

Circle of Adults Process

1) Agreement of GROUND RULES for the session

2) PRESENTATION OF PROBLEM

One member of the group will be asked to describe any information about the young person which they think may be relevant. This person will have volunteered before the session and will be someone who knows the young person well. Following this, other members of the group will be asked to contribute any additional information about the young person's current situation so that a 'rich' picture of the young person is created.

3) EXPLORATION OF RELATIONSHIPS

Through questions from the facilitator, this stage aims to encourage the problem-presenter and other members of the group to consider the quality of their relationship with the young person.

4) Consideration of ORGANISATIONAL FACTORS

The group will collectively identify any factors within the organisation which may be 'helping' or 'hindering' the current situation.

5) Listen to the CHILD'S VOICE

At the beginning of the session members will be asked to volunteer to be the 'voice of the child'. At this point, the member who is selected for this role will be asked to suggest what the child might say had they been present during the previous three stages.

6) SYNTHESIS

The graphic facilitator will briefly highlight the comments made by the group so far and will try to identify patterns or conflicting elements of the 'story'.

7) Generation of HYPOTHESES

Members of the groups will be asked to offer any theories/hypotheses which they feel may be relevant to the situation. At this stage, the emphasis will be on the generation of any possible hypotheses and there is no expectation for the group to agree on any one hypothesis.

8) Generation of STRATEGIES

With support from the facilitator the group will be guided in developing possible strategies which explicitly link to the hypotheses which were generated in the previous stage. The group will be encouraged to elaborate, develop and strengthen each other's strategies.

9) Agreement of FIRST STEPS

The problem-presenter is invited to consider which two or three strategies could be implemented immediately or within the next week. The facilitators will support the problem-presenter in developing clear outcomes related to the agreed strategies. Other members of the group will be encouraged to support the problem-presenter in carrying out the strategies.

10) 'Round of Words'

All members of the group will be asked to describe their experience of the 'Circle of Adults' session in no more than 3 or 4 words.