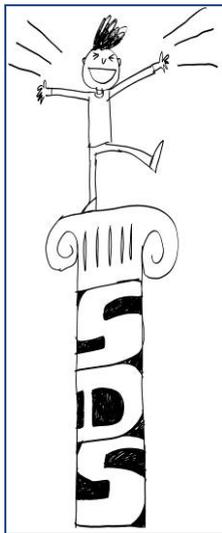




BIAS SDS Update April 2015

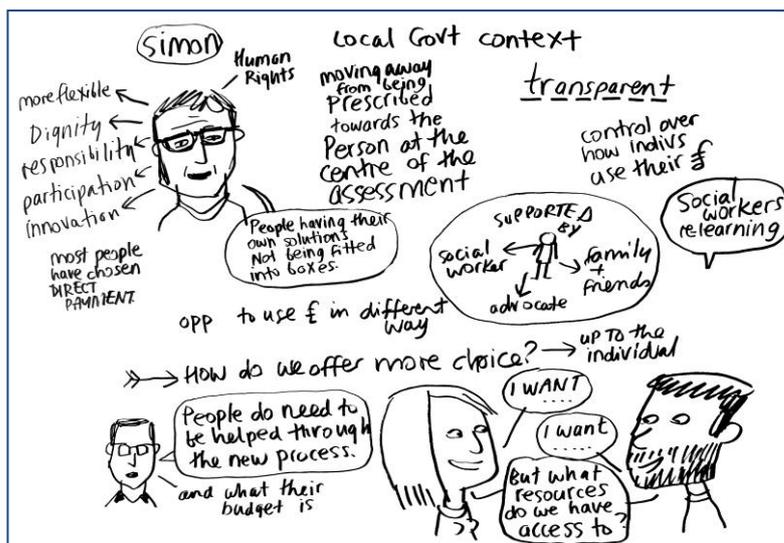
Our Project Aims and Outcomes



Our aim is that people can improve the quality of their lives as a result of increased knowledge and understanding of SDS and SDS options supported by an Independent Advocacy Service.

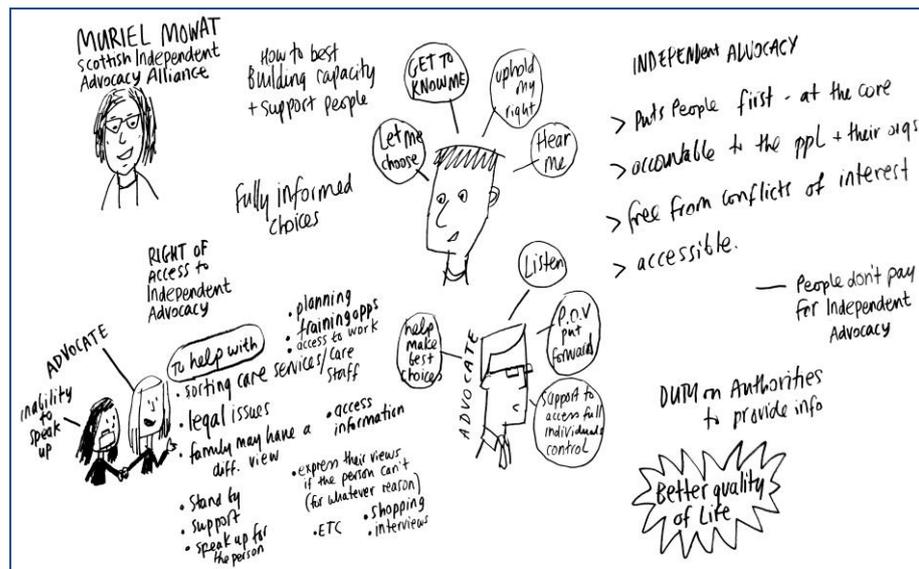
Our outcomes are:

- People to have increased control regarding care arrangements
- People have more choice in their care arrangements
- People are more able to make change happen
- Increase knowledge and understanding of SDS and Independent Advocacy to stakeholders.



We recently held an event celebrating our work to date and also to share our knowledge of the impact advocacy has in the SDS process. We were delighted to be supported by Scottish Government SDS Team, Scottish Borders Council and the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance.

Our three years of funding have helped us to develop our knowledge and thinking around SDS and wished to share this learning with a wider audience. We also wish to encourage collaborative working going forward.



Learning about what works – successes and challenges



We captured comments from our event in March, and these show clearly the successes and challenges and we aim to include this in the development of our service going forward:

"Thought it was very thought provoking and learned more about the power of advocacy. People attending are mostly the converted but how to get the message on to the unconverted? Learned about people's motivations and values."

"I have learned more about the value of advocacy"

"I will encourage others to use and refer to advocacy"

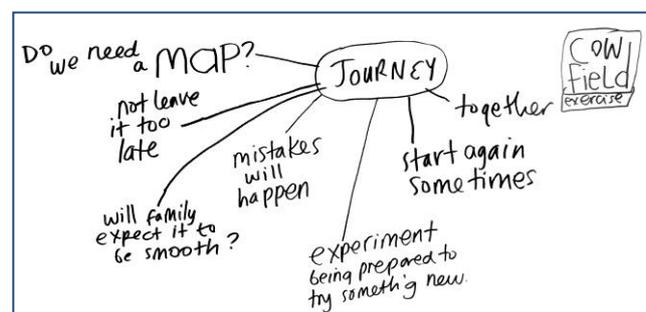
"Communicate, communicate, and communicate"

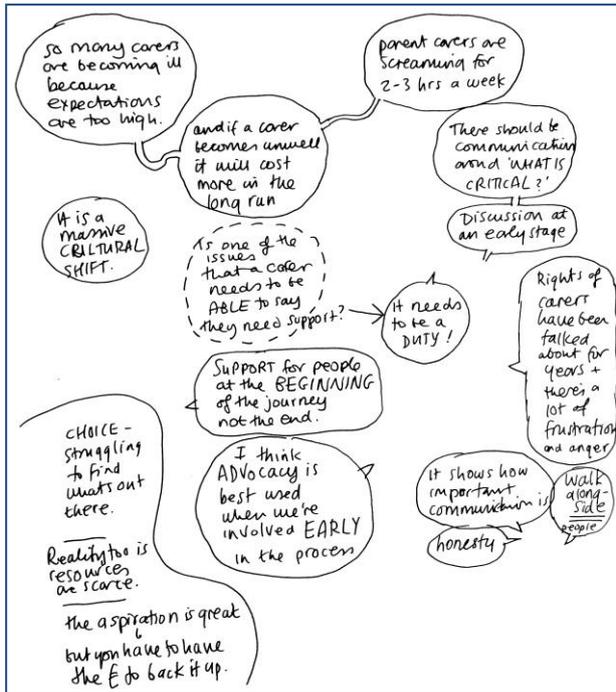
"Brought the distinct role of advocacy to the fore"

"The importance of shared experience"

"It is essential that BIAS and other third sector organisations are sufficiently funded to ensure the best outcomes for service users"

"Very well organised and original - very different from other events I have attended - liked how the exercises related to SDS"





"Need a lot more and better communication between involved agencies. The discussions were really good. We need more of this sharing experience and looking at how we can all make the SDS Process better for clients."

"Talking in groups helps me to learn"

"New way to present a story - very effective. Reinforced my belief that it is good to have a mix of people in the room."

"Well thought out and varied - short, sharp and well delivered".

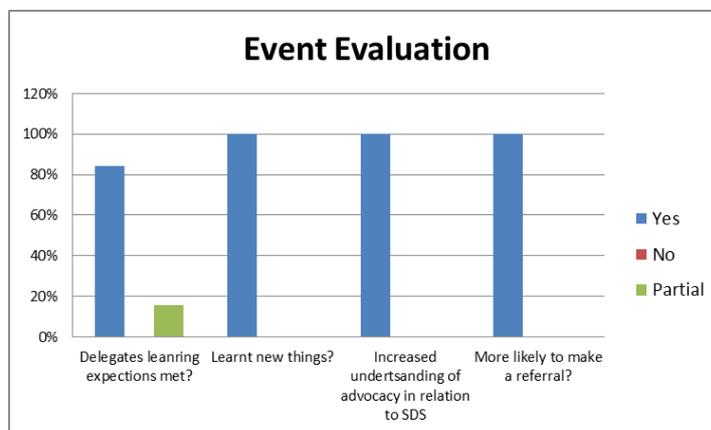
"SDS has been discussed in Children's Services for many years with minimal progress. This has been disheartening for families and professionals. I was interested to see how BIAS could support families"

"I found the case study particularly powerful but it was the mixture of methods which really worked"



Our Evaluation

We evaluated our event and this is what delegates said:



The most well received areas of this event were the value of bringing to life a case study and also the opportunity for relaxed and informal discussions around SDS and the challenges we all face together. We will include more of this in our events and work.

We were also asked to share the link to the recently conducted research into the value of independent advocacy in supporting people through the Self-directed Support journey completed by the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance. This can be found at: www.siaa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Directing-your-own-Support.pdf

In addition we asked delegates at the event what they wanted us to do going forward and what they could do themselves going forward and this is what was said:

What BIAS can do?	What others can do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold other events to tackle nitty gritty issues • Sharing stories and examples of positive outcomes and best practice to help remove barriers • Promote our advocacy work more in social work teams • Continue to raise advocacy awareness so people know where to come for support • Work in partnership with agencies not only social work • Keep up the good work and empower people with knowledge, information and support about SDS options. • Keep committed to client core values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include BIAS leaflets in all SDS information packs for clients • Continue to spread information to families about SDS and advocacy in children's services. • Put more in writing to clients • Keep the principles and vision to the fore despite the often bumpy road of the journey • Keep an open mind and help people be creative • Learn to think creatively and present 'quality of life issues' as a core need. • Better communication with professionals and all involved • Keep talking to people • Make referrals to advocacy

BIAS are pleased to report that we have now received a further three years funding to support the SDS agenda locally. We will use the comments from our stakeholders to develop our services.

Due to the numbers of requests we have from you, we would like to take this as an opportunity to come and speak to you and your teams about advocacy and SDS. To arrange this please contact Val or Fiona and we will schedule this as soon as possible. We can be contacted on 01896 752200 or email valerie@bordersadvocacy.org.uk or fiona@bordersadvocacy.org.uk.

In addition to this we are planning SDS Advocacy Information Drop-ins on **Thursday 20th August and Tuesday 25th August from 14.00-16.00pm** at BIAS Office, Low Buckholmside, Galashiels TD1 1RT. These are informal session for anyone to come in and have a chat about what we do and how we can help.

This project is funded by:

