

The Gateshead Approach to Social Work Practice

It is not one model or 'way to do it'.. it's an overall approach which draws on all the tools, techniques, methods and models from all strength-based, person-centred and system-centred theories...

Gateshead CAN recognises that *practice* and *relationships* have not always been prioritised in social work. We cannot expect Social Workers to be able to improve the lives of vulnerable children unless they have more time for practice... **CAN** emphasises the *positive, creative* and *can-do attitude* that underpins our Social Work practice

Context - the relationships we build with children, families and carers. Their experience of our assessments and interventions.

Our inter-agency partnerships. The homes and communities that people live in. The cultures and systems that shape our practice.

Narrative – what we write, what we hear, what we say, what we choose not to hear and say, who we listen to, how people tell their stories, the questions we ask, how we talk, how people see their lives and experiences in writing, the labels we use.

Action – what we do in practice. How we choose to invest our time. The methods, tools and means we employ to assess and intervene. The recognition that all of our actions have effects and every choice we make forms part of our impact on children and families.

Gateshead CAN: Context, Action, Narrative

Putting the 'social' back into social work