TOOLKIT: What to do and not to do (before, during & after the training)?



Teamwork and Collaboration

DO's	DON'Ts
 Create a strong team - where people feel safe and supported 	 Don't rely too heavily on the same individuals
 Aim to involve different experts by experience - from the start 	 Don't bring experts by experience in late
 Give choices about roles and the way people participate 	 Don't decide things without experts by experience being there
 Build in extra time - longer meetings, clear paperwork, catch ups etc. 	 Don't assume everybody wants to be involved in everything
 Check in often - does everybody understand, are they happy with their role? 	 Don't exclude the experiences of people with higher needs
 Consider using groups or teams who already work together, know and trust each other. 	 Don't allow individuals to feel on their own or under pressure on the day
 Be clear about expectations and roles on the day 	 Don't let individuals feel responsible for letting people down
 Where possible, deliver training as a team e.g. co- trainers 	 Don't 'drop' people after the training course is over
 Have a Plan B if somebody has to drop out or leave early on the day 	
 De-brief with team members soon after training sessions 	
Give and discuss feedback from training	



Confidence building and support

DO's	DON'Ts
Get to know the people you work with as individuals	 Don't assume what support individuals might want or need
 Build on people's strengths – what do they enjoy doing, what are they good at and what helps their confidence? 	 Don't assume people are familiar with your technology and platforms
 Offer a mixture of support options e.g., peer support, 1- 2-1 or in a group 	 Don't assume with Zoom/online works for everyone
Offer help with technology as needed	 Don't use jargon, unclear language or overwhelm people with paperwork
 Allow plenty of preparation time – build in time to rehearse talks and presentations 	Don't rush training
 Make sure people feel confident and supported travellingto and from the training venue 	 Don't allow people to share more than they feel comfortable with
 Allow plenty of time on the day – for relaxed delivery 	 Don't forget people – they may want involvement or need support at different times
Have a co-trainer - somebody who can provide support	
 Offer an interview format or a pre-prepared Q&A session 	
 Give/share feedback and build on positives 	
Keep in regular contact with team members	
 Offer regular training opportunities – to keep skills fresh and confidence high 	



DO's	DON'Ts
 Ensure people know what to expect eg what is their role, how long will meetings/training be, what support and training is offered. 	 Don't put people in training who are not prepared
 Be clear about payment or reward options – offer choices 	 Don't allow stories to be shared outside the training - unless permission is granted
 Ensure systems work and will pay/deliver fees/ vouchers etc promptly 	 Don't make people wait for out-of-pocket expenses or fees
 Ensure people know that getting involved will not affect the services/care or benefits they/their relative gets 	 Don't allow/create anxiety about payment and impact on benefits
 Help person clarify in advance how much of their personal experience/life individuals want to share 	 Don't drop people once training is over
 Nurture individual aspirations – where do they want to be, do they want this role to lead to other things? 	
Ensure people feel listened to and respected throughout	
 Ensure people have the opportunity to stop/pause/debrief 	
 Make sure the system in place pays people promptly 	
Give feedback on impact of training – including their role	
 Be aware of what is happening in people's lives – signpost to other services where appropriate 	



DO's	DON'Ts
Have regular team meet ups before and after training	Don't be serious all the time
Offer tea and biscuits or lunch	Don't rush training
 Allow time for socialising and chatting with course participants 	 Don't cut out the socialising – or the snacks
 Informal sessions— where people share experiences are more enjoyable and less stressful 	 Don't think training has to be perfect
 Have meet ups for socialising/ just for fun e.g. lunches, trips to pub 	

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