



SDS

National Voice

2018 An overview

Achieving good self-directed support in Scotland



**Self Directed
Support Scotland**
the organisation of choice

an overview

On the 14th March 2018 Self Directed Support Scotland held a national event SDS National Voice, at Edinburgh International Conference Centre. The overarching aim of the event was to promote and showcase good self-directed support practice across Scotland.

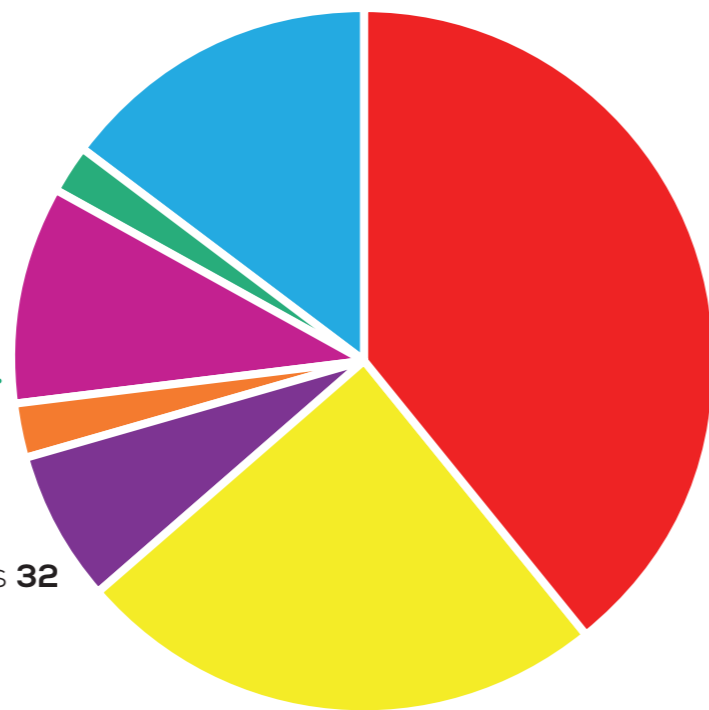
This event was designed to give people the tools to influence positively the development of SDS in their area, and to have the knowledge to challenge, in their own operating context, the policies and practice which inhibit their ability to provide effective and quality support (in line with SDS). We have tracked the learning of delegates to measure the impact of the event.

This report will summarise the key information and learning from the event, as well as suggestions for improvement, that will be used to inform future event development. Based on the success of the national format we will continue to deliver annual National Voice events.

who was there?

SDS National Voice 2018 was designed for those involved in SDS at all levels, who wish to influence the delivery of health and social care. The 130 delegates in attendance were individuals from across Scotland and from a broad range of sectors and backgrounds:

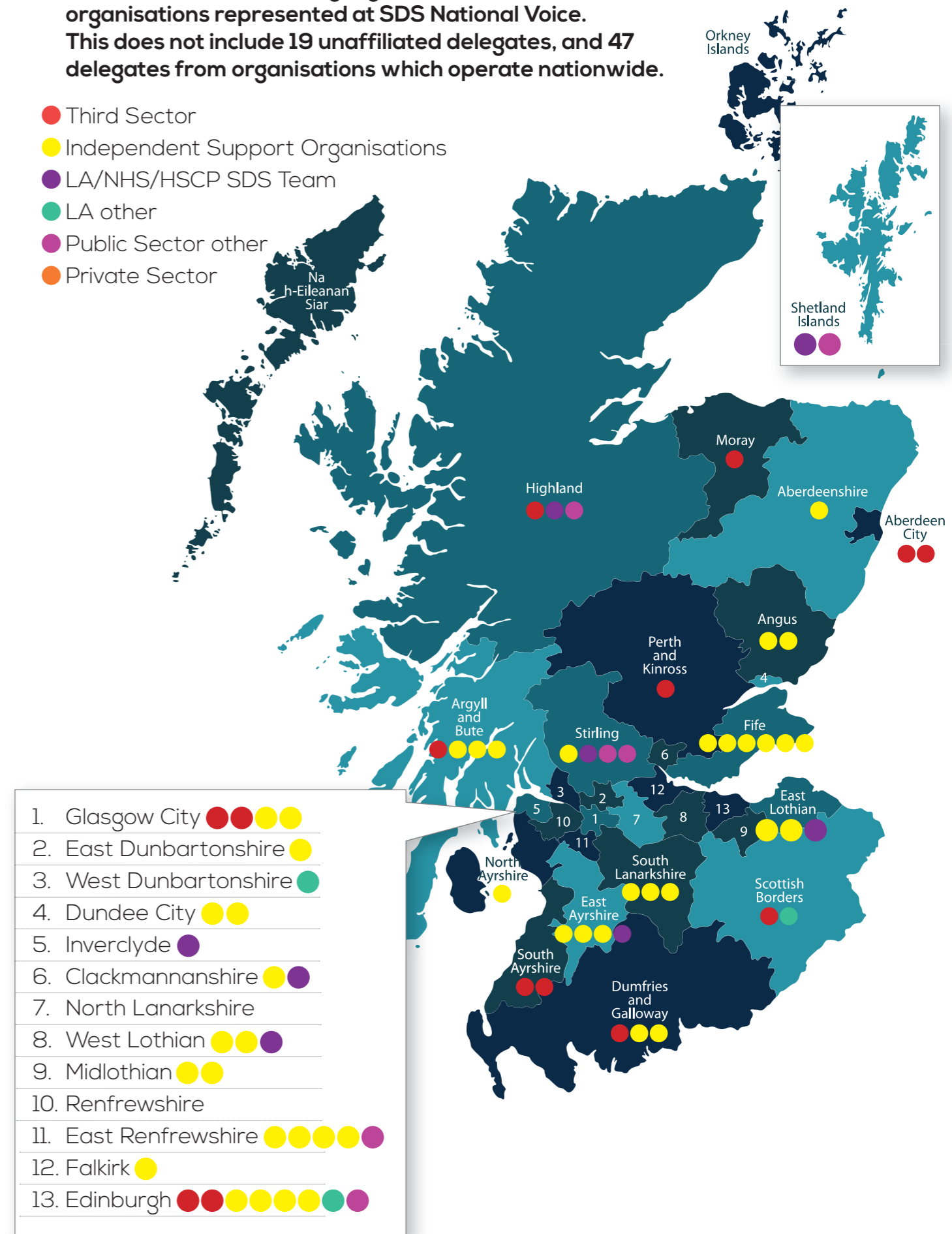
- Third Sector **51**
- Independent Support Organisations **32**
- LA/NHS/HSCP SDS Team **9**
- LA other **3**
- Public Sector other **13**
- Private Sector **3**
- Individuals **19**



geographical coverage

Map to demonstrate the geographical spread of organisations represented at SDS National Voice. This does not include 19 unaffiliated delegates, and 47 delegates from organisations which operate nationwide.

- Third Sector
- Independent Support Organisations
- LA/NHS/HSCP SDS Team
- LA other
- Public Sector other
- Private Sector



what did attendees learn?

In order to track learning and impact more closely we asked participants to rate their knowledge, and ability to influence practice before and after the event. Looking at data from delegates who completed these questions before and after the event we found that:

- As well as an overall increase in ratings, there was a **22%** increase in those rating their level of knowledge on the **National implementation** of SDS as 'extensive' or 'good'.
- As well as an overall increase in ratings, there was a **9%** increase in those rating their level of knowledge on the **local implementation** of SDS as 'extensive' or 'good'.
- As well as an overall increase in ratings, there was a **23%** increase in those rating their level of knowledge on the **role of independent support** for people accessing SDS as 'extensive' or 'good'.
- After the event **55%** of respondents reported that they feel 'very able' or 'able' to positively **influence the development of SDS in their area**, an increase of **15%**.
- After the event **73%** of respondents reported that they were 'very likely' or 'likely' to **challenge barriers to good SDS, and suggest good practice solutions**, within in their own organisation and/or are. An increase of **5%**.

72% of those who completed the post event survey told us that SDS National Voice met their needs a lot, or a great deal.



JESS WADE, SDSS, WELCOMING DELEGATES.



'A POWERFUL START TO THE DAY' MARTIN ABERNETHY, LCIL, SHARES HIS JOURNEY WITH SDS.



how will this impact practice?

As part of the survey delegates were asked what they would be doing differently following the event, we identified 4 clear themes:

(1) Motivation.

'Motivation to keep making a difference', 'Reminded me why I do it' 'I will try even harder to create a better understanding of SDS.'

(2) Confidence to challenge.

'Challenge more', 'Challenge bad practice' and 'have more confidence to discuss SDS implementation'

(3) The benefits of collaborative working.

'Continue to collaborate', 'Communicate with other agencies more,' 'Increase engagement with other organisations using or impacted by SDS.' 'Follow up with contacts'

(4) To increase knowledge of policy and learn from good practice.

'Read up on policy', 'Consult more research evaluations of SDS which highlight what service users have been missing' 'Identify training needs and this will improve our practice based on learning from good examples'



FLORENCE GARABEDIAN, LCIL, DISCUSSING MARTIN'S STORY.



What did SDSS learn?

We asked delegates what could be done to improve SDS National Voice, we identified key areas for future development:

Delegates told us that they would like to hear more from a greater range of Local Authorities to increase their understanding of SDS on a national level, especially in more rural areas.

It was highlighted that practical examples such as contracts are extremely useful tools.

A number of delegates asked us to involve examples from a broader range of potential SDS user groups. Furthermore, we had feedback that delegates would like to attend more workshops than two.



JENNIFER PATON, MEECOP AND CLLR RICKY HENDERSON, CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL, JOIN THE Q&A PANEL SESSION.

What will SDSS do?

We will follow survey respondents to measure if they were able to effectively implement their proposed practice changes to support individuals to positively influence and challenge barriers to good SDS practice.

Local knowledge of SDS implementation was impacted to a lesser extent (9% increase in those describing their knowledge as 'extensive' or 'good'). SDSS will endeavor to work with Local Authority contacts from across Scotland closely as part of our next national event. Furthermore we have identified the need for more creative approaches to Local Authority comparative work, by recruiting a researcher we will be able to gather and share local SDS information.

Based on delegate feedback, SDSS will continue to provide examples of good practice in future event content, including example contracts and plans.

SDSS will reconsider the structure for future events, so more topics, including information on a broader range of SDS user groups, can be accessed.



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