



West Kirk
84 Portland Street
Kilmarnock
Ayrshire
KA3 1AA

Tel. 01563 825555
Fax. 01563 825556



INFORMATION PACK

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

1. MISSION.....	2
2. FUNCTION	2
3. VALUES	2
4. THE SERVICE WE PROVIDE	3
5. GOOD PLANNING	4
6. BUILDING BRIDGES TO COMMUNITY	4
7. REAL LIFE EXAMPLES.....	6

INTRODUCTION

Partners for Inclusion is designed to provide high quality supports to individuals with a learning and/or mental health difficulty. Partners for Inclusion has a particular interest in working with people who are leaving institutionalised settings, such as hospitals and group homes, and those people whose behaviour challenge existing services.

We have expertise in working with people who challenge services and a belief that this is often the case where the service is unable to adequately meet the person's needs. It would seem therefore that an individually designed service is a better way forward. We recognise the need to provide alternative services within existing cost constraints.

Partners for Inclusion is committed to providing a variety of opportunities and choices by offering an individual person-centred service and by maximising the use of existing community facilities and natural supports. We strive to maintain effective and creative partnerships with the people we serve and their existing support networks, maximising their involvement in planning and decision-making about service delivery.

1. MISSION

Partners for Inclusion exist to:

- Support people with disabilities to live how they choose, whilst influencing and enhancing the opportunities available to all;
- To share knowledge, experiences and learning with others.

2. FUNCTION

To plan and provide services to people with learning and/or mental health difficulties, including those leaving hospital and group home settings, to work with them, their families and those who know and support them in order to design a person-centred service. Ultimately the service will enable the person to remain living as a valued citizen in their community.

3. VALUES

Partners for Inclusion believes:

- Everyone is equal and different, with their own gifts
- Everyone has the ability to develop
- Everyone has needs and the right to support in keeping with their basic human rights
- Everyone's relationships are valuable

All people should be able to decide how they live their lives. People with disabilities face the same decisions as anyone: the definition of life; relationships with family, friends and others who cross their path; daily routines and experiences; and opportunities that are seized, created, postponed, rejected or simply let go.

Pamela Walker and Julie Ann Racino in Sanderson et al, 1997

4. THE SERVICE WE PROVIDE

Partners for Inclusion provides services strictly in the Ayrshire and Renfrewshire(s) areas. Partners for Inclusion wishes to remain a small local organisation, meeting local need and reflecting the cultural distinctness of the areas in which we operate. The people using the service and their family and friends will be encouraged to be involved in shaping the organisation

We provide support separate from housing, where people live in ordinary housing with whom they choose, where they choose. We work in partnership with our colleagues in health, housing and social work to build on and strengthen the person's existing natural and professional supports. The services are integrated into communities and people are encouraged to access community facilities. Above all, throughout this process of service design and delivery, the person at all times remains the focus.

Specifically we provide support in the following areas:

- Support with life tasks, such as domestic, hygiene and nutrition;
- Support and co-ordination of work, leisure, education and employment pursuits;
- Support to access and co-ordinate health and social work services;
- Support to obtain and maintain tenancies;
- Encourage people and support them to make new friends and/or re-establish lost friendships;
- Support generally with relationships with family, friends and others;
- Ensure people receive their financial entitlements.

This list is not exhaustive and depends on the individual's needs, wishes and aspirations.

It is expected that, depending on the individual's personal and local council circumstances, services would be financed by one or more of the following:-

Welfare Benefits;
Independent Living Fund;
Direct Payments;
Supporting People;
Housing Benefits.

All services need to change over time, the services provided by Partners for Inclusion will be designed with in-built flexibility so as they can readily meet changing demands.

Partners for Inclusion work with our statutory partners to ensure the people we serve share the same rights of access to community facilities as the rest of the population and we have built up expertise in how to best use and be included in these resources. The kind of resources that are usually used are:

Housing	Council Housing Housing Associations Home Ownership Private Sector
Employment	Locally based employers Full/ Part –time employment Voluntary work
Leisure	Community based Clubs and Associations Sports Facilities Holidays
Education	Adult education/ evening classes Further Education
Health Care	GP's and Primary Care General Hospitals Therapists and Mental Health Specialists
Transport	Private Cars or Taxis Public buses, trains, etc.
General Welfare	Entitlements to income supports Housing Benefits Expert information and advice on services and rights.

Partners for Inclusion believe that these kinds of resources, those that make up the lives of the majority of the community, can provide the initial ingredients for a full and meaningful community life.

Strengthening Natural Supports

Focusing on the development of natural supports is a highly innovative and effective way to provide quality, community based support to people who require assistance in their daily lifestyles. The quality and value of natural supports is often overshadowed by a misguided belief that natural supports are just a cheap option, suggesting that cost effectiveness sits uncomfortably with quality.

Partners for Inclusion, through the setting up of Circles of Support and other methods, works to establish new natural supports and strengthen and maintain existing natural supports, believing that this increases the potential for inclusion.

Natural supports are the essence of full inclusion. They are inviting people with disabilities into their worlds – into their communities – into their lives. They are not leaving their lives to join the life of a person with a disability.

7. REAL LIFE EXAMPLES

The following services are real life examples of the kind of service that can be set up using Partners for Inclusion.

Jack's Service

Jack had lived in a large hospital for well over half his life. Jack did not feel happy or safe in hospital, this often resulted in him getting annoyed with the other people living in the ward. On occasions, Jack would get hurt or hurt others.

Jack now owns his own house in Ayrshire. His mother, father and two sisters have set up a Trust which is the legal owner on the house on Jack's behalf. He has a small support team that includes two flatmates. Jack has much more freedom in his life. Jack is mostly happy and very good company and he has developed a much more independent lifestyle.

We were able to:

1. Through doing a detailed personal plan, design a service which helped Jack leave hospital after such a long time;
2. Support his family to set up a Trust to purchase Jack's house. His house is purchased through an interest only mortgage;
3. Employ support staff and flatmates specifically for Jack. His new staff better fit into his lifestyle;
4. Plan around Jack's needs only.

Anthony's Service

Anthony is a young man who had spent several years going between his home, where his family had no support to help with his difficult behaviour, and various residential placements that Anthony did not like and would run away from. Anthony and his family wanted to receive regular support to promote his independence and development, but close to home. The solution to this problem was to help the family to move house to a place with an independent flat attached, and for Anthony to receive paid supports at key times of the day. At this time it seemed that family were in the best position to organise the service, but with a built-in advocate for Anthony.

We were able to:

1. Structure a planning and monitoring process to protect Anthony's interests;
2. Enable the family to organise flexible and appropriate supports;
3. Help the family take day-to-day control of the service;
4. Give Anthony and those close to him must more control over his life.

These Services have provided real advantages to individuals, families and purchasers. While they might seem to involve more complexity in the contractual arrangements necessary to put these arrangements in place, this in fact is a small price to pay for increased flexibility and improved decision-making processes.