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Family Leadership-What?
Why? How?

Mission of Mamre

Mamre is a Community driven organisation that works with families, so that they envision, plan and build rich, meaningful and inclusive lives for their family members with a disability.

What is Family Leadership?

Family leadership is recognising the natural authority of the family and working with the family to build their capacity, in order to ensure that the family member with a disability has a good, meaningful and inclusive life.

Mamre believes that, regardless of capacity or skill, families have a natural authority and are entitled to influence the direction of their family member's life, if they have remained faithful and committed to that person's development and well-being.

Why is Family Leadership important?

- ◆ Families have a natural authority, which services need to recognise and foster
- ◆ Families are the best advocates for their family member with a disability, they know the person better than anyone else and have the best interest of the person at heart
- ◆ Families through the support of 'good services' can safeguard the life of the person into the future in a way that service cannot

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- ◆ Resources are used more effectively for the benefit of the person
- ◆ Resources are used more flexibility for the benefit of the person
- ◆ Higher quality of service for the person with a disability is achieved
- ◆ Staff are inducted into a family, with specific values and cultures relevant to that person.

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- ◆ Greater supervision and support of staff
- ◆ Services cannot replace families and should not try to do so, but should work to arm families to safeguard the life of the person with a disability in the family into the future

Family Focus Project

- ◆ To support 15 families to become empowered to have more control over the service their family member with a disability receives
- ◆ 10 families based in Clare, supported by Brothers of Charity Services Clare.
- ◆ 2 families based in Dublin, supported by Cheshire Ireland
- ◆ 3 families based in Midlands, supported by Muiriosa Foundation

Project Aims

1. To empower families to have more influence over the services their family member with a disability receives
2. To train key frontline staff in working with families, in an empowering way rather than in a way that makes families dependent on staff and services
3. To build on the informal supports around each person with a disability and their family
4. To consider using paid supports in a more focused way for the person with intellectual disability to ensure a meaningful life

Aim 1: To empower families to have more influence over the services their family member with a disability receives

- Each family will be supported to complete 4 modules of a tailored programme on family leadership.
- Each family will receive one to one support from either the project manager or the family facilitator, whose role will be to address issues at an individual family level following each module and PLAN with the family

Focus of the workshops

- ◆ Workshop 1-What is Family Leadership, Why do it? What are the benefits? What are the role of services?
- ◆ Workshop 2-Vision Building-why and how?
- ◆ Workshop 3-Circles of support-why and how?
- ◆ Workshop 4-Succession Planning-Wills and Trusts

Aim 2: To train key frontline staff in working with families, in an empowering way rather than in a way that makes families dependent on staff and services.

- ◆ Key frontline staff will participate in all 4 modules, alongside family members.
- ◆ Key frontline staff will have mentoring sessions with the Project Manager and the Family Facilitator
- ◆ Key frontline staff, will work alongside the Project Manager or the family facilitator at the individual sessions with families.

Aim 3: To build on the informal supports around each person with a disability and their family.

- ◆ Each family will be supported to look at their informal supports, build on them and maintain them.
- ◆ Each family will be supported to see the value of a support circle.

Aim 4: To consider using paid supports in a more focused way for the person.

- ◆ Each family will be supported to consider how they could use paid support in a more focused way to reach the vision.
- ◆ Each family will be supported to understand the funding system and make an application for funding supports where necessary.
- ◆ Families who already have services, will be supported in making changes in an intentional way to reach the vision they have for the person with a disability within the family

Structure of the Project

- ◆ 12 month period
- ◆ 4 workshops, where all family members come together
- ◆ Individual sessions with families to discuss private details and clarify issues
- ◆ Information sessions for other families, that are not part of the project
- ◆ Information sessions for services and families around the country, towards the end of the project
- ◆ Funding for workshops, respite services and direct support in final 12 weeks of project and staff support

Other information

- ◆ Family Focus is funded by the Genio Trust
- ◆ The project will be evaluated from the point of view of the individual
- ◆ Family Focus to carry out a more comprehensive evaluation

'The reality is that the full and positive lives of people with disabilities that we hear and read about do not happen by accident. These inspirational stories can be told because someone had a vision and belief in what is possible, sometimes against considerable opposition, and planned to make it happen' Jeremy Ward

Thank you

Any Questions

