Community Circles

- Context
- Application
- Support models

Circles are part of something bigger

We all want to live in the place we call home with the people and things that we love, in communities where we look out for one another, doing the things that matter to us

Frozen system – how to start a thaw?

- Main models of support little changed in decades

- Context of austerity, some attempts at system change "promoting independence",

- Attempts to describe an "asset based system"

Pioneers of radical change

Staying well, connected to others and resilient

Supporting people to contribute and do things they enjoy

Living well at home

New models of care and support with accommodation

Regaining independence

Innovations in community-centred support

Essence of a Community Circle

- **A Circle is based on what matters to the person – the purpose**

- **The person is at the centre of their Circle, with those who love and care for them, supported by a volunteer**

- **Everyone has something to contribute**

- **Circles help people feel more connected**

- **Circles make changes**

- **Circles use tools and ways of recording information to support the conversation to plan and review action**

Where can Circles work?

Wherever people are looking for a way of helping people achieve, connection, inclusion, purpose – for themselves or others

- Families

- Community and voluntary groups, including faith groups

- Local charity services

- Support provider organisations

Can combine well will other ways of supporting people to connect and flourish – exploring alignment with Keyring, Shared Lives, Timebanks, Wellbeing Teams

What is the basic model?

- **Connectors** recruit, train and support volunteer facilitators who help the Circle come together, share ideas and develop actions

- **Family, friends and neighbours make up the Circle**

Connectors are either paid or voluntary, with different models appropriate for different situations

BUT The model is flexible and is often adjusted to circumstances

Thinking about embedding…

What are you trying to achieve?

Commissioner?

How can you support this?

Organisation?

Do you have existing volunteers?
Could their role be adapted?

Do you have capacity in team for the Connector role?

Do you have clarity of goals and purpose?

Our approach

- We transfer (in various ways) our knowledge, tools and materials to others who can find Circles or some of the methods helpful
- We don't rival or replace – where invited we compliment
- Grow a community of practice for mutual support
- Connect with other approaches and initiatives aimed at growing the strength and connections of people and communities

How can Community Circles help?

Depending on local context:

- Provide free do it yourself materials (usually for families)
- Support design and set up of initiatives/embedding of approaches that either focus on Circles or include them
- Train on use of tools and share materials and experience
- Support families, local leaders, key staff
- Support local hubs and networks developing Circles or wider person and community centred approaches
- Partnership programme (training plus bespoke consultancy)
- Bespoke organisational partnership

Support models

- Partnership programme
- Bespoke organisational partnership

Partnership programme

Partnership programme example

- Agree purpose and goals
- Join existing training courses or
- Bespoke training
- Consultancy aimed at specific initiative or to embed

Bespoke partnership

Planning

- Roles and agreements
- First phase tasks
- Issues

How are we doing?

Progress for Providers

Checking progress in delivering personalised care and support

Months 1-4

- Circles connector for the project appointed
- Project set up
- Individual home plans developed and roles allocated
- Initial training of key staff
- Establishment of hub
- Volunteer recruitment initiated
- First cohort for Circles identified

Months 4-9

- First cohort of volunteer facilitators recruited, trained and matched
- Mentoring for nominated care home co-ordinators and embedding of model of matching and support
- First series of Circles started incorporating identification of purpose, recruitment of Circle members, action to deliver goals, review, outcome measurement
- Hub programme established and supported to enable cost effective input and impactful collaboration
- Logic modelling for health impact underway

Months 10-12

- Additional Circles come into being with further facilitator recruitment and support (target 25 total)
- All homes have effective models for further development and sustainability in place
- Hubs are well established and sustainable beyond the pilot phase

Roles of Community Circles staff

- Circles lead oversees the project in liaison with organisation lead and local authority partner. Recruits relevant staff. Commissions and oversees evaluation
- Circles senior development worker trains, mentors and advises the project connector and contributes to other training and development
- Local Circles project connector (see below)

Roles of the organisation lead and care home managers

- Organisation lead oversees overall contribution of the provider, linking with care home leads and key liaison with Circles lead

- Care home leads ensure the home is welcoming to Circles – supporting the care home lead, aligning home procedures and culture to support person and community centred support, supporting Hub

Circles and Care Homes/extra care