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PLAN – Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network

Do

Intergenerational Circles of Support set up to create home ownership, independence and relationships for people - without the aid of the state.

Story

PLAN supports families to design living arrangements for their relatives who need support. They base their work on the following principles: (a) loving family relationships, (b) self determination, (c) growing the wealth of the focus person through property ownership

and savings plans (d) contribution – it is better to pay for your own help, as if you don't, then people will be sorry for you. (e) a home of your own, as people in any kind of staffed house are still under surveillance and have to 'wear a mask'. (f) a family-led organisation that can't be taken off you by policy makers, funding cuts or commissioners moving the contract.

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Hints & Hazards

PLAN was developed by Al Etmanski in British Columbia. The organisation makes it a rule to stay smaller than 100 members and split when they reach this number. Intergenerational Circles of Support are formed so that they are not dominated by the parent's generation, to prevent the group collapsing when the parents become frail or die. Circle members sign up for the long term and create support arrangements that are not dependent on state funding, which is insecure and temporary. PLAN's affiliate organisation in Scotland is called Equal Futures

and charges £600 to join and then £14 per hour for facilitation, and they believe that insisting on this kind of personal investment helps families to commit, rather than wait for the state to do everything. This makes the service world supplementary rather than central to the person's life.

For more information see *Etmanski 2000*.