

UNDERSTANDING SPECIFIC NEEDS IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Understand approaches and intervention strategies that support individuals with specific needs

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Approaches and interventions that support individuals with specific needs:

- There are pre-defined approaches and strategies to take care of individuals with specific needs. The intervention will be dependent on the magnitude of the challenge.
- Disability may be seen as a 'punishment' within a family or community leading to the ostracism and marginalization of adults and children with disabilities (Hewett, 2012).
- In subsequent slides we will discuss some of the approaches and interventions that can make life for people with specific needs a bit more comforting.

Approaches and interventions that support individuals with specific needs

- Self-help,
- Direct action
- Partnerships
- Evidence-based practice,
- Advocacy,
- Guardianship,
- Autonomy and empowerment,
- Risk management;
- Medical,
- Technological
- Therapeutic products,
- Lifestyle choices and therapies

Self Help

- Self help is about teaching specific life skills to persons with specific needs.
- It supports independent living.
- Self help groups: supports people with similar needs.
- Example a group that provides support to parents so that they feel competent in making decisions concerning a child with a disability. E.g. a child with Down Syndrome.

Direct Action

- This is an advocacy tool.
- “Direct action occurs when a group of people take an action which is intended to reveal an existing problem, highlight an alternative, or demonstrate a possible solution to a social issue.” (Theproviderproject.org, 2016)
- Protests that’s challenges attitudes and ideologies or decisions.
- Example: a disabled person who throws himself from his wheelchair to protest physical barriers they have to access resources.

Partnerships

- Involves integration of families/individuals/agencies working together.

Evidence based practice

EBP is the integration of clinical expertise, patient values, and the best research **evidence** into the decision making process for patient care.
(Guides.mclibrary.duke.edu, 2016)

Advocacy

- Advocacy seeks to ensure that people, particularly the vulnerable in society are able to have their voices heard on issues of importance. Advocacy ensures that these people have their voices heard and defend and safeguard their rights.
- (www.seap.org.uk)
- Advocate can be self or someone else.
- Advocacy provides: support, information and representation with the aim of empowering the person with specific need and enable him or her to express needs and choices.
- Advocacy is done via writing of letters, hosting meetings, writing public policy etc.

Guardianship

- Some persons with specific needs for example children will require some amount of guardianship as the parents may not be available to provide the appropriate care.

Autonomy & Empowerment

- It is said that autonomy is taken and empowerment is given.
- Autonomy and empowerment involves specific need individuals making informed decisions and giving consent based on the fact that they have adequate information.

Risk Management

- Risk Management is the culture, processes and structures that are directed towards the effective management of potential opportunities and adverse effects. It is a system “...intended to identify, evaluate and take corrective action against potential risks that could lead to the injury of patients, staff or visitors, or harm to the organization” (Sullivan and Garland 2010).
- Risk Management is about complying with the law to protect patients, staff, visitors and premises. It is a process whereby risks that have the potential to do harm are identified and managed.
- Risks can be divided into those that have the potential to cause serious harm and those that are more straightforward and easily avoided. It may not be possible to eliminate all risk, thus the law only requires that ‘reasonably practicable’ steps are taken to assess and manage a risk. (Hse.gov.uk, 2016)

Medical

- Bio-medical-refers to a group of interventions which are designed to stop, or at least reduce, the effect of biomedical problems ` such as gastrointestinal abnormalities, immune dysfunctions, detoxification abnormalities, and/or nutritional deficiencies or imbalances.

Technological

Simple technical interventions can have a positive impact on helping to meet the needs and rights of people with physical disabilities:

- handles at convenient heights on latrine doors
- Bars and support rails to hold onto around shelter and in washing areas
- A cushion to support a correct sitting position
- A path which allows wheelchair access.
- (Jennings, 1986)

Therapeutic Products

- Products intended to be used in or on human beings for therapeutic purposes. Therapeutic purpose involves preventing, diagnosing, monitoring, treating or curing. ([www. Medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.Medsafe.govt.nz))

Lifestyle choices & therapies

- Healthy Living lifestyles to include meals and exercise

References

Guides.mclibrary.duke.edu. (2016). *LibGuides: Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice : Overview*. [online] Available at: <http://guides.mclibrary.duke.edu/c.php?g=158201&p=1036021> [Accessed 29 Oct. 2016].

Hse.gov.uk. (2016). *Managing for health and safety at work*. [online] Available at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/managing/index.htm> [Accessed 29 Oct. 2016].

Jennings D. (1986). The confusion between disease and illness in clinical medicine. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*;135:865-70.

Theproviderproject.org. (2016). *The Provider Project*. [online] Available at: <http://theproviderproject.org/2012/5/18/directaction/> [Accessed 29 Oct. 2016].

LINKS

Essay UK - <http://www.essay.uk.com/essays/health/essay-a-study-on-understanding-specific-needs-in-health-and-social-care/>