

Commissioning for the Future of Social Care

Why empowered citizens, connected neighbourhoods, and trusted relationships are the key to sustainable budgets



25th March 2026



New Hall, Winchester College, SO23 9NA

Connect with the commissioners and providers shaping the future of adult social care.

Join the SDS Network and Citizen Network for a conference exploring how we can commission care that is:

- Local – shaped around people and places
 - Sustainable – socially and financially resilient
 - Smarter – built on evidence, collaboration and trust
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Featuring insights from commissioners and providers across England:

Cornwall Council • Somerset Council • iDirect Independent Living • KeyRing Support • SDS Network • Citizen Network



iDirect



Agenda

09:30

Registration, Refreshments & Networking

Sponsor stands open • Welcome coffee and networking

10:00

Opening Session: Investing in People and Communities

Simon Duffy & Wendy Perez - Citizen Network

How South Yorkshire is using neighbourhood care to transform lives and create a pathway to a sustainable social care system.

10:30

Commissioning for Citizenship and Sustainability

Karen Hooper - Cornwall Council

How Cornwall is using collaborative commissioning and personal budgets to improve outcomes and strengthen local systems, through the use of the 7 Keys in commissioning.

11:00

Morning Break

Refreshments and networking • Sponsor exhibition

11:30

Innovation in Action - Doing More with What We Have

Vinesh Kumar - iDirect Independent Living

How iDirect's ethos of trust, sense of purpose, and freedom shapes flexible, person-led support - achieving better outcomes and effective use of resources.

12:00

Community Led Support - how do we move further faster

Rhys Davies - Somerset Council

Drawing on Somerset's experience, Rhys examines why progress towards community-led support remains slow despite strong evidence of impact and cost benefits.

12:30

Lunch and Networking

Lunch and networking • Table discussions • Sponsor exhibition

13:30

Living the Keys to Citizenship

Faith Walton and Kathryn Littlewood - KeyRing Support

Faith's personal account of how having more control and flexibility in her support funding has changed her life (and has generated savings for Sheffield).

14:00

Commissioning for Individual Service Funds

Chris Watson - Self Directed Futures/SDS Network England

Key learning and data from around England on shaping markets and investing in neighbourhoods.

14:30

Panel Discussion - Citizens, Commissioners & Providers working together

Simon Duffy, Wendy Perez, Karen Hooper, Rhys Davies, Vinesh Kumar, Kathryn Littlewood and Faith Walton

Exploring how we can generate the trust necessary for financial sustainability and ongoing innovation.

15:00

Close

Afternoon Tea and Sponsor Networking