Case study four: Maria

Tool 3 - The Four Planet model

On the following page is an illustration of Marianne Hester’s Three Planets model; with the addition of a fourth ‘planet’, Adult Social Care.

Consider all the different agencies who might be involved in a case like Maria’s. What different perspectives and priorities do they bring?

You can use this tool when working with someone with care and support needs to discuss with them the agencies that can most usefully contribute.

Remember to use the principles of safe enquiry, and remember the limits of confidentiality and your responsibilities relating to child protection.
Case study four: Tool 6 - Principles for reflection on religion and belief

This tool sets out the principles that underpin good social work practice around religion and belief. You can use the questions below to reflect on your practice:

1. Are you sufficiently self-aware and reflexive about your own religious and spiritual beliefs or the absence of them and your responses to others?

2. Are you giving the individuals/groups involved sufficient opportunities to discuss their religious and spiritual beliefs and the strengths, difficulties and needs which arise from them?

3. Are you listening to what they say about their beliefs and the strengths and needs which arise from them?

4. Do you recognise individuals' expertise about their own beliefs and the strengths and needs which arise from them?

5. Are you approaching this piece of practice with sufficient openness and willingness to review and revise your plans and assumptions?

6. Are you building a relationship which is characterised by trust, respect and a willingness to facilitate?

7. Are you being creative in your responses to individuals' beliefs and the strengths and needs which arise from them?

8. Have you sought out relevant information and advice regarding any religious and spiritual beliefs and practices which were previously unfamiliar to you?


Seeking out relevant information and advice regarding unfamiliar religious and spiritual beliefs and practices

Creative responses to individuals' needs and beliefs

Recognition of individuals' expertise about their own needs and beliefs

Listening to what people say about their needs and beliefs

Openness and willingness to respond, review and revise

Self-awareness and reflexivity about own religious and spiritual beliefs and responses to the beliefs of others

Relationships characterised by genuine interest and concern, trust, respect and a willingness to engage

Service Users strengths, needs, views, beliefs and responsibilities

Opportunities to discuss religious and spiritual beliefs and the strengths, difficulties and needs which arise from them


Adult social care prioritising wellbeing of the adult, person-centred, outcome focused