



Chronologies

Adult Services
Practitioner's Guidance

Learning Outcomes

Participants will:

- **Understand the role and function of single and multi-agency chronologies**
- **Be able to identify the events that should be included in chronologies**
- **Be familiar with the practitioner guidance.**
- **Be able to both compile and analyse chronology information to assist their professional decision-making.**

Definitions of a chronology

- *'A list in date order of all the major changes and events in a person's life.'*
- Fact, not opinion.
- *A chronology seeks to provide a clear account of all significant events in a person's life to date, drawing upon the knowledge and information held by agencies involved*
- *'The purpose of a chronology is early indication of emerging patterns of concern.'*

Angus Council Adult Services Practitioner's Guidance

- Sets out to provide minimum standards
- Describes a consistent approach to collating, sharing and exchanging information
- Enables the identification and consideration of needs, patterns and risks

Information Sharing





- “A Single Agency Chronology provides a brief description and summarised account of events in date order. It should be used as an analytical tool to assist in the understanding of the impact of life events and to inform decision making.
- “An Integrated Chronology is produced as part of a specific multi agency intervention and will include only information extracted from Single Agency Chronologies that is relevant and proportionate to support that intervention”.

What is a Chronology?

- A chronology is a **record** of the significant events, circumstances & milestones in the person's life including key agency involvements



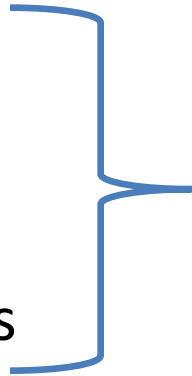
- It is a **tool** to help practitioners consider and understand the impact, both immediate and cumulative, on the person's well-being and changes in the person's life and to identify patterns of potential risk of harm

What is the purpose?

- Done effectively it keeps the service user at the centre of what we do
- Helps to identify risks, patterns and issues. It aids understanding of the immediate or cumulative impact of events
- It helps link past and present - how historic events impact on current events
- Can highlight seemingly unrelated events or information
- Can improve sharing and understanding of information across agencies
- Informs decision making

What should be included?

- Concerns
- Events,
- Incidents,
- Milestones



- Should only include information that is:
- Relevant
- Necessary
- Legitimate
- Appropriate
- Proportionate

What is a Significant Event?

- Professional Judgement
- Changes that Impact
- Positive or Negative impact

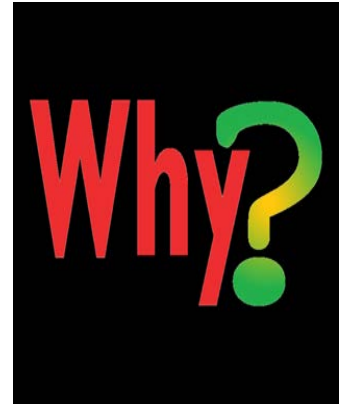




- Chronologies Can:

- Be extremely important in identifying critical events
- Assist practitioners in decision making
- Provide practitioners with a useful, holistic history of significant events
- Demonstrate the effectiveness, or otherwise, of previous interventions, involvements and support.
- Be a valuable tool by which to consider the immediate cumulative impact on an adult, both in the short term and in the longer term.
- Enable any additional needs to be identified

Start Again syndrome



“A common theme from many of the reviews was that there was a tendency to ‘start again’ and not give sufficient weight to what had already been known about the individual and the family.”

Integrated Chronology of Significant Events

Name:

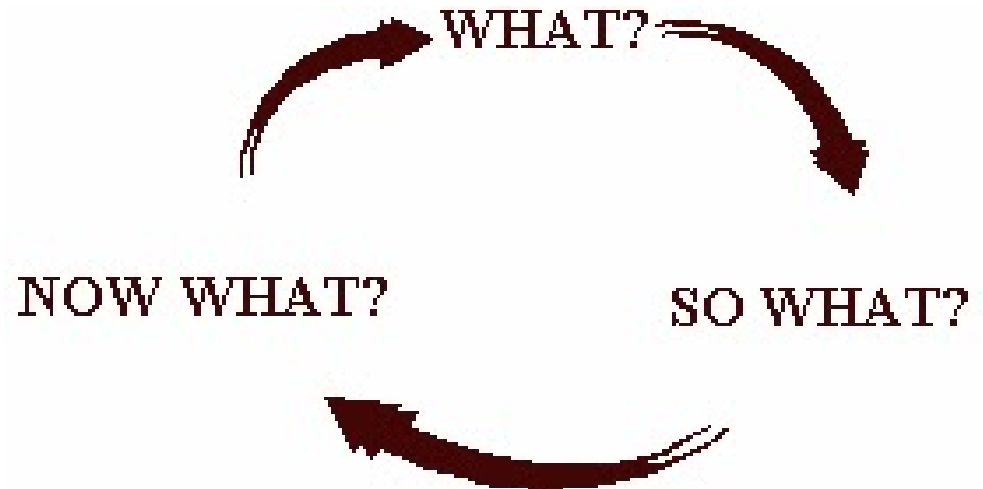
DOB:

The purpose of this chronology is to record the significant events (positive and negative) that have had, or continue to have, significance to the **adult's wellbeing**. The impact column primarily focuses on the impact of each event on the adult's well-being; however an event may have an impact on others and these should be recorded in this column

Date of Event	Significant Event	Source	Impact	Outcome	Entered By Name & Agency	Date of Entry



mpact



(Outward Bound) from Burton in
'Reach, Touch and Teach'

SO WHAT?

- Mr Ogilvie received a date for his surgery
- Mr. Ogilvie is the main carer for his wife and is really worried that this will mean his wife will have to go into residential care again.

SO WHAT?

- Mrs T. has deteriorating mental health.
- Mrs T suffers from anxiety and depression and is prescribed medication from her psychiatrist. Due to her condition she is sometimes anxious and unable to leave the home to go shopping or attend appointments with her husband for whom she is main carer.

What can it be used for?

It can be used:

- As part of an assessment process
- To identify needs, risks and/or resilience;
- As part of a planning process to meet needs and risk;
- As part of a review process to identify improvement, outcomes or otherwise;
- As part of a case file audit and/or review process to identify good practice;
- As part of a significant case review and/or inquiry; and
- As a requirement for taking forward a child or young person towards permanence, both for presenting to the permanency panel and for the legal process.

Chronologies Must Be

- Factual
- Accurate
- Current
- Evidence-based
- In a neutral language, suitable for all to read and understand
- Presented in time and date order, earliest first
- Succinct – no more than two lines
- In the agreed typed format.

What it is not



- A detailed case recording
- A diary or a list of dates
- An assessment - but is part of an assessment
- Not a substitute for good recording
- An end in itself

It does not replace

- individual practitioner professional judgment, knowledge, skills and/or simple gut feeling;
- direct discussion between practitioners, both intra and inter-agency;
- joint partnership working;
- early identification, intervention and support;
- assessment and planning

Good Practice



- Commence at the start of involvement in a case
- Enter information as it occurs
- Reference where more detail can be found
- Name and title of person entering information should be recorded

Questions

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