



What are the Self Directed Procedures in Lothian?

If you are eligible for social care you should be able to direct your own support, every Local Authority must give people the opportunity to direct their support and that includes the City of Edinburgh Council.

If you do not currently receive support, you need to contact Social Care Direct to discuss your needs. They will discuss what you might need and may then arrange an assessment with you. Their contact information is below.

Social Care Direct

Telephone: 0131 200 2324

E-mail: socialcaredirect@edinburgh.gov.uk

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 8.30am - 5pm and Friday 8.30am - 3.55pm.

If you do currently receive support, then please tell your Support Worker or Manager that you are interested in Self Directed Support. Alternatively you can speak to your Social Worker or Care Manager and they can arrange for a SDS assessment.

If you receive support, or are going to, and decide to use SDS, then the following organisations may be useful:

Lothian Centre for Independent Living

This is an Edinburgh -based Centre which provides local information, advice and SDS support. i. They can help you with all aspects of self directed support (SDS), including:

- preparing for an assessment
- providing independent information on all of the SDS options available
- helping to organise and manage your support according to the choices you make – e.g.:
 - using a particular service provider
 - how to use an Agency
 - recruiting and employing Personal Assistants (including help with recruitment, contracting, managing all aspects of payroll, managing Direct Payments finances).

Telephone: 0131 475 2350

Address: Norton Park Centre, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh EH7 5QY

E-mail: lcil@lothiancil.org.uk

The City of Edinburgh Council's Funding Independence Team (FIT)

FIT is the central team created by the City of Edinburgh Council Social Work Department and their role is to support and administer Self Directed Support.

FIT also help people set up an **Edinburgh Card**. The Edinburgh Card is a straightforward way of paying for the care and support you have organised to meet your assessed needs.

It is a VISA credit card that is automatically topped up each month by the City of Edinburgh Council with your Direct Payments money. It is a paperless system designed to make Direct Payments easier to manage. The Edinburgh Card can only be used to pay for services that meet your assessed needs.

For general questions about your card and about your Direct Payments, please contact The City of Edinburgh Council's Funding Independence Team (FIT) during office hours on:

FIT Telephone Helpline: 0131 652 3229

E-mail: fundingindependentliving@edinburgh.gov.uk