



## What is a Circle of Support?

A Circle of Support is a way of connecting the person who owns the person-centred plan to their community.

A group of people, known to the person, volunteer to support them to identify things they would like to achieve or change in their life.

## Why is a Circle of Support important in Person-Centred Planning?

Circles of support:

- ✓ foster and maintain relationships, and back up natural support networks
- ✓ encourage creative thinking, problem solving, positive risk-taking and accountability
- ✓ promote autonomy and independence
- ✓ support community participation and active citizenship
- ✓ provide opportunities for shared celebration.



## Who is in a Circle of Support?



The person who owns the person-centred plan is at the centre of the circle and should decide who will be part of their Circle of Support.

A Circle of Support is usually made up of four to eight people.

The Circle of Support should be broader than staff and family members.

At the start, staff or family members may act as facilitators.

They should pass on their skills to the circle over time and step back.

