



Person Centred Planning

Midlothian Council Educational Psychology Service

What is Person Centred Planning?

In recent years, there has been an increasing shift towards a more individualised and personalised approach in supporting and planning for young people (YP). Approaches that accentuate more of a person centred focus have guided the design and delivery of education supports across a range of contexts with a range of additional needs (Claes, Hove, Vandeveld, Loon & Schalock, 2010).

Person Centred Planning (PCP) is a method that enhances the tailoring of supports to the individual, promoting personalization and ownership (McIntosh & Whittaker, 2000). This approach combines the individual's views and aspirations with their circle of support to develop person-centred plans collaboratively. The approach has been consciously designed as an inclusive process.

PCP provides an opportunity for the YP to share their sense of identity, how they see others around them, the part those people play in the YP's life and how, working collectively, each individual involved can help to build a plan which endeavours to support the YP and provide purpose and meaning to their future plans.

It provides a safe place to explore beyond the here and the now, gain insight into the YPs' future ambitions and desires, and works to determine what is important to the YP, whilst supporting a rational proposal for achievable next steps. It also provides a means of creating a plan in alliance with key individuals. A key feature of PCP is the flexible and responsive nature of the approach which allows for changing circumstances.

The Principles of Person Centred Planning

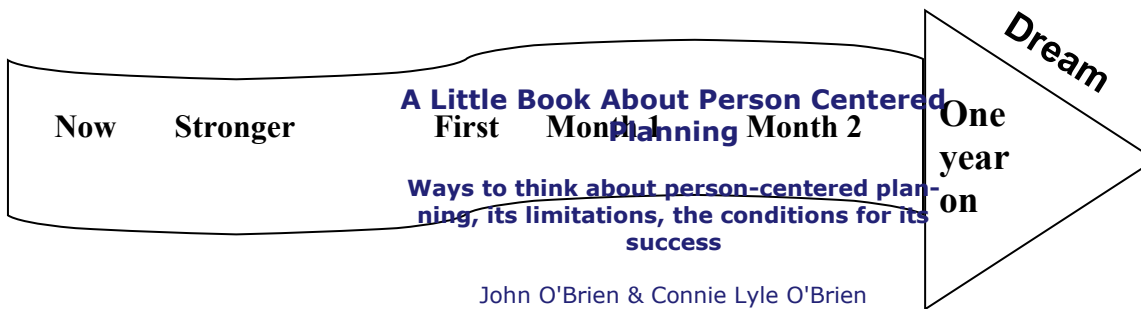
- The person is at the centre (the "focus" person).
- Family members, carers and friends are partners in planning.
- The plan reflects what is important to the person, their capacities and what support they require.
- The plan results in actions that are about life, not just services, and reflects what is possible, not just what is available.
- The plan results in ongoing listening, learning and further action.
- The process of planning is as important as the outcomes and tools used.

Educational Psychologists are involved in consultation, assessment, planning and review processes for children who are experiencing difficulties in relation to learning and/or behaviour. When trying to solve problems, the more perspectives that can be brought together and applied, the better the understanding of the current situation, resulting in a more holistic view. This allows an approach which focuses not only on the child, but also on the system within which the child interacts i.e. their learning context and the various elements of this. The use of Person Centred Planning (PCP) can facilitate pupil voice and participation in all of the above processes.

Person Centred Planning Tools

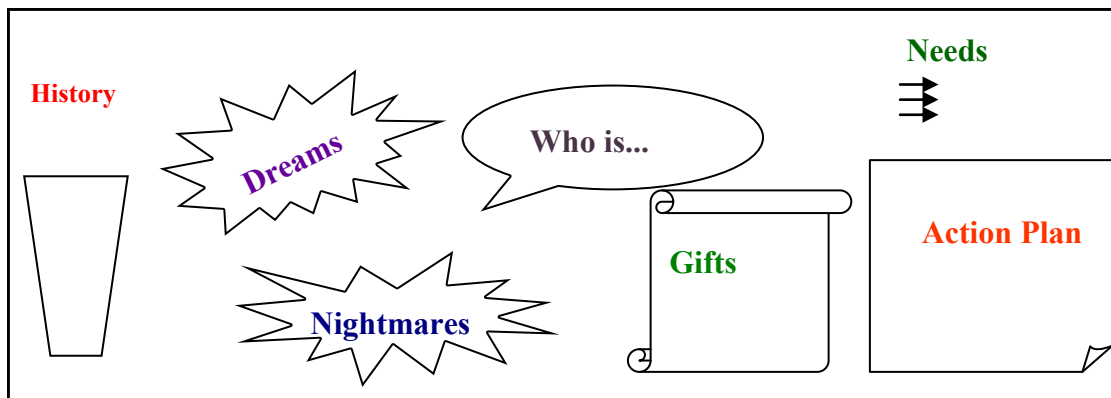
PATH – Planning Alternatives for Tomorrow with Hope

The PATH is a tool that is used when there is a specific, identifiable goal. The PATH is not an information gathering process, but rather a way of working out how to achieve a goal.



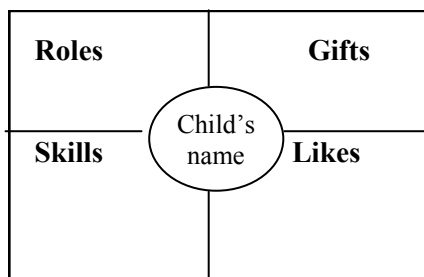
MAP – Making Action Plans

The process of the MAP is partly about information gathering. It focuses on creating an action plan for the future. Unlike the PATH, it is not based on a specific, known goal, but on an emerging picture of where someone thinks they want to go. It involves discussion and the person's 'story', their dream, nightmares, gifts, needs and how these can be realised.



Giftedness Poster

The Giftedness Poster is usually characterised by 4 concepts; Roles, Likes, Skills and Gifts. The roles section aims to establish what different roles the person can be seen in, creating respect for the person. The Likes section involves discussing the person's interests and hobbies. In the Skills section things that the person is good at are noted and the Gifts section aims to portray the person's strengths.



There are a wide range of PCP tools but these are the ones you are most likely to come across in Midlothian schools.

Further Reading and Resources

Reading:

A Little Book About Person Centred Planning— John O'Brien & Connie Lyle O'Brien

Developing Person Centred Approaches in Schools—Pippa Murray & Helen Sanderson

Implementing Person-Centred Planning—John O'Brien & Connie Lyle O'Brien

Creating Person-Centred Organisations: Strategies and Tools for Managing Change in Health, Social Care and the Voluntary Sector by Stephen Stirk & Helen Sanderson

Websites:

<http://www.personcenteredplanning.org/>

<http://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/resources/person-centred-planning-toolkits.aspx>

<http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=20018&sID=6223>

Person Centred Planning in Midlothian

PCP is increasingly used and applied in a variety of situations by EPs. If you would like to know more or explore professional learning in this, please contact your link EP