Person Centred Planning

What are Person Centred Approaches?

Person Centred Approaches are about discovering and acting on what is **important to** a person and what is **important for** them and finding the balance between them. It is a process of continual listening and learning, focusing on what is important to someone now and in their future, and acting on this. The listening is used to understand a person’s capacities and choices. Person Centred Approaches form a basis for problem solving and negotiation to mobilise the necessary resources to pursue a person’s aspirations.

What are Person Centred Tools?

Person Centred Tools support person centred thinking and skills. Person Centred Tools can be used in a variety of situations and help to plan, organise, understand and connect with others.

**When should I use Person Centred Planning?**

* Help a child/young person to work out what they want in their lives
* Understand better what support a child/young person needs to pursue their dreams and aspirations
* Help to problem solve, shape and clarify contributions made from different services and agencies to ensure they are effective in helping children/young people meet their outcomes and life goals
* Energise and motivate people based upon better understanding of and commitment to a child/young person

**Why should I use Person Centred Planning?**

The Children and Families Act 2014 sets out clear principles for supporting and involving children and young people in all aspects of the support and planning of their special educational need.

Local Authorities must have regard to the views, wishes and feelings of the child/young person and his or her parent. There is a duty to ensure participation as fully as possible in decisions, and to be provided with the information to ensure the enablement of participation in those decisions.

There must be mechanisms in place which support their parent/carer to facilitate the development of the child/young person, and to help him or her to achieve the best possible outcomes.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 – 25 years provides the statutory guidance relating to part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Embedded in its principles is the need for a stronger focus on the participation of children, young people and their parents/carers in decision making at both individual and strategic levels. The use of Person Centred Approaches provides the opportunity to fulfil those principles. Working in this way ensures the CYP and their parents/carers are at the centre of all decision making and future planning.

It provides an opportunity to engage directly with children and young people to discuss their needs, and plan how they can achieve the best possible outcomes. This should be integral to all planning for children and young people with Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) throughout their lives.