Cornerstone are delighted to let everyone know that they have been able to rent a new office at 25 High Street, Inverurie AB51 3QA. This is where the administration team and some of the workers will be based, including:

- Angi Wood, Service Manager
- Sharon Francis, Team Leader
- Laura Seaton who is putting together a directory of services and providers.

It is hoped that the directory of local services and providers will be helpful to people looking to find new services as part of their personal plan and meeting their outcomes.

“Cornerstone SDS Aberdeenshire has been contracted to the Council to help anyone in the area who is entitled to social work care and support services understand more about the options available to them to decide how that care and support can be provided. Our Advisors will still come to see you at home, wherever you are in Aberdeenshire, to support you – to go through the four options with you and to help you if you decide to become an Employer under Option 1. We will be holding some open days for anyone to pop into the office and meet the team – we will be back in touch with some more dates for you and we look forward to seeing you in the new office” said Claire Fraser, Self-Directed Support Manager.

**Employment Law Workshops**

For all those people who have become an employer through Option 1, Cornerstone has been holding a series of workshops with Employment Law experts, Empire HR. These have been happening in towns across Aberdeenshire and have covered topics such as Employment Contracts and Absence. Future events will include Sickness Absence and Data Protection. The next series of workshops will be starting in August and will be on the new pension requirements that you need to have in place for your Personal Assistants.

**Auto enrolment for Pensions – new legislation**

The Government has changed the pension’s legislation in order to make it easier for everyone to set up a pension. This means that if you are an employer under Self-Directed Support and have personal assistants supporting you, then you will have to set up a pension scheme. The Council, Cornerstone and Empire HR are working closely together to support people. Cornerstone are also producing an easy to use guide and hope to have this launched soon.

For more details on dates and venues or to book places please contact Cornerstone directly on: Tel: 01467 530 520 or Email: sds@cornerstone.org.uk
Finance Information Packs

Packs are now available for people who are considering or in receipt of a Social Work service. The pack includes a number of information sheets which explain the financial aspect of an Individual Budget depending which option the individual has chosen for their care and support.

Instead of charging for individual services people will now be asked to contribute a percentage of the total cost of all the care and support they receive.

A Financial Assessment allows the Council to calculate any available income an individual may have to contribute. You will never be asked to pay more than you are able to.

A few services that Aberdeenshire Council provide are not included as part of an Individual Budget – details of these are listed on the Charges and Allowances sheet.

Children under the age of 18, or whilst they remain in Children’s services over the age of 18 are not asked to contribute to their Individual Budget. The pack also contains information about free personal care for people aged 65.

The leaflet about Option 1 (also known as a direct payment) outlines the need to open a bank account, the options of using a payroll service, how you pay any contribution and record keeping.

Financial Management

CIPFA, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, is the professional body for people in public finance. The implementation of Self-directed Support is a significant responsibility for Scottish local authorities, and CIPFA have recently published three guidance notes to assist authorities with the financial management

Self-directed Support Part I: Resource Implications of SDS: Overview
Part one provides an overview of Self-Directed Support including key areas such as the legislative requirements, the values and principles, the four Options and the implications of SDS for collaboration with other partners, including the NHS, the integration of health and social care, the third sector and other stakeholders

Part II: Management Considerations
Part two identifies the financial management implications that local authorities will need to address. Topics covered include the roles of the local authority and supported person, management responsibilities and possible risks from implementation.

Part III: Self-Evaluation Framework
Part three provides a self-evaluation framework for authorities in Scotland to assess their processes for SDS financial management and identify any areas where further action is indicated. Documents can be downloaded from their website: http://www.cipfa.org/regions/scotland/news/guidance-notes-on-self-directed-support
Self-directed Support Scottish Government Funding Awards 2015-2018

Information is now available on the funding awarded as part of their Self-directed Support Innovation and Support in the Right Direction streams. The purpose of this funding is to build and develop the capacity of provider organisations, help develop the workforce and to ensure that support and information is available to individuals throughout Scotland to assist them in making informed choices. Some details below and more information on the Self-Directed Support website: [http://www.selfdirectedsupportscotland.org.uk/document-library/funding](http://www.selfdirectedsupportscotland.org.uk/document-library/funding)

Connecting people who receive, commission and deliver support:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Control Scotland</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keith Etherington  <a href="mailto:Keith.e@incontrolscotland.org.uk">Keith.e@incontrolscotland.org.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.incontrolscotland.org.uk">www.incontrolscotland.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National for: Parents of disabled children up to the age of 18 and disabled adults</td>
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</table>

To deliver the internationally recognised leadership development programme ‘Partners in Policymaking’ on a national basis over three years. ‘Partners in Policymaking’ is an internationally recognised leadership programme for disabled adults and parents of disabled children, including people with learning difficulties, sensory impairments and physical impairments. The programme is a chance for participants to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to campaign and advocate for better treatment and social justice for disabled people within our society.

Further information: [http://in-controlscotland.org/programmes/partnersinpolicymaking](http://in-controlscotland.org/programmes/partnersinpolicymaking)
The closing date for this application form is Thursday 30 July 2015.

Transitions and Youth focus:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association for Real Change (ARC) Scotland – Scottish Transition Forum project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Fletcher: <a href="mailto:james.fletcher@arcuk.org.uk">james.fletcher@arcuk.org.uk</a>  <a href="http://arcuk.org.uk/scotland/">http://arcuk.org.uk/scotland/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National for: Youth Transitions and their carers</td>
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</table>

ARC Scotland will work to support practitioners to help them support young people with additional support needs who are making the transition to young adult life. More information on: [http://arcuk.org.uk/scotland/scottish-transitions-forum/](http://arcuk.org.uk/scotland/scottish-transitions-forum/)  [http://scottishtransitions.org.uk/](http://scottishtransitions.org.uk/)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Thistle Foundation – InterAct project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flora Henderson  <a href="mailto:Flora.henderson@thistle.org.uk">Flora.henderson@thistle.org.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.thistle.org.uk">www.thistle.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Lothian/Edinburgh then National for: Youth transitions/people with learning disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consortium partners: The project will create a national resource through sharing learning with partners in different local areas, to help them implement their own interpretation of InterAct</td>
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<tr>
<th>Children in Scotland</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Lamb  <a href="mailto:jlamb@childreninscotland.org.uk">jlamb@childreninscotland.org.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk">www.childreninscotland.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National for: Children and transitions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

To create a model for implementing Self-directed Support (SDS) at local (school community) level principally in two community planning partnership areas and use the learning to establish a model that can be shared nationally across Scotland.
Practitioners / Personal Assistants:

**NHS Education for Scotland (NES) - Knowledge into Action for SDS project**
Annette Thain/Ann Wales  annette.thain@nes.scot.nhs.uk  ann.wales@nes.scot.nhs.uk

**National for Practitioners in Health & Social Care/Service Users/Carers/Support organisations**
The project aims to develop a network of knowledge support for the workforce, service users and carers implementing Self-directed Support (SDS). They will: maintain and develop the SDS Knowledge Portal, and provide a programme of learning opportunities for practitioners, service users and carers.  www.nes.scot.nhs.uk

**Scottish Personal Assistant Employer’s Network (SPAEN) – Peace of Mind project**
Colin Millar: colinm@spaen.co.uk  www.spaen.co.uk

**Initially Ayrshire and then National for Personal Assistants**
SPAEN, in partnership with Respite Now, have launched the “Peace of Mind” project, a new collaboration to assist people “pool” some or all of their Self-Directed Support package to ‘cultivate natural networks and communities’. A ‘Matching’ service will link clients to each other at a local level, to support them to access personal assistance as well as producing joint specifications for a Personal Assistant which meets all their needs. The project has a website where people in receipt of SDS or people looking to undertake more hours of work as a Personal Assistant can register their interest.  www.peaceofmind.scot

**Shelter: Self-directed Housing Support project**
George Lang  shelterscot@shelter.org.uk  www.shelter.org.uk

**National for Housing Support Workers/Social Workers/Personal Assistants**
The project aims to work with practitioners to prepare the people they work with to make informed and sustainable Self-directed Support (SDS) choices in relation to housing. Shelter will work with other organisations and interested partners to create, launch and deliver a suite of e-learning modules which consider the issues that SDS presents in relation to housing, housing support and personalised services. Shelter will work with SQA and SSSC to explore qualification options, including formal accreditation for this course.

**Worker’s Education Association (WEA) - Personal Assistants Network Scotland**
David Howie  d.howie@weascotland.org.uk  www.wea.org.uk/scotland

**National for: Personal Assistants**

**Consortium partners:** UNISON
The project will provide PA’s with opportunities central to the continued development of the PA workforce. The project will seek to develop PA networks across Scotland to share experiences, good practice and provide support to each other. Interactive online resources including a PA chat room, “e-notes” and bite size online learning modules will be developed

**Social Care Ideas Factory (SCIF) - "Ideas that change lives" project**
Charlie Barker-Gavigon  charlie@socialcareideas.org.uk  www.socialcareideasfactory.com

**(Falkirk and Glasgow) & National for:** Wide range of individuals/carers/workforce

**Consortium partners:** Glasgow City Council, Falkirk Council & IRISS
Social Care Ideas Factory will focus on developing The Sherpa Union - creating an International leadership movement ii)Trend Spotters - building communities not marketplaces, to create alternative, participative ideas that bring genuine connections with people who receive, commission and deliver care support.
People who use substance misuse services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turning Point - The Pilotlight project</th>
<th>Craig Winter</th>
<th><a href="mailto:tenders@turningpointscotland.com">tenders@turningpointscotland.com</a></th>
<th><a href="http://www.turningpointscotland.com">www.turningpointscotland.com</a></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aberdeenshire for:</strong> People who use substance misuse services</td>
<td><strong>Consortium partners:</strong> Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (IRISS)/Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (AADP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The project will explore the use of Self-directed Support (SDS) for people using substance misuse services across Aberdeen. The project will work with people and providers to understand how SDS could be used to improve the support they receive by raising awareness and understanding of SDS, as well as improving their confidence and capacity to take greater control of the design and delivery of their support. These changes will be co-designed, tested and evaluated using the methodology developed and tested in the IRISS Pilotlight project. At the end of the project a pathway and tools will have been produced to enable access to SDS for people using substance misuse services.</td>
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Older people and carers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scottish Care – My Day, My Way project</th>
<th>Donald Macaskill</th>
<th><a href="mailto:donald.macaskill@scottishcare.org">donald.macaskill@scottishcare.org</a></th>
<th><a href="http://www.scottishcare.org">www.scottishcare.org</a></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Falkirk then National</strong> for Older people/families and carers</td>
<td><strong>Consortium partners:</strong> Dementia Scotland Ltd</td>
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<tr>
<td>The project in its first stage will work alongside Falkirk Council and both local and national care at home and care home providers, other partners will be identified as the project develops. The project will bring together local authorities and providers to develop existing models of day service and new innovative models around day opportunities for older people</td>
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Carers Trust Scotland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florence Burke</th>
<th><a href="mailto:fburke@carers.org">fburke@carers.org</a></th>
<th><a href="http://www.carers.org">www.carers.org</a></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National for:</strong> Carers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working with unpaid carers, network partners and other practitioners to influence policy and raise awareness of SDS by delivering training and information services.</td>
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SDS and Employability:

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<tr>
<th>Scottish Union for Supported Employment (SUSE) – Access To Employment (ATE)</th>
<th>Kate Storrow</th>
<th><a href="mailto:mandy@susescotland.scot">mandy@susescotland.scot</a></th>
<th><a href="http://www.susescotland.co.uk">www.susescotland.co.uk</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aberdeenshire/National for:</strong> Long-term health conditions/people with disabilities</td>
<td><strong>Consortium partners:</strong> Capability Scotland/Enable Scotland/RNIB Scotland</td>
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<tr>
<td>The project will demonstrate how someone in receipt of Self-directed Support (SDS) can use it to work towards employment, by creating real examples of employability activity that can be shared with SDS recipients, providers and commissioners. By testing innovative approaches to using SDS for employability outcomes, it is proposed the project will provide an additional &quot;employability budget&quot; to individuals to pay for the employability input, with the purpose of showcasing example case studies showing how SDS can successfully facilitate employment opportunities, which in turn will show there is an appetite to use part of an individual’s regular SDS budget to support employability.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Locally connecting to Grampian Opportunities and Aberdeen Council’s Employment Support Service</strong></td>
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Information and awareness raising:

**Grampian Employment Opportunities**
Linda Singer  linda@grampianopportunities.org.uk  www.grampianopportunities.org.uk

**Coverage: Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City, Moray for:** People with a sensory impairment/people with mental health/people with long-term conditions/older people/Carers

This project is developing a peer led approach to gaining an understanding of social and care needs in communities. The aim is (a) to gather information on community resources and support with the use of community mapping and directories (b) to promote an understanding of an SDS budget, including managing the budget and getting the best from available funds. The service also aims to explore best practice examples and support the development of micro enterprises to offer alternative support options particularly in rural areas where the choice of providers might be limited. Promote community responses and schemes which may benefit from the pooling of budgets.

*An Inclusive Inverurie event held in June was a community event held jointly with the AVA Dementia Friendly team included over twenty organisations and 120 visitors.*

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**Self Directed Support Scotland (SDSS)**
Jess Wade  jess@sdsscotland.org.uk  www.sdsscotland.org.uk

**Scotland wide for:** Disabled people/people with long term conditions/older people/carers/current & prospective members

Aim to ensure that people who are interested in taking up Self-directed Support (SDS) options have the access to appropriate, effective information and support services.

*SDSS are working with local organisations to plan an event in the Aberdeen area.*

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**People with mental health conditions:**

**Penumbra**
Graeme Henderson  Graeme.henderson@penumbra.org.uk  www.penumbra.org.uk

**National for: People with mental health conditions**

This work will promote SDS to supported people, carers and families, social care providers, statutory agencies, care managers and purchasers. It will support local implementation and delivery of SDS and continue to develop tools and resources to facilitate SDS in mental health. It will promote sustainable futures for people with mental health problems.

People with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities:

PAMIS
Brenda Garrard  b.garrard@dundee.ac.uk  www.pamis.org.uk
Geographical Coverage includes Aberdeenshire for: People with profound and multiple learning disabilities and their family carers.
Helping people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) and their family carers to realise the potential of Self-directed Support (SDS) by providing increased one-to-one support for families. The project will explore digital solutions, (eg Skype and video conferencing) and assist families to access digital tools to support communication and education with paid care providers. Facilitate mediation and negotiation skills events across all areas in which PAMIS is active.

People with Sensory Impairments

Deaf Action
Aidan McCorry  Aidan.mccorry@deafaction.org  www.deafaction.org
National for: People with a sensory impairment
Consortium partners: Fife Society for the Blind
Outcomes:
- that people with sensory impairment have equal access to information on Self-directed Support in a communication format suitable for them
- that local authorities and support and information organisations are more aware of the needs of people with sensory impairment and are fully aware of local and national sensory organisations and how people can access them
- that British Sign Language users have a more active role in developing BSL translations and media.

Service User involvement and Personalisation Ambassadors

ARC Scotland
James Fletcher  arc.scotland@arcuk.org.uk  www.arcuk.org.uk
National for: Carers/children/older people/sensory impairment/autism/learning disability/long-term health conditions
Consortium partners: National Involvement Network
Aim to work with the National Involvement Network to enable supported people to share their learning to shape the design and delivery of the services they use. They will also publicise the Charter for Involvement to increase the number and range of organisations that make a formal commitment to it and provide support and guidance to make sure the Charter makes a real difference to people’s lives.
http://arcuk.org.uk/scotland/national-involvement-network/
http://arcuk.org.uk/scotland/charter-for-involvement/

Crossreach - CrossReach Personalisation Ambassadors project
Elizabeth Hay  bdd@crossreach.org.uk  www.crossreach.org.uk
initially 20 local authority areas then National for a wide range of client groups.
The project will set up and establish a network of Personalisation Ambassadors for every CrossReach service and will support other organisations to do the same. Personalisation Ambassadors will build the capacity of the social care workforce to deliver personalised support to people with a Self-directed Support (SDS) budget.
Helping People with Autism and Their Carers to Direct their Own Support

Autism Self Direct aims to provide better outcomes for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families by offering accessible information and advice throughout the planning and decision making stages of the Self-Directed Support process.

The website provides:

- A single referral point for anyone who is looking for an autism specific Self-Directed Support service.
- A single, impartial referral point for help with choosing an autism specific support service.
- Accessible information on Self-Directed Support and personal budgets for people with autism and their families.
- Help and advice on assessing people with autism for Self-Directed Support for professionals.

More Information can be found on [http://autismselfdirect.org/](http://autismselfdirect.org/)

Aberdeenshire Drop-in Sessions 2015

**Deaf Action can** offer information and advice regarding specialist equipment which is currently provided free of charge, how to access Council and Health services, help with cleaning hearing aids and provide batteries at our free drop in sessions.

* The term “deaf” is used to describe all those with a hearing loss including people who are hard of hearing, deafened, deafblind and those who use British Sign Language.

If you have any queries please contact Sam at Deaf Action Aberdeenshire on 01467 629604 (voice and text), 07772 105 015 (SMS), or email aberdeenshire@deafaction.org

Independent Living Fund Scotland

From the 1 July 2015 Independent Living Fund Scotland (ILFS) will be taking over the responsibility of administering the Independent Living Fund (ILF) to service users in Scotland. Tel: 0300 200 2022 Email: enquiries@ilfscot

Aberdeenshire North Foodbank

The Inverurie Foodbank Centre will now be the main postal address for Aberdeenshire. The North Foodbank is based at 4 St James's Place, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire AB51 3UB The building is next to Computers & Integration and is located behind William Lippe Architects. It is accessible from St James's Place main road.

To contact the Foodbank Centre, please phone 07967 364600 Email: inverurie@aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk

For details about other Foodbank Centres in Ellon and Huntly, please visit the website: [http://aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk/contact](http://aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk/contact)
Search for Support

Search for Support is a new searchable directory of voluntary sector support providers from across Scotland. The website connects people who are looking for support with third sector providers in their local area. With the introduction of Self-directed Support more people will be taking control of their budget and will be more likely to be choosing their provider directly. Developed by Providers and Personalisation and the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS) Search for Support is easy to use, accessible and simple to search. Individuals can search for support providers based on their local area, their care and support needs, type of support and other preferences. Voluntary sector care and support providers can register their services on the Provider Registration page on www.searchforsupport.org

Self Directed Support Practice Simulation

Self Directed Support is about collaborative support planning. It is about working alongside individuals to determine the outcomes that they want to achieve and how they want to achieve them. It is about developing solutions together. The route to support that delivers positive outcomes is through good assessment, review and support planning. Aberdeenshire has adopted a SHARARRI framework for adults.

Safe:  To be safe at home and in the community
Healthy: To be fit and healthy (physical health) / to be relaxed and happy (mental wellbeing)
Achieving: To progress my learning/skills development
Relationships: To maintain/improve key relationships and to develop/maintain appropriate relationships
Active: To be engaged in meaningful activity and/or keep physically active
Respect: To be treated with respect
Responsibility: To manage my day to day affairs (bills, banking, home maintenance)
Involved: To have a say in my life, my assessment and my support plan

The role of the professional is to support the individual to identify and manage risks, and to empower them to shape support that is truly person–centred. In addition to the online learning available through ALDO (Aberdeenshire Learning and Development Online) there is practice simulation available: http://workforcesolutions.sssc.uk.com/PracticeSim/SDS/index.html

Dates-n-Mates

As a project of C-Change Scotland, dates-n-mates has been supporting its members in Glasgow and the surrounding area to build meaningful relationships since 2008.

Dates-n-mates is now operating in Aberdeen City to help adults with learning disabilities have opportunities to have friends and develop meaningful relationships.

The service aims to promote natural networking and connections, community presence and contribution, helping beneficiaries achieve their full potential and desired outcomes.

Further information from Naomi Schofield
Project Development Co-ordinator, dates-n-mates Aberdeen
Tel: 01224 974730  Email: dnmnaomi@c-change.org.uk  www.dates-n-mates.co.uk
Click GO
Click Go is an award-winning online tool which empowers people to self-direct their support.

It makes choice and control a reality for individuals and their families, enabling them to view their support schedule and request which of their team they would like to see and when, to manage their individual budget and track progress towards achieving their outcomes.

Together with Carr Gomm’s technical partner Planys Cloud, they have developed a new and improved version of the system which is now available for organisations and individuals to use.

For more information, visit www.carrgomm.org/click-go or call Chloe on 0300 666 3030

Advocacy North East
Tel: 01467 651604
Email: advocacyne@btconnect.com
http://www.advocacyne.org.uk/

Cornerstone SDS Aberdeenshire
Tel: 01467 530520
Email: sds@cornerstone.org.uk
http://sds.cornerstone.org.uk/

Grampian CareData
Helpline 01651 872727 (Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm)
caredata@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
http://www.grampiancaredata.gov.uk/

Aberdeen Council Self-directed Support Team - Telephone: 01467 623258
E-mail: selfdirectedsupport@aberdeenshire.gov.uk Website: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/sds
http://www.facebook.com/sdsaberdeenshire

Your Life.
Your Choices.