

“It’s about getting as much choice as possible - for people, staff, systems and providers”

Working paper - What we are hearing so far

Moving Forward is a partnership of Turning Point Scotland, Outside the Box and Glasgow Community Justice Authority. We are working to explore ways in which Self directed support (SDS) and personalisation can work well for people in touch with the criminal justice system.

The work is supported by a grant from the Scottish Government.

We have had conversations with people from statutory and third sector organisations working with people with offending backgrounds and with a range of complex needs. This working paper highlights the key themes and issues raised during the conversations.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in these discussions.

Typical situations for people with offending backgrounds and support and care needs

- People coming out of prison with a range of needs such as mental health, homeless and addiction problems
- People coming out of prison needing help with independent living and integrating into the community
- Older people with long histories of offending and multiple problems
- People who have finished initial support after prison – but still need a bit of help with everyday things
- Some people serving community sentences

Issues raised

People with higher or more complex needs or health issues are more likely to have assessments carried out that take into account both the criminal justice aspects and care needs.

“It can sometimes be difficult to accept that someone who is in touch with criminal justice teams may also have health problems and care needs too.”

Criminal Justice Social Service Manager

People with milder mental health, learning disability or health needs find it much harder to access services or have their needs recognised. This can still be a significant factor in their risk of reoffending, but is not always part of care assessments.

“Some people would do well with just a few hours support a week or every other week. A bit of help with advice and guidance on the things you need to know and do to get through the day and live well.” *Third Sector provider*

Offering choice and flexibility for individuals in more aspects of their lives was important to service providers. They could see the positive impact that this would have for people in other part of their lives too.

Providers also talked about risk and learning different ways to manage risk well for everyone involved. They wanted to find out more about how SDS can be used and where the boundaries and limits are.

Self directed support

SDS arrangements are seen as a way to get people the support they need by:

- Offering flexible support from existing providers or combinations of providers and services
- Creating new small flexible services that people need or working in different ways to support people
- Offering ways in which people can have purpose and contribute to their community.

It would help if more social care providers were aware of the criminal justice aspect and were less anxious about it. It was suggested that SDS could help existing social care providers be more flexible in the way they provide services, and so provide support that would work better for individuals.

But one of the issues is that many people with milder problems are less likely to be eligible for SDS and to have their needs recognised. Small scale preventative services and activities offering low level support at a small cost would have a very positive impact on peoples' lives.

Views on Moving Forward

Things that would help service providers are:

- Meeting other providers and staff to help with the learning, changing attitudes, raising awareness and supporting each other
- Engaging with broad range of service providers and social work teams
- Exploring what the SDS Act and guidance says alongside working out issues and practical aspects

- Sharing information about existing services and providers for people with milder health issues
- Starting with case examples of people who are getting flexible support and who are in touch with criminal justice services
- Focusing SDS on solving problems for people rather than creating more work.

For more information

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