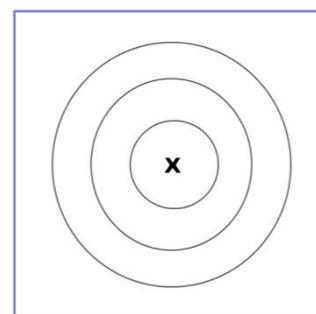


Evaluation Method: Relationship Map

Overview

Relationship maps are a way of understanding friendship networks and relationships. They could be used to evaluate outcomes such as: (service users) are less isolated OR have wider peer support networks



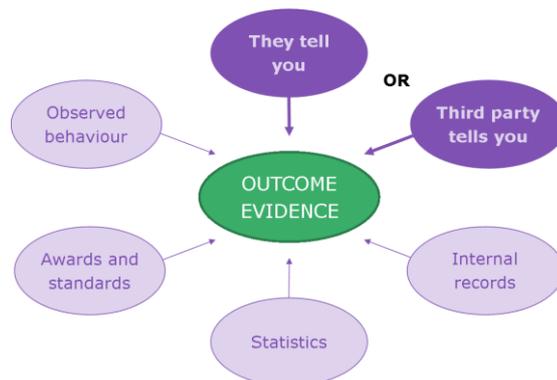
What's required

- blank relationship map & paper to take notes
- sticky dots / pen
- time: approximately 30minutes – 1 hour

Process

In a 1:1 meeting give your service user a blank relationship map and some sticky dots or a pen. Tell them the X in the centre represents them and ask them to mark (with the dots or a pen) the people in their lives and label them. The closer the mark is to the X, the closer the relationship. Then ask questions, such as:

- Are you happy with this situation? If not, how do you want it to change?
- Are there any relationships that you would like to be different?



By doing this when the person first comes to your service, you will find out their baseline. File the completed baseline map and any notes.

At a later date ask the person to complete another map. Compare with the baseline map and discuss any changes. You may want to ask:

- Has our service helped you to meet new people?
- Why have some people have moved to a different circle?
- Are you happy with any changes?

Capturing evidence

The maps themselves are evidence. You can also take notes of your discussions. If you are working with several people, you can add up the number of clients who had more social connections on their second map and then produce an anonymised map as an example.

Useful for

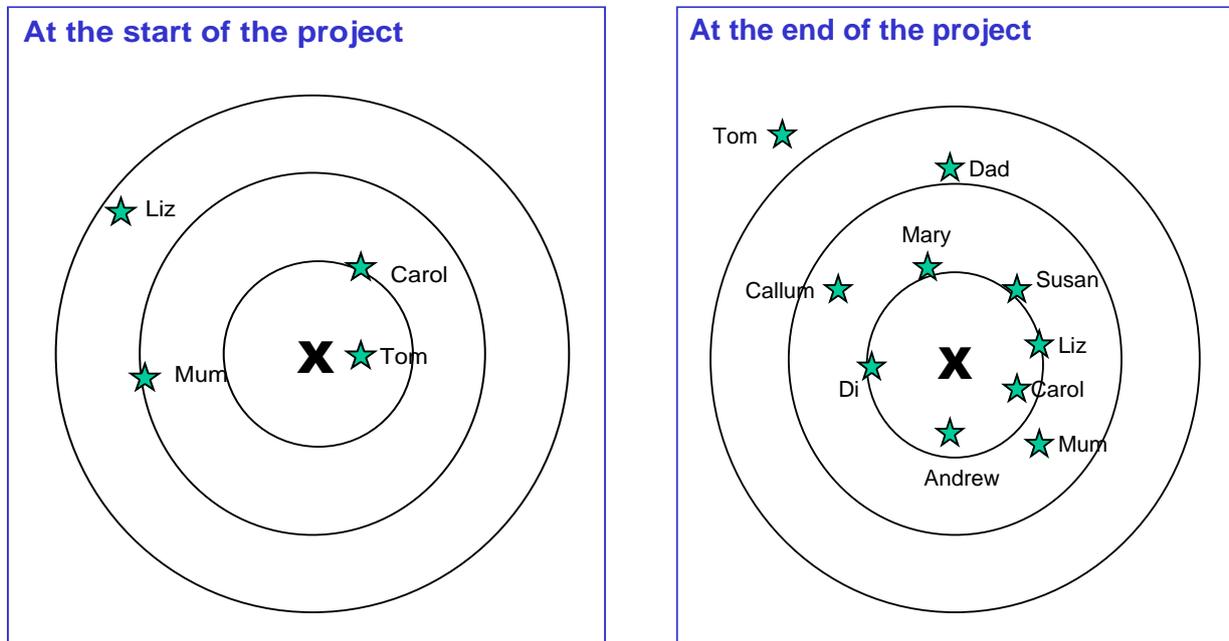
- Collecting in-depth qualitative information.
- Working with people with literacy or language differences.
- Linking evaluation to person-centred work.



Example

This is an example made up by Evaluation Support Scotland.

The images below are adapted from The Relationship Map developed by Personal Futures Planning and Circles of Friendship inspired by Judith Snow.



You can see that, in this made up example, the client reported an increase in the number of relationships they have.

It is also notable that they are no longer as close to "Tom" as they were. It is important to check why this is and how they feel about it – don't just rely on your instinctive interpretation. It is possible they have fallen out with him, or it may be that their relationship with Tom was unhealthy (eg he is their personal assistant and it was inappropriate they he used to be the person they felt closest to, or he may have been their drug dealer).

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