

Self-Directed Support: Innovation Fund



**April – September 2016
Interim Progress Report**

Organisations delivering Self-directed Support Innovation Fund projects

- Association for Real Change (ARC) Scotland
- Carr-Gomm Futures
- C-Change (dates-n-mates)
- CrossReach
- Growbiz (Enterprising Eastern Perthshire)
- In Control Scotland
- Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living
- Mental Health Foundation
- NHS Education for Scotland
- Quarriers
- Scottish Care
- Scottish Union for Supported Employment (SUSE) with ENABLE, RNIB Scotland and Capability Scotland
- Shelter Scotland
- Social Care Ideas Factory (SCIF)
- Scottish Personal Assistant Employers Network with Respite Now (Peace of Mind)
- The Advisory Group (TAG) Inverclyde
- Thera (Scotland) with Neighbourhood Networks and Equal Futures (TEN)
- Thistle Foundation
- Turning Point Scotland with Outside the Box
- Turning Point Scotland with IRISS
- WEA Scotland (PA Network)

Innovation Fund: Building the capacity of Providers and Workforce development

Self-directed Support is Scotland's mainstream approach to social care. Through the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013, adults, children and carers who require social care are supported to decide what matters to them (their personal outcomes), how their support is delivered and by whom within the available budget.

The Innovation Fund (2015-2018) aims to support innovation and develop the capacity of providers to develop the workforce and to support people to directly or indirectly purchase support. £0.58 million has been invested in 21 projects in the first half of Year 2 (1 April 2016 – 30 September 2016).

Funded projects were asked to report on their progress in October 2016 at the mid-point of their second year of delivery. All but two of the projects are now at their half way point (those two being two year projects).

Innovation Fund April – September 2016 Activity

The nature of this Fund means there is a large variety of activity being undertaken to develop innovative ways to support the delivery of Self-directed Support. The most common activities reported by projects for this period were:

- Facilitation of peer support and sharing of learning about Self-directed Support for practitioners, providers and/or recipients of care - delivered by 12 organisations.
- Support and help for people to know about and access community services (use Self-directed Support budgets more creatively) - delivered by 10 organisations.
- Provision of Self-directed Support training and materials for practitioners and providers - delivered by 9 organisations.
- Support for people to co-produce services or explore alternative models of support/ways of using their Self-directed Support budget - delivered by 9 organisations.



■ *Dates-n-mates Renfrewshire first birthday party. A C-Change Scotland project, the dating and friendship agency is run by and for adults with learning disabilities.*

- Other skills training and materials for people eligible for Self-directed Support - delivered by 6 organisations.
- Development of new products and ways to assist Self-directed Support planning and recording - delivered by 6 organisations.
- Self-directed Support awareness raising - delivered by 6 organisations.

Innovation Fund April – September 2016 User Groups

Like Support in the Right Direction, projects funded by the Innovation Fund work across a wide range of social care needs.

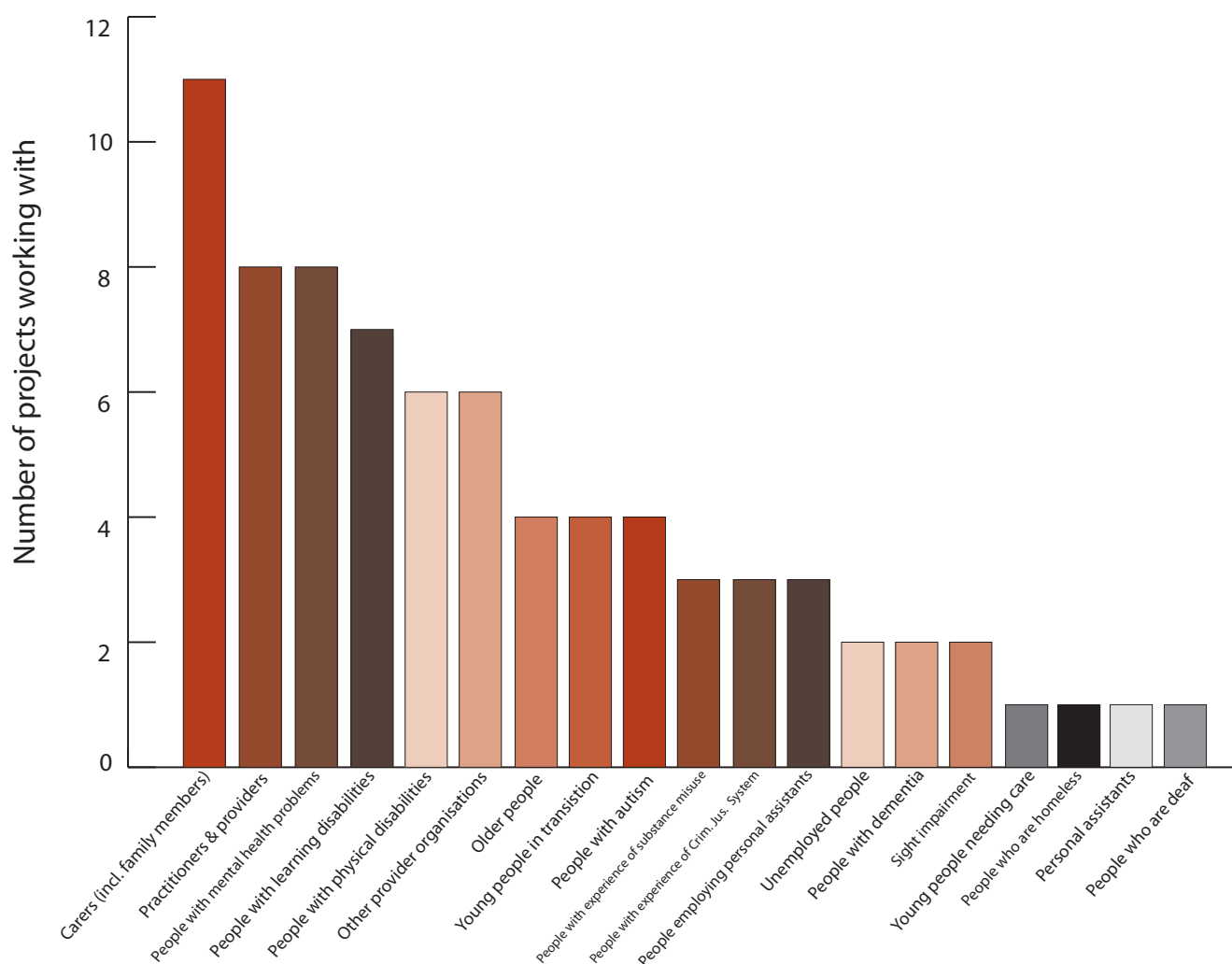
While nearly all projects gather the information presented here about the end beneficiaries their work will benefit, not all do.

This is mainly a positive choice taken by support organisations not to label the people they work with. Where a project is providing training to practitioners this information will also prove challenging to gather unless they work specifically with people with single or consistent care needs.

It is apparent, however, that carers are the most widely supported group.

The user groups that projects are identified as supporting

(projects will support more than one group)



Innovation Fund April – September 2016 Geographic areas of work

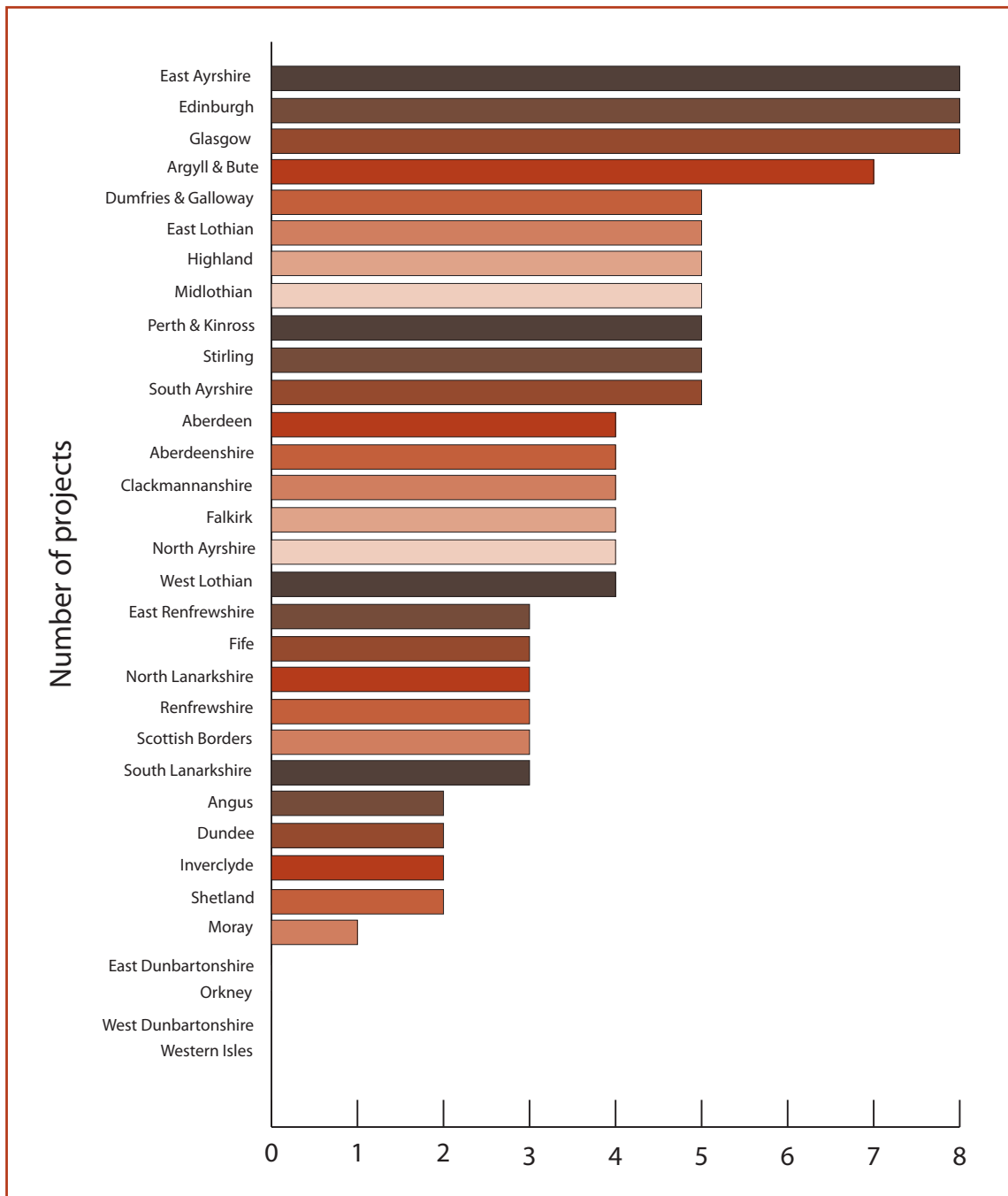
With only 21 funded projects in comparison to Support in the Right Direction's 36, it is not surprising that the Innovation Fund's projects have a smaller geographic spread.

No project activity is being delivered in East Dunbartonshire, Orkney, West Dunbartonshire or the Western Isles. This has changed since the last reporting period when Angus, Moray, Orkney and Shetland had no coverage.

However, Self Directed Support Scotland and some of the other projects with a wider reach offer their services to people based across Scotland, so people or organisations living in these areas still have the opportunity to get involved.

Supporting Personal Assistants across the country through the facilitation of a PA network and provision of training, WEA Scotland's project has the widest coverage, working with people based in 19 different local authority areas. Scottish Personal Assistant Employers Network, Social Care Ideas Factory, ARC Scotland, CrossReach and Scottish Union for Supported Employment also operate on what could be considered to be a national level, working in at least 11 local authority areas each.

Project activity across local authority areas



The figures presented here do not correlate to the number of projects based in each geographic area, but are the areas that projects have reported working in.

Innovation Fund April – September 2016 Outcomes

Projects are working towards a range of outcomes for practitioners, providers, individuals and families.

Despite the wide variety of activity being undertaken in the Innovation Fund, a framework of 19 outcomes has been developed to categorise activity and allow for reporting on the overall impact of the Fund.

The most common outcomes reported by projects for this period are people have:

- Increased knowledge of Self-directed Support - choices and available support options (providers and/ or recipients of care) (2045 people)
- Improved access to information and support with planning and managing Self-directed Support (providers and / or recipients of care) (1358 people)
- Increased opportunities to access services that meet personal outcomes (greater choice for recipients of care) (441 people)
- Increased social inclusion and access to community activities (for recipients or potential recipients of care) (417 people)
- Improved motivation and commitment to delivering Self-directed Support values and principles (providers and statutory services) (364 people)
- Improved flexibility and creativity in support provision (providers and/ or recipients of care) (289)
- Improved confidence in Self-directed Support personal outcome plans (for

providers, statutory services and/or recipients of care) (254 people)

- Improved opportunities to influence work culture and practice (providers and statutory services) (203 people)
- Improved knowledge and awareness of approaches to increase choice and control (155 people)
- Improved planning and better support to achieve personal outcomes (for providers and/or recipients of care) (149 people)
- Improved skills to manage direct payments, employees and reporting requirements (for PA employers and/ or recipients of care) (135 people)

There has been a marked increase in the number of people reported as achieving the first outcome listed here. At the last reporting period, only 90 people were recorded as achieving this outcome.

While the figure for this year includes 1469 people accessing information on a website, from which we can only assume this outcome is being achieved, this still indicates a significant shift in the number of people developing knowledge of Self-directed Support.

Innovation Fund

April – September 2016 Challenges

The challenges reported for the Innovation Fund are much the same as those for the Support in the Right Direction Fund.

Significant changes in the structure and staffing of local authorities as a result of health and social care integration has been cited as a particular problem due to this Fund's focus on developing the workforce.

There is also an issue in provider organisations as they restructure in the face of reduced funding. As a result of this, projects lose key contacts and champions and have to invest resource in developing new relationships, all of which causes them to lose momentum and impacts on their progress as meetings are rearranged and decisions postponed.

It should be recognised that there are examples of positive practice which are growing in number, but projects also report that there remains a wide spread lack of understanding of Self-directed Support, or promotion of choice and control by the workforce, across social work and the social care sector.

They also experience varying levels of commitment to Self-directed Support across local authorities which may in part be due to the degree of change being experienced as a whole in local authorities and the competing priorities of health and social care integration and reduced funding.

Inconsistencies in practice between different local authorities is also a challenge for projects working across more than one area but also for people receiving care who have knowledge of practice elsewhere, as this can impact on

their expectations. Local authorities have different eligibility criteria and different levels of understanding within social work, which results in cases with similar criteria/requirements being awarded different care packages, therefore creating confusion.

Innovation Fund

April – September 2016 Conclusion

There is a wide range of work being delivered by the Innovation Fund, from providing online resources, to supporting a shift in service provision, and developing new technology to support outcome focused work. Overall, a wide variety of new ideas are being tested out.

Despite the challenges being experienced by projects, many of them are clearly making progress. The case studies detailed below are examples of how projects are developing models that can have a positive impact for the delivery of Self-directed Support policy in the future.

Inspiring Scotland will continue to support learning on the Innovation Fund and help projects to achieve their outcomes.

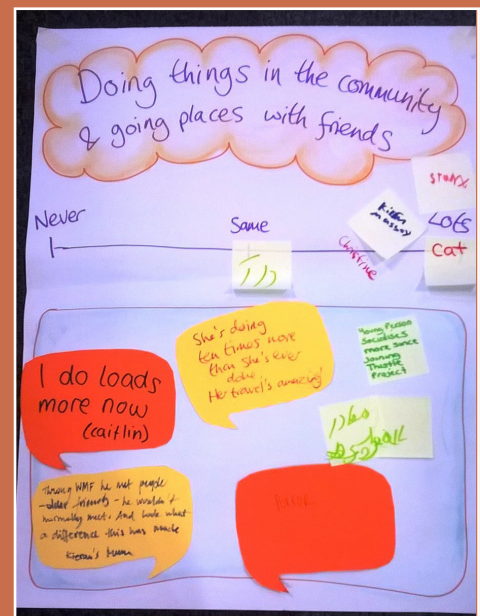
Case studies

The TEN project (partner organisations Thera Scotland, Equal Futures and Neighbourhood Networks) has led to the development of two peer support networks for young people with learning disabilities who are in transition, supported by Neighbourhood Networks. The networks are user led and support the young people to identify and meet their personal outcomes – including developing social and financial skills, making friendships, accessing new activities, and developing independent travel skills. The success of the networks in supporting young people to meet their outcomes in creative ways has led to them being funded by Midlothian Council on a pilot basis to March 2018, with young people’s Self-directed Support budgets contributing towards some of the costs.

“We love our group, it makes us happy. We would all be really sad if you took our group away. We go great places and see great things. We love all the stuff we do.”

A network member

The **InterAct project** (run by the **Thistle Foundation** together with several strategic partners) aims to help young people who are attending special needs schools to build their confidence and have real choice and control over what they do in their lives after school. A range of approaches and interventions are used to connect and support young people, and their families, to use creative and innovative ways for getting through this difficult transition period. Drama is used to create space at school for young people to explore their hopes and fears about leaving school. Also, the ‘Big Plan’ guides young people and their families through a process to identify their personal outcomes and helps them plan towards the life they want. ‘Watch Me Fly’ meet-ups are aimed at increasing participation and inclusion in ordinary social activities in their local community and have led to young people going new places and trying new things, travelling independently and making choices. The InterAct project has seen real success in the Lothian region and relationships are now being developed with practitioners in Argyll & Bute and Fife who are interested in developing their own approach to InterAct ‘Big Plan’ and drama.



■ Results from an InterAct Outcome session

“She's doing ten times more than she's ever done. Her travel is amazing! She's much more independent and a lot more confident than she used to be.” A parent

In Control Scotland in partnership with **Values into Action** are delivering three main projects. They are assisting partners to embed Self-directed Support within local communities by testing an approach using self-directed support community facilitators. They will also develop capacity and support innovation with providers working to support children, young people and families directing their own support. The third project is to develop areas of practice, knowledge and resources about self-directed support where there are gaps and where there continues to be the greatest need for continued development by testing different approaches to individual service funds.

They are making good progress. Three community development officers are working in parts of Glasgow, Kilmarnock and Aberdeen to make better links between self-directed support and community development activity in the areas in which they are located. They have been successful across many aspects of their projects. One example is the promotion of improved flexibility and creativity in support provision for care recipients. Their 'Using budgets differently' work with children, young people and families, has led to several young people who they have planned with being able to be supported differently either to return home or to continue to be supported at home.

ARC Scotland supports practitioners from all sectors to work together to put choice and control at the centre of support for young people with additional support needs, who are making the transition to young adult life. They are doing this in conjunction with around 370 professionals who are members of the Scottish Transitions Forum. ARC Scotland maintains the Scottish Transitions Forum website and delivers a range of STF network events each year. They continue to promote awareness of the 'Principles of Good Transitions 2' to third sector and statutory sector professionals across Scotland. Through their work in Argyll & Bute, Lochaber, Fife, and the Scottish Borders they have been establishing and supporting local transitions networks, participating in strategic transitions meetings and exploring ways to improve the experiences of young people with additional support needs who are in transition. The feedback from practitioners who have been impacted by ARC Scotland's work has been very positive.

"Things are moving forward and it is good to get together."

"...the transition network is starting to come together and has the potential, amongst many other things, to begin developing a dialogue, a two-way communication/feedback mechanism between community(s), parents, young people etc., and providers"

Forum members

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