

Local Area Coordination – What We Believe

*The principles below guide the development and operation of Local Area Coordination in supporting **children and adults (and their families)** with disabilities, mental health issues, older people and their families to stay strong, connected and contributing as valued local citizens:*

1. People who have a disability, older people and people with mental health needs have the same rights and responsibilities as all other people to being a valued, contributing part of the community.

What we believe

- Everyone has a contribution to make to society.
- Everyone should get the opportunity to make a contribution to society.
- Everyone should be able to take their own risks to lead good lives.
- Having a disability, mental health needs or being older should not stop people getting where they want to be in life
- All people should have access to education, training, employment, leisure, community life.
- Community connectedness is essential for a good life.
- **Segregating, isolation, marginalisation** of people with a disability, older people and people with mental health needs can be damaging
- Joining in with the community provides opportunities for people to make a good contribution
- For everyone, rights come with responsibilities.

2. People with a disability, mental health needs and older people, with the support of their families, are able to say what their own needs and goals are and to plan for the future. This could be on their own or supported through self advocacy

What we believe

- Families are the most important and long lasting support for a person with a disability, older people and people with mental health needs.

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- Families generally want what is best for each family member.
- Families, friends and supportive relationships are a **positive and enduring safeguard** for all people.
- Brothers and sisters can often help to support other siblings.
- When resources and supports are chosen and controlled by the person and/or their family, they are more likely to fit in well with family life.
- Everyone has a desire to follow their dreams and develop trusting relationships.
- **All people need other people.**

3. Families, friends and personal networks help people have a meaningful life in the community

What we believe:

- Involvement in family life helps individuals have a healthy and full life.
- Friendships can help individuals to become an active part of the community.
- Involvement in friendships, groups and community life helps people to have an important role in the community
- Families can gather information and learn from other families.
- Families offer a long lasting commitment, support, security, love, belonging and a values base.

4. Support for people should be planned with individuals and others important to them, including their family.

What we believe:

- People with a disability, older people and people with mental health needs and their families have a legitimate authority for advocacy and leadership which comes from their involvement in disability issues
- Leadership, decision making and advocacy are most effective when they are based on natural (legitimate) authority.

5. Accessible information helps people to make decisions that are right for them and to get more control over their lives.

What we believe:

- Information is a powerful tool when making decisions.
- Accurate and timely information is essential for good decision-making.
- Everyone can get control of their lives when they have real choices and can make decisions for the future.
- People with a disability, older people and people with mental health needs and their families get information and advice from lots of different places
- People receive and look at information in different ways. Important information should be available in different ways e.g. easy read, audio, through connections with other people with similar lived experience

6. Communities are improved by the inclusion and participation of people with a disability, older people and people with mental health needs, and these communities are the most important way of providing friendship, support and a meaningful life to people with disabilities and their families and carers.

What we believe:

- Society is improved when all citizens are allowed to give their knowledge, skills, creativity and opinions.
- Communities need to become more aware of the rights, strengths, contribution, needs and goals of all people.

7. The lives of people with a disability, older people and people with mental health needs and their families are improved when they can decide on their preferred supports and services and have control



over this. Individuals should be the ones making decisions about their lives.

What we believe:

- Individuals and families are best placed to look at people's changing needs and goals.
- All people get a greater sense of control when they are directly involved in decision making about their lives.
- All people get a greater sense of security when they have some control over the resources they need to live their lives.

8. Services provided by government, council and community organisations should work with, and support the role of, families, carers and communities in achieving a good life for people with a disability, older people and people with mental health needs.

What we believe:

- Families have their own resources to meet needs and to follow dreams.
- Additional supports and services may be needed by people with a disability, older people and people with mental health needs and their families to meet needs and follow their goals.

9. Partnerships with individuals, families and carers, communities, statutory partners, governments, service providers and the business sector are very important when looking at the needs of people with disabilities, older people and people with mental health needs:

What we believe:

- Resources, supports and services should complement the natural resources available to people with a disability, older

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people and people with mental health needs and their families.

10. People with a disability, older people and people with mental health needs are citizens and are able to learn, develop and contribute.

What we believe:

Everyone in society should be credited with the capacity to grow, develop and make a contribution to the world around them.



