

Tool 17: Interprofessional practice

This tool helps you reflect how to bring an intersectional lens to interprofessional practice. It will help you reflect on the different perspectives other professionals bring, and how you can give a complete picture of a person with all the intersecting elements of identity and experience, to ensure their situated knowledge and voice is heard.

Look at the examples of Maggie, Pra and Jack below.

The first exercise is an individual exercise, and the second exercise can be done in a multiagency setting.

1. For one of them, or for each, consider the following:

- > Which professionals and agencies would you be in contact with about Maggie, Pra or Jack?
- > How might the person or people you talk to in each agency view Maggie, Pra or Jack?
- > How might their situated knowledge impact on their understanding of Maggie, Pra or Jack to create a partial or distorted picture?
- > How can you help to ensure that Maggie, Pra or Jack's situated knowledge and voice is central so that they have a complete picture and are part of a holistic response?

2. In a multiagency setting, consider the following:

- > How might we each view Maggie, Pra or Jack?
- > How might our situated knowledge impact on our understanding of Maggie, Pra or Jack to create a partial or distorted picture?
- > How can we work together to help to ensure that Maggie, Pra or Jack's situated knowledge and voice is central so that we have a complete picture and are part of a holistic response?

Examples:

Jack's voice

I live here with my mum but it's just for now. As soon as I can I will move out. Everyone here knows me and they think they know who I am.

I want to move near my friends and get a job. I want to make films. Or music. Mum is worried because I have a 'learning disability' and a 'hearing impairment'. But I was fine at college.

I miss my friends and I might want a girlfriend.

In the village there is just a shop and a pub but I don't go in there. I am old enough but I don't like the people. They act like they have never seen a Trans person before.

Also the people that know me from before get my name wrong. And my pronouns.

My mum worries but it isn't her decision what I do. People shouldn't act like I don't know what I am doing.

I really don't want to stay here.

Maggie's voice

I live with my dog Bailey. I used to live here with Sue.

Sue is, was, my dear friend. My partner, really, though I never liked that word. I don't think it tells everything about her. I always said Sue was my friend.

We lived together for 22 years and then she died. It was a heart attack in January 2020. Just before Covid, so that was that year.

I was older than Sue and she brought home the money. She worked in the library, well, she had a degree. I came to England from Cork when I was 17. So it was because of Sue that I have this house with no mortgage and have some savings. For a rainy day, Sue said.

I haven't been back to Cork since the 90s. I've family there.

Sue's nephew Rob is a dear man. He lives a few hours away and he is busy. But he rings every month and visits every few months, though not during the Covid of course. Rob sorted out everything after Sue died.

I have friends. A lot of people were friends with Sue. And there are the neighbours and people I know from town. There is a local Irish club and church of course. But I don't go. There'd be too many questions about it all, about Sue and home.

I haven't told anyone before now but I am worried that I am losing track of things. I have forgotten a lot and I keep mixing things up. I went to the GP and had some tests. I'm waiting to find out, and to be honest, I am terrified. I just want to get myself together.

Pra's voice

My name is Pra. My parents are Ghanaian. I have been in England for 20 years or more. I came here for work. Yes I had a visa. But then I stayed. I stayed with friends.

I grew up speaking English at school. It is not how I think though.

I know that I am ill. I would feel better if I had somewhere to live. For two years now I have not had a place. I get some money on the street and I get meals the Soup Kitchen.

I try not to smoke or drink too much. I have little money and it makes me ill. I need better food and sleep. I am not well. I see things sometimes and I hear things. I have been in hospital before.

The church and the shopping centre are the best places to be. There is less chance of trouble there.

People sometimes ask if I want help. They stop and talk. I think they feel bad. I don't see the use. I went to the Council and they said I needed care but the care people said I needed housing. And they said it was my choice to be on the street. Nobody chooses this.

I keep away from the Police. I keep quiet.

You may find these thoughts from those who took part in the Change Project helpful:

'I am in a joint social care and health role, and one of the things I have noticed is how there is much more we need to do to ensure health colleagues are also exploring these issues and that we take opportunities to tackle them together. The health model by nature ends up putting people in boxes and I think we can use our learning to influence others in our partnerships.'