

More choice and control for people in Ceredigion

Commissioning Managers, in Ceredigion, need strategic planning information to enable adults who have learning difficulties to live independent productive lives. To obtain such insight from people with experience of difference requires change in our thinking and our model of disability.

The use of Person Centred Planning and a Person Centred Approach is the way forward. Funding from the Welsh Assembly Government has provided the gateway for Supported Independence Services to undertake a creative project which will place Person Centred Planning at the heart of services.

All people of difference should have a Person Centred Plan but a priority group of 50 – 60 individuals, living with older carers or parents are to be approached to hear their dreams for the future. We will listen to peoples future needs for housing and how to improve access to Primary Health Care for example. Using a Person Centred Approach to inform regular reports of the required actions and outcomes will ensure that the needs of individuals can be integrated into an action plan.

Circles Network has been commissioned by Supported Independence Services to undertake the project - working with the committed staff of Community Team Learning Disabilities, Pembrokeshire & Derwen NHS Trust Day Services and the Voluntary Sector.

- Volunteer staff from across the care sector have become a group of strategically placed individuals trained as Person Centred Planning Facilitators.
- Person Centred Planning Facilitators from Day Services; Mencap; Prospect Housing; Cartrefi Cymru; Gateway Club; Ceredigion People First; Ceredigion Parents and Carers Association and Workstep have been trained and supported to move Person Centred Planning into the heart of Ceredigion's services.

The trainers are provided with IT and recording equipment as well as a library of books, videos and colourful materials to produce sensory, tactile or visual displays of people's gifts and dreams.

Circles Network is developing resources this year in Ceredigion, ensuring that people who want to benefit from, work with Person Centred Planning, have the materials and support to do so.

Ceredigion Person Centred Planning Facilitators will wish to set a timetable to enable their work to be accomplished. A commitment from services and commissioned support providers has have been included in a tripartite

agreement between Learning Disability Services, service providers and those staff 'seconded to become Person Centred Planning facilitators. This agreement will ensure that Person Centred Planning facilitators can undertake their work with individuals and other staff in terms of time and facilities .

Ceredigion Circles facilitators can work on setting their timetable and administering their records through Circles Network, facilitated by an experienced trainer/coordinator.

The Ceredigion Facilitators will work with, and as part of, this newly supportive network which works in partnership with Circles Network.

Referral arrangements, for Person Centred Plans or staff training, can be arranged and prioritised through contacting

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'Within our dreams and aspirations we find our opportunities'

Norma McCarten

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