**Would you like to help give people more choice and control in social care services in Midlothian?**

The new Self Directed Support Programme Board is looking for two members to join them – a member of the Public and Unpaid Carer. This is an exciting opportunity to help shape how self directed support is delivered in Midlothian.

**What is the Self Directed Support Programme Board?**

The new Self Directed Support Programme Board will oversee the implementation of the new **Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013**, which is anticipated to come into force in April 2014.

The Act requires councils to offer people a range of options for how their social care is delivered, beyond just direct payments, empowering people to decide how much ongoing control and responsibility they want over their own support arrangements.The Programme Board will develop new arrangements to help empower people using social care services (adults, children and unpaid carers) to have as much choice and control as they want over the support they receive.

For more information on self directed support (SDS) in Scotland visit [www.selfdirectedsupportscotland.org.uk](http://www.selfdirectedsupportscotland.org.uk)

The Programme Board will oversee 4 delivery groups which will be responsible for focusing on the following key areas around self directed support:

* Providing information to people using services on self directed support and involving users and unpaid carers in the implementation of SDS.
* Implementing changes in social work practice and delivering staff training.
* Developing a new system to allocate people their individual budgets.
* Changes to commissioning and contracting arrangements with social care providers.

Membership of the Programme Board:

* Acting Head of Adults and Community Care
* Social Work group manager
* Senior Accountant
* Practice Learning and Development Manager
* Social Work Service Manager
* Learning Disability Resource Manager
* Children and Families Resource Manager
* Assistant Director VOCAL
* Self Directed Support Planning Manager
* Public member
* Carer member

The Programme Board wants to ensure that service users and carers are at the heart of SDS in Midlothian and so we are looking to appoint a member of the public and a carer to the Board.

To support wider engagement in the project an SDS service user and carer reference group will be established which will meet regularly to consider some of the key issues and advise the Board on the implementation of SDS. The group will have representation from the different client groups that use social care services and will link with the caring, learning disability, physical disability, older people and mental health planning groups.

**What is the role of a public or carer member of the SDS Programme Board?**

The role of the public and carer Board members is to:

* To review the work of the Programme Board to support delivery of the Project Plan and the implementation of SDS.
* To advocate for wider service user/ carer involvement as appropriate.
* To make sure the outcomes of user/carer involvement are considered in decision-making.
* Make sure that the impact of services on the lives of users and carers (their personal outcomes) is regularly part of discussions.
* Provide a link between recognised user and carer groups and the Shadow Board.

It is important to be clear that the role is not to:

* Represent the public and carers or be the voice of the public and carers, where no wider public/carer involvement has taken place.
* Provide your own opinion by proxy of public opinion.
* Bring personal issues to the table (either your own or those of other individuals).

**What commitment does the position entail?**

The Programme Board will meet monthly which the public and carer members are expected to attend. Time will be required to read papers for meetings. In advance of joining the Board public and carer members will be offered an induction to prepare them for the role.

Whilst the legislation is anticipated to commence in April 2014, realising the vision of SDS will take considerably longer as such the Board will operate for at least two years, after which its functions and membership will be reviewed.

**Who would make a good candidate?**

The people selected to serve as members of the SDS Programme Board should possess the following key skills:

* Effective verbal communication skills
* The ability to challenge and raise issues of concern
* Listening skills
* Ability to read and understand complex documents
* Ability to be sensitive to other people’s opinions
* Reliable and committed to attending SDS Programme Board meetings and carrying out agreed tasks
* Ability to bring their own knowledge and expertise to inform how self directed support is delivered in Midlothian.

It would be helpful if candidates:

* had a broad understanding of self directed support and the principles around which it is based.
* have an understanding of committees and committee processes.
* have an understanding of issues affecting carers and users of social care services.

**What are the benefits of being a SDS Programme Board member?**

As a member of the SDS Programme Board you will have a vital role in helping to implement self directed support in Midlothian. You will provide a key role in ensuring our work is based firmly on good engagement with service users and carers and helps to improve their lives.

**What support will I receive?**

As a public and carer member of the Board, you will have a named contact to support you in your role. Training will be developed to meet your needs, and you will receive reimbursement of expenses to enable you to attend meetings. This will include any sitter, day care or child care costs. Other costs such as photocopying and printing will also be met.

The SDS Programme Board is committed to making meetings accessible – they will avoid using jargon and make sure everyone feels welcome and able to contribute. Meetings take place in an accessible venue.

**How will candidates be chosen?**

All candidates are asked to submit some information about themselves and why they would like to be a member of the SDS Programme Board. All candidates will then be invited to an informal interview.

**I’m interested – what should I do?**

If you would like to put yourself forward for membership of the SDS Programme Board, fill in the attached form and return it either by post of e-mail to:

Rebecca Squirrell

Planning Manager (Community Care)

Adults & Community Care

Communities & Wellbeing

Midlothian Council

Fairfield House

8 Lothian Road

Dalkeith

EH22 3AA

Rebecca.Squirrell@midlothian.gov.uk

by 17 December 2013

If you might be interested but would like more information, contact Rebecca on 0131 271 3800.

**Application Form**

**I would like to put myself forward to be a member of the Self Directed Support Programme Board.**

**I have read and understand the role and the commitment this entails.**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone number:**

**Position applied for: Public member Carer member**

1. **Why would you like to be a member of the Self Directed Support Programme Board?**
2. **Why do you think you would be a good public or carer member?**
3. **Do you have any potential conflicts of interest relating to the role? (e.g. an outside interest that may affect your ability to carry out the role?)**
4. **Is there any other information you would like to share?**

**Thank you for applying. Please return by 17 December 2013 by post or by e-mail to:**

Rebecca Squirrell

Planning Manager (Community Care)

Adults & Community Care

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