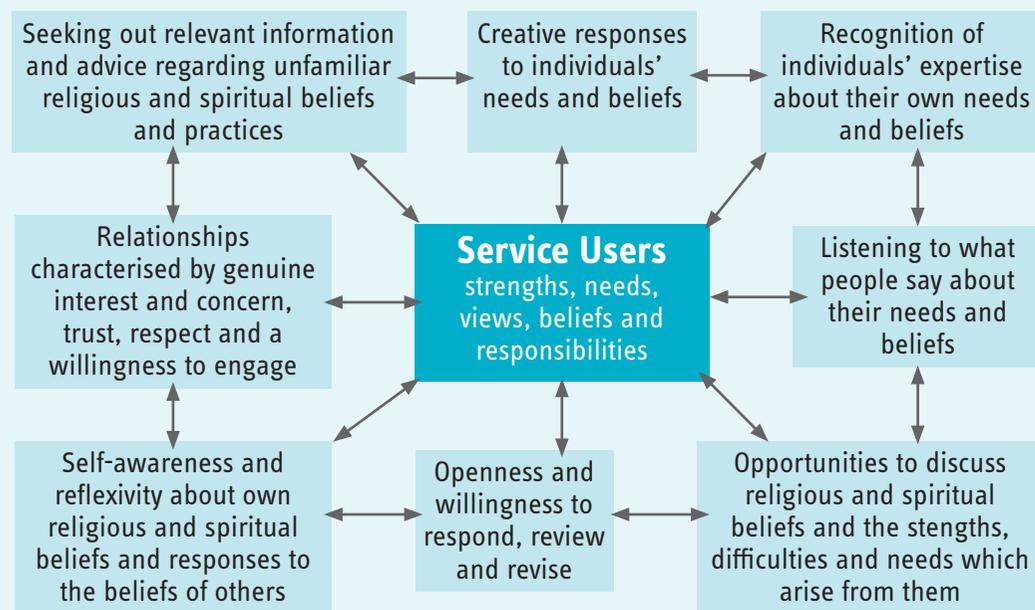


Case study four:

Tool 6 - Principles for reflection on religion and belief

This tool sets out the principles that underpin good social work practice around religion and belief. You can use the questions below to reflect on your practice



1. Are you sufficiently self-aware and reflexive about your own religious and spiritual beliefs or the absence of them and your responses to others?
2. Are you giving the individuals/ groups involved sufficient opportunities to discuss their religious and spiritual beliefs and the strengths, difficulties and needs which arise from them?
3. Are you listening to what they say about their beliefs and the strengths and needs which arise from them?
4. Do you recognise individuals' expertise about their own beliefs and the strengths and needs which arise from them?
5. Are you approaching this piece of practice with sufficient openness and willingness to review and revise your plans and assumptions?
6. Are you building a relationship which is characterised by trust, respect and a willingness to facilitate?
7. Are you being creative in your responses to individuals beliefs and the strengths and needs which arise from them?
8. Have you sought out relevant information and advice regarding any religious and spiritual beliefs and practices which were previously unfamiliar to you?

This tool is based on Furness S and Gilligan P (2010) Social Work, Religion and Belief: Developing a Framework for Practice, British Journal of Social Work, 40 (7), pp 2185-2202