

PATH Outline

An introduction to PATH

What is PATH?

- Forward looking
- Establishes vision and goals
- Very positive

PATH is a very positive process, which always looks forward – spending no time on the past or the ‘nightmare.’

PATH allows visioning, goal setting and ensures enrolment. It can be used for planning with individuals or organisations.

"Path is a way for diverse people, who share a common problem or situation to align ... their purposes ... their understanding of their situation and its possibilities for hopeful action ... their action for change, mutual support, personal and team development and learning." Jack Pearpoint, John O'Brien and Marsha Forest (1992)

PATH works well when an individual has a group of people around him/her who are committed to making things happen. The PATH process enables people to understand and take control of the situation.

PATH can be used when a situation is complex and will require concerted action, engaging other people and resources, over a longish period in order to make an important vision real. Pearpoint J, O'Brien J and Forest M, 'PATH: A workbook for planning positive, possible futures' Toronto Inclusion Press. www.inclusive-solutions.com/pcplanning.as



PATH can be a very powerful method of encouraging focused listening, creative thinking and alliance building

PATH Outline An introduction to PATH *continued*

PATH is forward looking / establishes vision and goals / ensures enrolment and is very positive



When to use PATH

Experience and research show that PATH can make a **significant impact** to the lives of people when used imaginatively and with a commitment to person-centeredness.

Used well, with enthusiasm and commitment, this tool can be an excellent way of planning with people of all ages who might otherwise find it difficult to plan their lives, or who feel that other people and services are planning their lives for them.

Person centred thinking and planning is founded on the premise that genuine listening contains an implied promise to take action. Unless what is learned about how the person wishes to live, and where they wish to go in their lives is recorded and **acted upon**, any planning will have been a waste of time, and more importantly a betrayal of the person and the trust they have placed in those who have planned with them. This is very relevant if the PATH has been used with a young person. Ongoing reviews **MUST** be set up so that follow up action can be checked and supported as necessary.

