

INNOVATIVE MODELS AND PRACTICES FOR ENGAGING WITH FAMILIES AND RELATIONAL NETWORKS

SHARING DECISION-MAKING,
ENGAGEMENT AND CAPACITY
BUILDING: HOW DO WE ASSESS THE
FGC MODEL?

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HOW DO WE ASSESS A DECISION MAKING MODEL?

- ▶ WHAT IS A GOOD DECISION?
 - ▶ A DECISION IN SOCIAL WORK
 - ▶ THE FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE
 - ▶ GOOD DECISIONS LEADING TO GOOD OUTCOMES
 - ▶ A DECISION THAT IS A GOOD OUTCOME IN ITSELF
 - ▶ A DECISION THAT FORMS A GOOD FOUNDATION
 - ▶ A DECISION THAT IS PRODUCED EFFICIENTLY
 - ▶ RESEARCH THAT IS PRODUCED EFFICIENTLY ...
 - ▶ A RESEARCH FRAME FOR FGC

A DECISION IN SOCIAL WORK ...

- ▶ Decisions in social work because
 - ▶ the law enforces
 - ▶ the user agrees
- ▶ FGC
 - ▶ the law provides a frame
 - ▶ the user decides within it

THE FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE

- ▶ Provides a decision-making model
 - ▶ that has a legal frame
 - ▶ where the user has rights (to other family, to information, to respect for the decision)
 - ▶ that may have by-products from the process
 - ▶ where the decision will lead to actions that are the cause, perhaps in a complex way, of outcomes

GOOD DECISIONS LEADING TO GOOD OUTCOMES

- ▶ Aim: improved welfare, protection, of the child
- ▶ But this welfare, and protection, is produced:
 - ▶ As measurable outcomes over suitable periods
 - ▶ may be long, may involve many factors, may need very large number of participants because of family differences
 - ▶ AND within the FGC process itself ...

A DECISION THAT IS A GOOD OUTCOME IN ITSELF

- ▶ The product is a decision the family supports
 - ▶ that is correct because as a family member
 - ▶ you agree
 - ▶ you have taken part and accept the result
 - ▶ because you accept the process
- ▶ A decision that the state supports, and where the relevant FGC member role is as a citizen and citizen/employee

A DECISION THAT FORMS A GOOD FOUNDATION

- ▶ To legitimise a caring option (e.g. different carers)
 - ▶ thereby not reducing capacity
- ▶ To make sense of your own development
 - ▶ to curate it
- ▶ To bring more people into the picture
- ▶ To bring more resources (money, space) into the picture

A DECISION THAT IS PRODUCED EFFICIENTLY

- ▶ For the family members
 - ▶ use of time
 - ▶ minimising nervousness
 - ▶ doing more than just the decision
- ▶ For the system
 - ▶ use of scarce resources
 - ▶ minimising objections

RESEARCH THAT IS PRODUCED EFFICIENTLY ...

- ▶ Long term outcome studies very welcome BUT
 - ▶ R&D spend per staff member in Health £3,400, Social Care £25
 - ▶ There are around 3x more Community based clinical academics than social work academics
- ▶ What else could you (should you) do with the money?

A RESEARCH FRAME FOR FGC

RIGHTS

CAPACITY BUILDING

FAMILY

To family

The development of family care,
capability and efficiency

CITIZEN

As citizen

Understanding, and fully engaging
in, a state process