VIDEO SUMMARY

In the KESCA practitioner learning video on the Do’s and Don’ts of Care Leaver Engagement, Ruth Wacuka discusses what makes engagement meaningful for Care Leavers and what makes it tokenistic, and in the worst cases, exploitative. Ruth makes a number of concrete suggestions throughout the video of practices organizations should encourage and those they should avoid. This covers a range of aspects of engagement including agenda setting, agreements, use of images and identity.

ABOUT THE CHECKLIST

This checklist has been compiled to:

a. Provide you with a summary of the do’s and don’ts organised around the key aspects of engagement discussed in this video;

b. Pose questions that will help you reflect on your organization’s engagement practices and how they aid or inhibit meaningful engagement;

c. Encourage you to identify some priority areas where Care Leaver engagement practices could be enhanced and brainstorm ideas.

CHECKLIST

1. Agenda Setting

- [x] Don’t limit participation to story telling
- [x] Don’t present Care Leavers with ready made plans
- [ ] Do ensure Care Leavers are at the decision-making table
- [ ] Do involve Care Leavers in agenda setting
- [ ] Do engage Care Leavers in bottom up planning processes
Reflecting on Practice:

Does Care Leaver participation extend to involvement in key decision-making processes?

- Consistently
- Sometimes
- Rarely

Describe your practice:

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

Are Care Leavers involved in setting the agendas of events, initiatives, programs or forums in which they participate?

- Consistently
- Sometimes
- Rarely

Describe your practice:

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Are bottom-up planning processes facilitated to ensure Care Leavers are able to meaningfully engage in the design and organization of events, programs or other initiatives they participate in?

- Consistently
- Sometimes
- Rarely

Describe your practice:

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2. Agreements

- Don’t put unreasonable pressure on Care Leavers to sign agreements stipulating the terms of participation

- Do give ample time for Care Leavers to consider the terms, seek support, ask questions, provide feedback on any agreements that require signing.
Reflecting on Practice:

?q? Are Care Leavers given ample time and support to consider the terms of any agreements they are asked to sign and opportunities to provide feedback or request changes?

☐ Consistently  ☐ Sometimes  ☐ Rarely

Describe your practice:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

?q? Is participation conditional on signing agreements?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Describe your practice:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. Use of Images

☒ Don't use images of Care leavers without their consent
☒ Don't make participation conditional on giving consent for the use of images

☑ Do respect all Care Leavers’ right to privacy
☑ Do seek informed consent for the use of images and contributions
☑ Do give Care Leavers the option of stipulating the terms of use of their images and contributions
☑ Do seek consent for each engagement. Consent given today is not consent for forever

Reflecting on Practice:

?q? Is informed consent sought before using the images or stories of Care Leavers?

☐ Consistently  ☐ Sometimes  ☐ Rarely

Describe your practice:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Is participation conditional on consenting to the use of images and sharing of information?

- Yes
- No

Describe your practice:

Are Care Leavers given the opportunity to stipulate their own terms regarding how and when their images are used, under what conditions and with what limitations applied?

- Consistently
- Sometimes
- Rarely

Describe your practice:

Are Care Leavers given the opportunity to stipulate their own terms regarding how and when their images are used, under what conditions and with what limitations applied?

- Consistently
- Sometimes
- Rarely

Describe your practice:

4. Identity

- Don’t assume care experience is the sum total of a Care Leaver’s life experience or expertise
- Don’t limit Care Leavers’ contributions to their care experiences, assuming that is the only contribution they are able to make.

- Do recognise other skills and expertise held by Care Leavers
- Do frame care experience as a basis for expertise, not a lifelong identity
- Do be mindful of labelling. Discuss preferred use of terms ‘Care Experienced’ or ‘Care Leaver’.
Does your organization actively encourage Care Leavers to contribute in a diversity of ways, utilising the full range of skills and experiences they may have? (i.e. not limiting participation to bringing a care experienced perspective or storytelling?)

- Consistently
- Sometimes
- Rarely

Describe your practice:

Does your organization regularly consult with Care Leavers and seek input on preferred terms, language and framing to avoid labelling or stereotyping?

- Consistently
- Sometimes
- Rarely

Describe your practice:

Identify priorities for enhancing meaningful engagement of Care Leavers in your organization and practice

1. Areas where we could change our practice/s

2. Areas where we could improve our practice/s

3. New ideas we could adopt or include in our practice