

Tier 4 - Part B: Reflections of our Working Together

Before moving into putting the plan for your next steps into action, at this point in the implementation planning process it is an invaluable opportunity to take a few moments to reflect on your collective experience of working together. Below are some discussion starter questions which you may find helpful to facilitate reflection on the process, learnings and perhaps any unexpected benefits of coming together as a group to collaborate, share insights and information, identify key priorities you wish to address through the implementation of a service model for families in your area, and the adaptations you intend to implement and evaluate.

- ❖ **What did we gain through this experience of working together?** This may be as an individual or as a collective group.
- ❖ **What were the benefits of our group coming together, representing various perspectives** of a range of stakeholders in our community?
- ❖ **What did we learn from one another?** What did we learn through this process?
- ❖ **Did we lose anything along the way?** Were there voices missing that would have been important to hear?
- ❖ **Would we do anything differently** if we had this opportunity over again?
- ❖ **Do we need to invite others to participate** in the next phase of implementation and evaluation of the service model we have adapted to meet our community's needs? **Do some of our group need to step aside given other obligations** (acknowledging their important contribution to this work and the outcomes that will be achieved).
- ❖ **Have there been any unexpected benefits** of working together in this way? If so, how can we harness these as we continue to work to improve the experiences and outcomes for children and their families in our community?
- ❖ **Are there leaders (within services or our community) with whom we would like to share the insights gained** through this process, to highlight the gains achieved by coming together as a collective representing various stakeholders within our community? If yes, consider putting together a brief summary to showcase your work. This may also assist in gaining additional support and resources as you put your implementation and evaluation plan into action.
- ❖ **Are there other projects that any of the group are involved with that other members could contribute to or support?** New relationships may have been formed, or established relationships strengthened, through participating in this innovative together. There is an opportunity to harness the trust and understandings you have gained through this process. By working together, through collaboration there is an opportunity to support one another, and therefore more effectively support your wider community.
- ❖ **Is there anything else anyone would like to share about the experience of working together** and/or what we learnt about our community? Has this experience been useful to other aspects of your work or life?

It is important to acknowledge the contributions of all members of your CASCADES Working Group, the time and insights they have so generously shared throughout your work together. If you are together in person, you may like to mark this milestone by sharing a meal or afternoon tea together. Or if meeting virtually over video-conference, consider a virtual afternoon tea or another way to show your appreciation for one another and the relationships you have formed.

And then, after this period of reflection, you will be ready to move forward with renewed energy and commitment as you implement and evaluate the strategies you've identified, while always keeping the children of your community central – to support families so children can thrive and ultimately reach their own aspirations and goals.