

JENNIE'S '15 PLUS' PERSON CENTRED PLANNING TRANSITION REVIEW

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Introduction

This was Jennie's second Person Centred Planning review. She had her first person centred review last year, where people came together to think about what is important to Jennie, and what support



she wants and needs. As Jennie's Mum, I was keen that we should look at the actions we had agreed then, and begin to think about her future. The group of people invited to her '14 plus' review had already had a taste of these new ways of planning and meeting together. The information from the last review is now part of Jennie's Essential Lifestyle Plan.^[1]

It was also really important that Jennie can start to be involved in planning for her future.

^[1] To see Jennie's plan, go to www.familiesleadingplanning.co.uk

Exploring 'Keys to Citizenship'

This transition review was arranged to specifically look at Jennie's immediate and long term future and how everyone could work together to ensure this happened as smoothly as possible for Jennie. It was structured around three questions; what is possible for Jennie's future, what do we want for Jennie's future and what are we going to do to move this forward?



Helen Sanderson facilitated the review. We started by introducing ourselves and who we are in Jennie's life, and then we checked how we had done with the actions we had set from the previous review. The review was very well attended and included family, friends, support workers, teacher, speech therapist, connexions, social worker, team leader and manager.

After the introductions Helen talked about the purpose of the meeting and introduced us to Keys to Citizenship. She used a large chart and explained each key for the group to consider when thinking about what could be possible and positive for Jennie's future. Helen went through the six keys: self-determination, direction, money, home, support and community life and talked about what was practical and possible (and best practice) for each key.

Helen then asked the group if they had any questions. No one said anything - I think everyone was still taking the information in!

Thinking about 'Keys' for Jennie

There were blank pieces of flip chart paper for each key on the wall. We each had a marker pen and we thought about the ideas from the Keys chart, and wrote the ones that we would like to see in Jennie's future on the flip chart paper.

Some of us thought about questions then, and Helen answered these as we were writing. We looked at what everyone had written. Helen drew around the major themes that people had written about, so that we could see 3 or 4 clear areas for each key. Then she gave us all three sticky dots and asked us to put them on the areas that we wanted to start working on now.

Prioritising and action planning

After we had placed our dots and sat down, Helen counted the dots and gave each one a 'score'. We then started to work through each one, highest score first, and agreed on actions that we wanted to take.

Some of the actions that came from Jennie's review were:

Increasing leisure opportunities, looking at 16+ education, forming a circle of support and thinking about future living arrangements.



We ended the meeting by each saying something that we had appreciated about our time together, and setting a date for a follow up meeting.

People said the meeting had been:

"A really good opportunity for everyone to work together for Jennie's future", "Good to meet others working with and supporting Jennie", "A

really positive review", "Wish this could happen for all the children I work with"

I remember looking at everyone writing on the sheets of paper and jointly deciding what we should concentrate on to help Jennie. It was a really nice feeling knowing that I wasn't on my own and people were happy and willing to support Jennie and her planning process.

My reflections

Before the review my main priority was to get everyone jointly working together to look at Jennie's transition from school to college and from children to adult services, to look at the options available and try and ensure it happened as smoothly as possible. I thought we may touch on possible living arrangements for Jennie's future but wasn't really prepared for the extent of the other options, ideas and possibilities there were to think about and how differently things could be done.

I did find the review quite overwhelming because it really made me think that Jennie's future isn't that far away and there's such a lot to do! But, it was really good to know that everyone in Jennie's life was looking together at her future and planning with her and each other. It can be very difficult for parents to try and work through the maze of services, bureaucracy and find out what's actually available so when people are working together and sharing ideas it definitely takes some of the pressure off.

I think it was good that most people at the review had been involved in gathering information for Jennie's plan and attended her first Person Centred Review as they may have been a little overwhelmed at the different style and process involved but everyone was very enthusiastic and committed. I also noticed that the group were definitely thinking in a more person-centred way which is quite a positive shift from the way many support workers, service providers and managers have thought and practiced in the past. The action plan, which has since been circulated to everyone, reinforces the items that were discussed and when people agreed to do them by.

I thought the review was a real success as it achieved what was planned in a very positive way and kept Jennie at the centre of the process. It was really good to see everyone happily accepting Person Centred Planning in Jennie's life and agreeing on what and how to make sure things happen

that were discussed. Two months on from the review I am really pleased to say that those who committed to do things have all done them; meetings have taken place, assessments have been done and exploring future options has started! The good thing is that I don't have to shoulder the responsibility of all of this on my own and hopefully Jennie will become more involved in planning her life as she gets more used to her plan and reviews.

Suzie Franklin
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