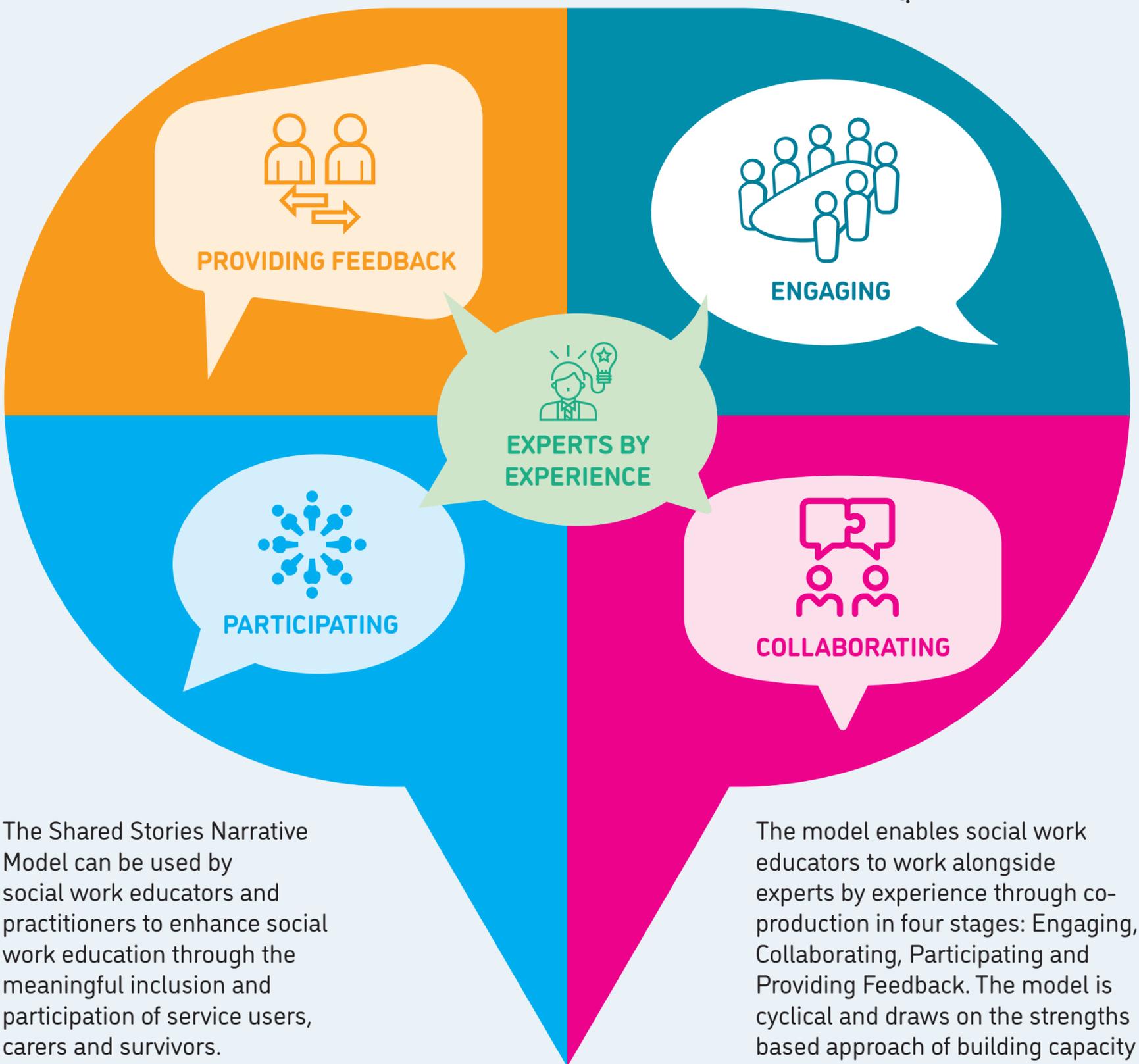


The Shared Stories Narrative Model

A diagrammatic representation of the four key stages within the Shared Stories Narrative Model for Social Work Education with Experts by Experience.



The Shared Stories Narrative Model can be used by social work educators and practitioners to enhance social work education through the meaningful inclusion and participation of service users, carers and survivors.

The model enables social work educators to work alongside experts by experience through co-production in four stages: Engaging, Collaborating, Participating and Providing Feedback. The model is cyclical and draws on the strengths based approach of building capacity and confidence.



The model can be used as an innovative tool for practitioners and social work educators to realise their commitment to co-production and service user involvement.



Engaging (Stage 1) is the starting point and involves building relationships with experts by experience; social work values including respect and choice are central within this. The engaging stage involves working with service users to develop their confidence and self-esteem by embracing a definition of expertise that acknowledges the wisdom of service users, carers and survivors. The engaging stage includes exploration and consideration of the ways in which individuals, and groups want to be involved in social work education and how this can be facilitated and achieved.



Collaborating (Stage 2) is the preparatory stage before working directly with social work students in small groups. This is a collaborative process involving the lecturer, key worker and the expert by experience negotiating and agreeing expectations and boundaries. For example, consent, confidentiality and information sharing. A positive relationship between the lecturer, key worker and expert by experience is essential to discuss and agree what information to share and what not to share. Finally, a case scenario is agreed which reflects the personal narrative (story) of the expert by experience.



Participating (Stage 3) the expert by experience participates directly in interviews with social work students. There are two key elements within the participating stage. Firstly agreeing the expectations of the expert by experience and the boundaries with students within the learning and teaching session through negotiating a group contract. Secondly, the expert by experience shares their narrative with the student group. Social work values are central to this including respect, choice, confidentiality, compassion, and empathy.



Providing Feedback (Stage 4) involves the expert by experience providing constructive feedback to students. This stage offers an opportunity to reflect on and evaluate the skills demonstrated by the students. The expert by experience is encouraged to be open and honest in their feedback. The feedback provided needs to be realistic and balanced by identifying student strengths and areas for future learning. It is important that students are receptive to the feedback and acknowledge their personal learning in relationship building and developing rapport.