

Overview of the Fund

Total Funding Amount: £96,824

Aim: to empower people and carers receiving social care support and services to be equal partners in the and services to be equal partners in their care where they have real choice and control over their lives

Reach

Summary of the number of individuals supported in 2021-22:

Provided focused
support to
106
individuals



Supported
25
carers through
case work



Supported
81
cared for people
through case work

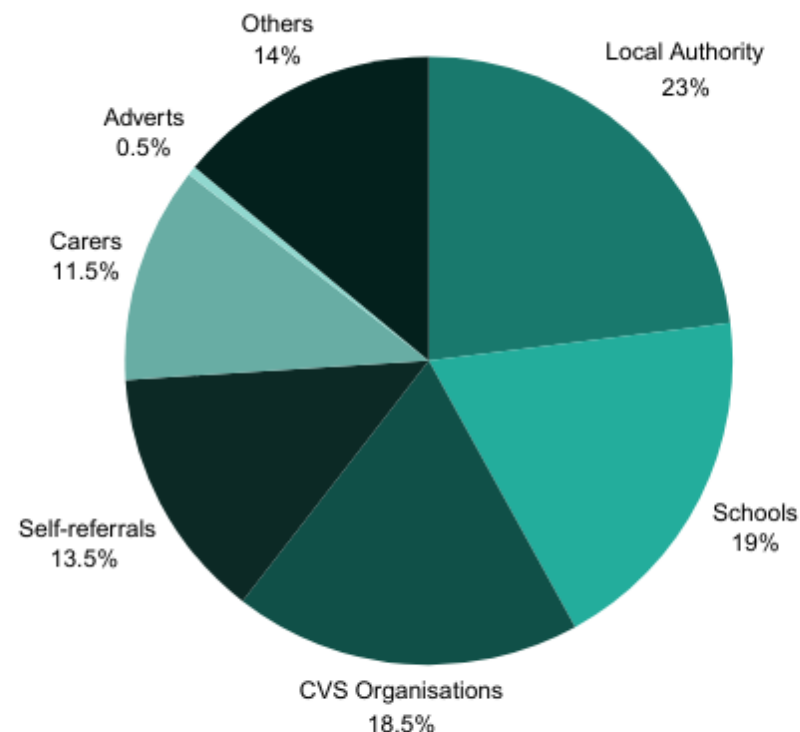


Supported
428
people with general
independent support
activities



Referral Routes

Most common referral routes to the SiRD programme in 2021-22:



Activity

Welfare Benefits

NLDF noted that due to financial difficulties, Disabled people, families and carers were unable to fund community activities. Therefore, their service was adapted to support individuals to apply for welfare benefits such as Child Disability Payment, Adult Disability Payment, Independent Living Fund, Family Fund, and Take a Break funds. NLDF supported 28 individuals to apply for these funds.



Intensive and Emotional Support

NLDF noted an increase in the number of people who required more intensive and emotional support to help access community supports. They supported 31 people with things such as housing, education, health, concerns about money and benefits, and support with family relationships. NLDF reported that they had to learn how to collaborate extensively with people and their families, other organisations, and services to understand the full picture to get a personalised plan of support in place.



Remapping Community Connections

NLDF worked to explore existing and new services, activities, and groups to help support and empower people to be as independent as possible within their community. NLDF recruited a new administrator, which allowed them to explore further and share any new and additional information about services in a timelier fashion on their social media platforms and store them in their SDS database.

Children and Families Development Work

NLDF held two strategic meetings with a senior Children and Families Social Worker and the SDS lead for Children and Families, which allowed them to express the difficulties families and the organisation itself were facing trying to access SDS within education settings, at home, and in the community. These meetings helped the organisation to develop a more transparent and quicker pathway to support families whilst minimising stress.



Activity

Community Champions –

Asda

NLDF built a supportive relationship with their local Asda Community Champion who helped them to raise awareness of their organisation. The Community Champion put the organisation forward for the Green Token award scheme and the 'Empowering Local Communities' Grant.

In-depth SDS Support

NLDF offered in-depth support to 17 people and carers who were trying to access SDS for the first time or were experiencing other barriers. This included supporting people to communicate their needs to get an assessment, supporting them to complete the Guided Self Assessments, and support them to articulate outcomes and attending social work meetings.

Zoom Chats

NLDF continued to host Zoom Chats:

- 38 hours of Zoom Chats were held with 9 regular participants
- The Zoom participants agreed to conduct a focus group for research commissioned by North Lanarkshire's Health and Social Care partnership on service improvement.
- Additional low-level support was offered through the Zoom Chats including supporting people to access a new bus pass, responding to an online survey and accessing urgent dental care

Online SDS Support

NLDF delivered online SDS information sessions to Lanarkshire Carers Centre Staff team (8 participants) and to the High Resource Users Team (with an emphasis on homelessness) (3 participants). Two training sessions were delivered with the Centre on SDS.

NLDF also offered online opportunities for peer support every six weeks:

- Hosted 3 SDS Chats on Zoom, welcoming 13 different participants
- Staff team undertook Participation Request Training and offered this to SDS Chat Participants.

Adapting with COVID-19

Equals Advocacy continued to deliver face-to-face visits in care homes, hospitals, and in people's own homes to ensure that service users had access to advocacy support.

Outcomes

Summary of people who have reported against the SIRD outcomes in 2021-22.

Equals Advocacy collect this information by monitoring referrals and outcomes for service users through the SIRD advocacy work stream.

NLDF collect this information using a Contact Record Master sheet (see main report appendices)

Outcome 2:

People (including carers) feel more informed, listened to, and less stressed.

106 Have been supported through community connections and advocacy work

106 Have fed back that they have been able to express what matters to them

106 Have fed back that they feel their preferences have been considered

106 Have fed back that they understand the process for accessing social care and feel more informed

106 Have fed back that they have had the opportunity to share their views, ask questions

106 Have fed back that they have received information about different local options

64 Have fed back that they are happy with how their support is being managed

67 Have fed back that they understand different coping and management strategies

Outcomes

Outcome 3:

People (including carers) can creatively and flexibly plan to achieve personal outcomes including accessing community assets

106 Have been supported with personal outcome planning

63 Have been supported with alternative uses of their budget

106 Have been signposted to other relevant community-based services, support or resources

64 Have fed back that they feel they have more (or have maintained) their independence

85 Have fed back that they feel more engaged or part of their community

85 Have fed back that they are trying new things (have joined new groups)

66 Who are doing different things with their budgets (as opposed to traditional services)

Support in the Right Direction

Flash Report

Year Three (2021-22)

Outcomes

Outcome 5:

People (including carers) have increased knowledge and understanding of self-directed support principles and options for social care

100

Have accessed or received self-directed support information

100

Have discussed self-directed support and social care through enquiry lines / advice points

106

Have accessed independent support / referral increases

100

Have fed back that they know (have a better understanding of) what self-directed support is and what the principles and options mean for them

99

Have fed back that they can share what they have learnt about self-directed support with others

100

Have fed back that they know how to access a social care assessment*

*Locally in North Lanarkshire, this is delivered as the following:

- Childcare Assessment
- Community Care Assessment
- Adult Carer Support Plan or Young Carer Statement