Guidelines for working in partnership with Families

KARE recognises the importance of building positive relationships with families and that a partnership approach will support positive outcomes for their family member with an intellectual disability. KARE also acknowledges that some adults with an intellectual disability may choose not to have their family involved in their day to day life, KARE will respect this choice.

In order to achieve this we will:

work in partnership with families in a way that:
- respects the rights of children and adults with intellectual disability
- respects their family values, lifestyle and culture
- listens to and values what they have to say
- seeks to fully understand their viewpoint
- recognises their changing needs
- seeks to negotiate an outcome that meets the rights and wishes of their family member
- facilitates them to explore solutions to the challenges that arise in relation to their family member
- respects the rights of families to be involved in the design and planning of supports for the individual and the family
- supports the individual to be actively included in their family and community

communicate with and provide information to families in a way that is:
- respectful
- clear and meaningful to them
- honest and open minded
- sensitive of their privacy

facilitate families to be involved in KARE by:
- providing family friendly information on KARE as an organisation
- supporting them to participate them in decision making at different levels of the organisation
- having family member representation on committees and working groups
- having family representation on the Board of Directors of KARE
- involving them in the development of KARE's Strategic Plan
- providing them with the opportunity to give feedback on the supports provided by KARE

facilitate and support families to advocate by:
- offering them information
- facilitating opportunities to meet with other families
- providing opportunities for families to explore current best practice