

StCHRISTOPHER'S CREATING BRIGHTER FUTURES

Our Philosophy of Care

Providing safety, security and consistency for our children, young people and each other

We believe in the potential of all to grow and develop within a safe and nurturing environment. We believe the most powerful way of doing this is through creating warm, authentic, patient, and reliable relationships within which people feel safe, seen and accepted for all that they are. We are curious about people and their inner worlds.

We seek to avoid actions or responses that frighten or hurt others and instead act in ways that feel right and comfortable for them.

We do not give up. We let people feel our compassion. We act with honesty and courage, in ways that foster trust. Our actions and decisions are always made with the people who they affect in mind. We try to involve people in decisions, and when that is not possible we seek to help everyone understand what is expected of them, what is going to happen and why.

Offering good quality of life, meaningful and respectful human connections

We believe all humans are unique. We build relationships that help us to understand a person's potential, qualities, needs, strengths and interests. We create opportunities for learning and fun, in which individuals can experience their resourcefulness and develop new abilities.

We help people to learn through doing things together. We neither try to do everything for them nor to them. We remain alongside people as a guide, through the process of their own growth and take time to celebrate moments along the way.

We are honest when we have got something wrong. We will reconnect and repair, say sorry, learn from our mistakes and move forward.

Sharing responsibility to build relationships and networks with the external professional network and wider community of support

We see people not as isolated individuals but as existing in a rich web of relationships, all of which contribute to who they are and how they see themselves. We help people to access the resources within their network, being an advocate, partner and guide when needed.

We believe that when we work together and hold children and young people at the heart of this work, we are better at supporting children and young people to be able to live well. Collaboration, inclusivity and creativity guides our work with the entire relational community. We want to create a sense of 'we are all in this together!'

Working towards a united social purpose

We will make a positive difference to society and contribute to creating a fair, just and sustainable world that children and young people feel hopeful about.

We know that society's systems do not work for an increasing number of people who despite their talent and potential face challenges that make it harder for them to thrive. We will partner with people to challenge the world as it is and impacts them. Where this is not possible, we will advocate for them and to amplify their voices.

We have a responsibility to fight racism, discrimination and promote equity in all that we do.

Recognising the unique worth and contribution of every individual

All people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. We are committed to equality, human rights and participation. We value people's rich variety of knowledge, abilities, perspectives and backgrounds, knowing they give us a richer understanding of the world and one another. We listen to and accept others, and we are open to their view of us.

We are flexible in our interactions with each person, recognising that there is no one approach which fits for all, at all times.

We see individuals as competent and resourceful. We seek out the strengths of people in whatever context they are encountered to help them and others experience themselves in this way too. We see the

diamond in all and help them to see it in themselves too. We make efforts to share power and give people a strong voice in decision making that impacts them.

A belief that individuals are experts in themselves and their experiences

We show interest, curiosity and respect to all, creating honest and open relationships. We listen deeply to people's experiences and use what we learn to reflect on and improve our own practice and that of the organisation and wider system as a whole.

When we have a problem to solve we ask for help from people who have lived experience of it. We recognise the importance of empowerment for ensuring that people feel a sense of control over their life. We seek to support people to empower themselves to make decisions, choices, set their own goals and to be supported in achieving them.

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Caring for children and young people since 1870

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