications workstream.

Peer support phone-in service

The group is working on a new peer support phone-in service — where service users can talk to someone already using SDS about any concerns they may have — which will be launched this year. The service will be piloted for six months, before being rolled out across Leeds.

Training course: how to be a good employer

A new training session has also been developed, on how to be a good employer of a personal assistant and other aspects of the employment relationship. The course will be trialled first within the group, to test out its effectiveness and iron out any problems. If it is considered helpful, it may eventually be offered to all new and existing service users.

For further information on the SDS and Peer Support group, contact Carole Harrison at carole.harrison4998@O2.co.uk.



What would you like to see in SDS news?

Is there anything we can include which you would find especially helpful as we change over to the SDS model?

Call us on 0113 247 4785 or email your ideas to us at: selfdirectedsupport@leeds.gov.uk.

The SDS newsletter is produced by the SDS Project team and ASC Communications. If you would like to submit an article or find out more, call us on **0113 247 4785** or email selfdirectedsupport@leeds.gov.uk

Visit the **self directed support** pages on the LCC website (just enter 'self directed support' in the search field) for further updates.

For more on SDS see: www.in-control.org.uk.

“Self directed support helps me learn new things and keep doing the things I like.”

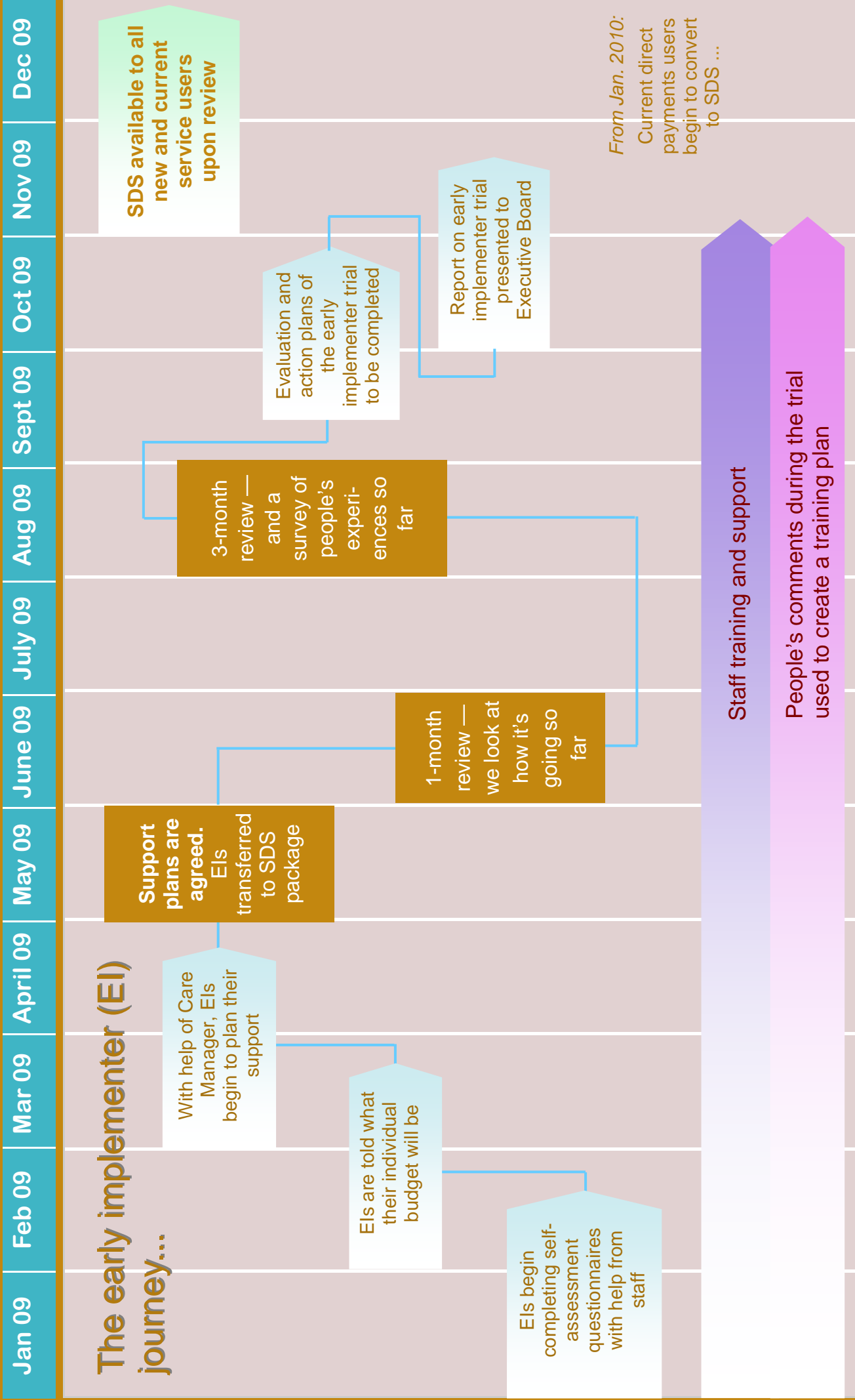
How to have your say ...

We'll soon be releasing the SDS web pages where people can have their say about SDS. Meanwhile, you can contact us using the email address and telephone number at the bottom of this page.

Over the coming weeks we'll be getting out and about to groups and forums to talk to people about SDS. If you would like us to visit your group please contact **Janet Somers** on **0113 247 7443**.

Details of the communication and consultation events will be posted on the intranet and Leeds City Council website as soon as they are confirmed.

Self directed support — a basic timeline



workstream update

Here is a summary of what the SDS workstreams are doing. Many areas, such as training needs analysis, are not the sole remit of any individual workstream, so the following is only a broad guide. As ever, if you would like further details, contact the SDS project team on 0113 247 4785 or send us an email at selfdirectedsupport@leeds.gov.uk.

Assistive technology

Identifying routes for accessing assistive technology via the SAQ; setting costs for social care-funded equipment and adaptations and how they can be incorporated into personal budgets.

Brokerage

Designing and implementing the brokerage function for Leeds, following extensive consultation.

Care management

Establishing roles of initial response team, care managers involved in support planning and brokerage, and gatekeeping panels.

Children and young people

Identifying people in transition from children's to adult services to take part in the early implementer trial. Mapping business processes, along with care management and support planning workstreams.

Commissioning and contracting

Looking at what changes need to be made to the commissioning and contracting infrastructure as we move to the SDS model. Developing transparent pricing for in-house services and those we commission or support.

Communications

Identifying stakeholder groups and the best ways to engage them. Producing information on SDS for current and potential service users and carers, staff, partners, the independent and voluntary sectors.

Consultation and engagement

Maintaining a comprehensive consultation and engagement plan. Facilitating discussion and engagement with, and between, elected members, current and potential service users and carers, and staff from Adult Social Care, the independent and voluntary sectors.

Early Implementation

Co-ordinating the evaluation of the Early Implementer trial, supporting the work of care managers as they transfer 50–60 current service users to the SDS model. Planning roll-out of the SDS model for all current and new service users.

ESCR/ICT

Establishing the role ICT will play in accessing the SDS model. Investigating ESCR interfaces with FAB, ESCR Financials, MESALS and other electronic recording systems.

Finance

Ensuring the Resource Allocation System is fair and transparent. Establishing the impact the uptake of SDS will have on in-house services. Setting up a framework for auditing and reviewing budgets.

Organisational development

Developing a training strategy, looking at areas such as the role of care managers in delivery of SDS, support planning, using the Resource Allocation System and the role of brokerage.

Support planning

Developing a support plan with guidance for service users, those who support them, and the managers responsible for approving the plans. Developing proposals for setting up a Risk Management Panel.

