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Child Aware Approaches

Recognising and implementing child aware principles
and practice

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Workshop Outline

- Background to Child Aware Approaches (CAA)
- Methodology of the report
- CAA Philosophies
- CAA Principles
- Uniting Care Wesley Country SA presentation
- Group Activity
- Questions and conclusion



Background

- Background to CAA
- Broader CAA Initiatives
- Purpose of our paper – *The Good Practice Guide to Child Aware Approaches: Keeping Children Safe and Well.*



Methodology of the report

- Thematic analysis
- Literature search
- Development of CAA principles
- Case studies
- Consultation with the Child Aware Approaches Reference Group



Definition and philosophies of Child Aware Approaches

Child Aware Approaches are community-led, innovative and practical, grassroots actions to keep children safe and well

Child Aware Approaches are:

- ◆ family-sensitive;
- ◆ child-inclusive;
- ◆ strengths-based;
- ◆ collaborative; and
- ◆ culturally competent.



Principles of Child Aware Approaches

- Family-sensitive:
 - ◆ Principle 1. Identify and respond to the needs of adults who are parents.
 - ◆ Principle 2. Acknowledge and build on family strengths while responding to family stressors and risk factors for child abuse and neglect.



Principles of Child Aware Approaches

- Child-inclusive:
 - ◆ Principle 3. Understand and apply knowledge of children's needs at each stage of their physical, cognitive, emotional and social development.
 - ◆ Principle 4. Recognise and be sensitive to each child's unique perspective and experience.
 - ◆ Principle 5. Include children as active participants in decisions that affect them.
 - ◆ Principle 6. Promote child-safe environments.



Principles of Child Aware Approaches

- Strengths-based:
 - ◆ Principle 7. Enable parents by promoting their parenting role as a motivator for positive change.
 - ◆ Principle 8. Build children's resilience by addressing their vulnerabilities and promoting effective, consistent caregiving.



Principles of Child Aware Approaches

- Collaborative:
 - ◆ Principle 9. Develop and maintain connections between adult-focused services and child- and family-focused services.
- Culturally competent:
 - ◆ Principle 10. Understand cultural influences on family and parenting practices and respond in a culturally sensitive way.



Case study

- Uniting Care Wesley Country SA (UCWCSA) presentation



Group Activity – Practice Considerations

- How are you currently doing this in your practice or organisation?
- In an ideal scenario, how would this principle be implemented?
- What are some barriers or challenges to implementing this principle in your practice or organisation?



Conclusion and questions



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