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To:
Local Authority Chief Executives
Self-directed Support leads
Local Authority, Chief Social Work Officers

Cc:
CoSLA
Social Work Scotland

11/02/222

Dear All

Social care – Self-Directed Support (SDS) Guidance for the Pandemic

I am writing to let you know that Scottish Government have published an update to the SDS Guidance for the Pandemic which was first published in May 2020. This guidance is published in partnership with COSLA and Social Work Scotland, and takes effect immediately.

I want to ensure that people who need social care support receive that support as soon as possible. This should include the ability to use SDS flexibility, and to employ friends and/or family members as Personal Assistants, if individuals wish to do so.

This guidance reflects the principles and flexibility as described within the SDS Framework of Standards, which are also available on the Scottish Government website [Social care - self-directed support: framework of standards - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/social-care-self-directed-support-framework-of-standards/pages/1-to-3.aspx)

The guidance is available on the Scottish Government website as of today, 11 February. I'd appreciate if this [link](#) can be added to your own local websites to provide information to the public, as this guidance is available to all who use and work within SDS.

Please can you ensure that this guidance is circulated to everyone in your organisation who works on SDS, and that the importance of flexibility is emphasised.

If you have any queries relating to this updated guidance, please contact ASCAS@gov.scot.

May I take this opportunity to thank you and your workforce for your ongoing support during these continuing challenging times.

Kind Regards

Kevin Stewart

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