

Social Work Online Team Training (SWOTT) toolkit - facilitator notes

An introduction to trauma-informed practice

LEARNING OBJECT 2: CASE STUDY 3 - AAZAAR

AAZAAR IS INTRODUCED IN LEARNING OBJECT 1

Aazar is an adult Afghan male who is seeking asylum. After arriving in the UK, and following processing at a reception centre, he is accommodated in a hotel with 75 other males. He was provided with a room which he shares with two others. He has access to three meals a day, however, these are mainly based upon White British food. He struggles with the food and the accommodation and declares he is on hunger strike.

THE ROLE OF THE FACILITATOR IS:

- To encourage the social workers to discuss the case study.
- To encourage the social workers to consider the cultural aspects of the case study beyond ethnicity.
- To provide social workers with the opportunity to explore trauma including interventions.



QUESTIONS FROM LEARNING OBJECT 1 (WHICH YOU MIGHT WISH TO ASK AT THE START OF THE GROUP REFLECTION)

- How would you gather the information required for an adult social care assessment?
- Would you consider Aazaar to be traumatised? If so, what brings you to this conclusion?
- Think about how your engagement and assessment methods might retraumatise him and how you might counteract these potential impacts.
- Can you identify how you might apply the 6 principles of trauma-informed practice in your work with Aazaar?

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FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR FACILITATORS TO ASK DURING THE GROUP REFLECTION:

Question: Why do we refer to a person as seeking asylum instead of referring to them as an asylum seeker?

Answer: Wherever possible, we should describe someone as a person seeking asylum and avoid the term “asylum seeker” which is dehumanising.

Question: Given the information you have regarding Aazaar, would you undertake an assessment and, if so, which piece of legislation would this fall under?

Answer: Given that Aazaar has chosen to refuse food and water you might consider a mental health assessment to be necessary (Mental Health Act 1983). You may also consider a social work assessment under the Care Act 2014 to establish if Aazaar has any eligible needs. However, you should bear in mind that he will not be eligible for services until he receives a decision regarding his immigration status from the Home Office.

Question: Consider the White British food which is being offered in the hotel. Do you think this is a breach of Human Rights under the 1998 Act? If you do which Article would you place it under?

Answer: It is certainly an ethical issue which could be regarded as failing to consider religious needs, cultural needs and potentially providing a message of non-acceptance of these requirements and the residents in the hotel. It is debatable whether it is a breach of Human Rights as stipulated in law.

Question: What political messages do you think the current Government are providing to:

1. Those seeking asylum or refugee status in the UK, and
2. The general public in regard to immigration.

Answer: This is clearly a debatable area; however, one answer may be:

1. The processes undertaken upon entering the UK are aimed at discouraging people from coming here. They are based upon punitive and detention ideals that do not take into account or recognise the need to be trauma-led.
2. The Government are aware that immigration in the UK is a hot topic for debate. They inform the public that the hotels are being closed which saves money. They openly discuss the option of sending people to Rwanda which has a poor human rights record. They have a tendency to de-humanise the males and families fleeing persecution or war as this may make it easier to digest their immigration policies.