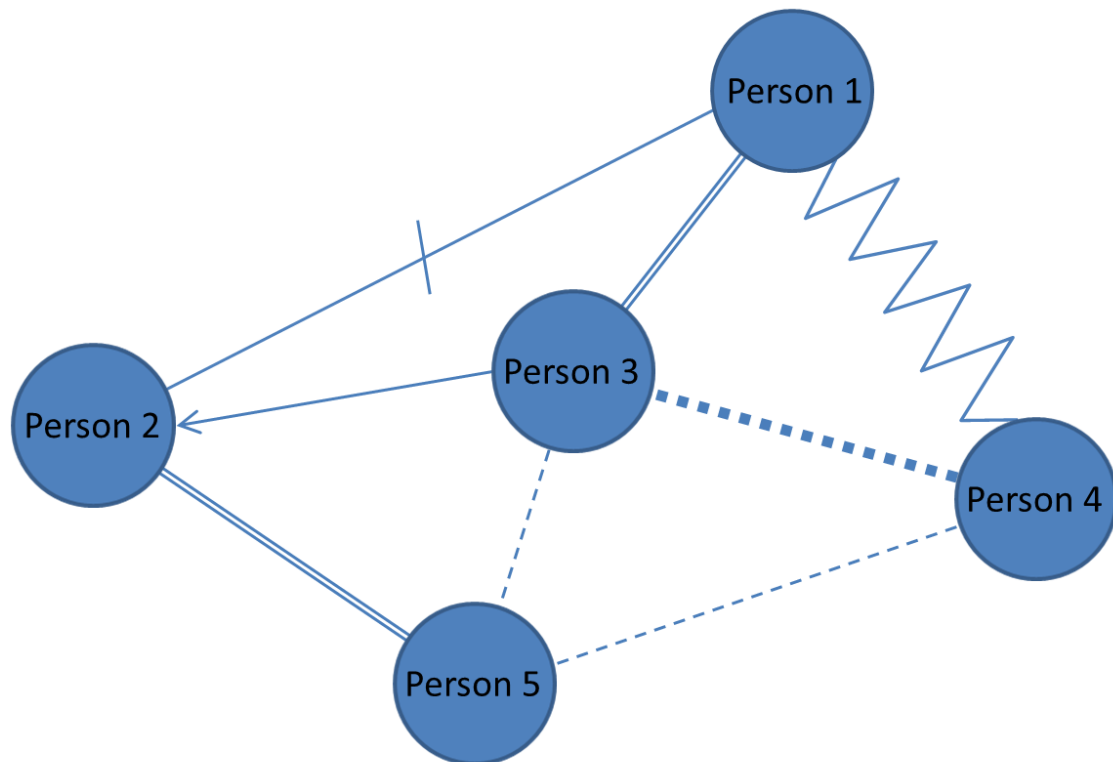








Sociogram

A sociogram is a graphic representation which reveals and analyses the relationships between individuals in a group. It gives information about the compositions of groups (familial, exterior environment, peer-group) and the interactions and influences between the different groups and systems.¹ There are different types of sociograms, here in this case we focus on groups of YP 13/18, living in RYCH.

Creating a sociogram²



-  A **dotted line** indicates a weak relationship (as the dots get weaker, the relationship is weaker).
-  A **pointed line** means, the relationship is almost non-existent.
-  A **single line** shows good bond, **two lines** a closer bond and **three lines** a relationship which is even more important but also conflicting.
-  A **line with a slash** means a difficult relationship, a line with two slashes a rupture.
-  A **zig-zag line** represents a conflict.
-  An **arrow** indicates a unilateral relationship (the indicated person or group reject them).

¹ Cf. Phaneuf, M. The sociogram, a complementary tool to the genogram and a means of enriching the interview. p. 1f.

² Cf. ib. p. 3f.

In psychiatry the sociogram is used to visualise, in a concrete manner, the nature of the interactions between groups or family members to see, where dysfunctions, bonds, rejections and conflicts occur. It is also useful in paediatrics when one wants to understand what is going on in the environment of a sick child. This method is an interesting mean of favouring awareness on the functional and relational problems of a person or group. It can help for a better understanding how dynamics in groups occur.³

Remark for RYCWs:

It is helpful to use this method in the daily socio-pedagogical work and also after crisis situations. The sociogram shows the different types of relationships among the YP 13/18 in RYCHs. If a crisis situation occurs in group care, the RYCW can handle it more rapidly since the roles the YP took over are clearer; the RYCW is already prepared for the intervention. After an escalation it makes sense to create a sociogram, together with the YP, to reflect the crisis situation.

³ Cf. ib. p. 6f.