



Knowledge Exchange on Public Policy

A knowledge exchange programme supported by the Scottish Funding Council

Venue: Park Inn Hotel, 2 Port Dundas Place Glasgow G2 3LD

Date: Wednesday, 29th April, 10.00 – 4.00

What does Human Rights have to say about Care and Dignity?

Government policy on equality focuses on three key dimensions: equality of process; equality of outcome; and equality of autonomy. The latter refers to the extent to which a person feels that they are able to access individual choice and control, and exercise their fundamental human rights. Whereas equality policy and legislation prohibits unjustified discrimination, the principles of human rights require public and private sector bodies to treat people with dignity and freedom and to avoid harassment and physical threat. The principles underpinning human rights prevent us from being treated equally badly.

It is recognised that these principles are relevant to prisoners and asylum seekers, but less thought has been given to their implications for older people, younger people, people with mental health difficulties and people who experience sustained periods in hospital. This event considers the implications of human rights legislation for these groups. It is hoped that the event will stimulate a dialogue between representatives of these groups and practitioners, policy makers, academics and the voluntary sector. Above all, the event aims to focus on the potential application of human rights principles in the field of care, with the aim of enhancing autonomy and preserving dignity.

This event is the fourth of five events. Our final event is a conference in Edinburgh on the 17th June 2009 and is entitled 'Conceptualising and achieving equality and human rights'. More information about this final event is available on the CREID website <http://www.creid.ed.ac.uk/>.

Programme

10.00 -10.20 **Registration and coffee**

10.20 -10.30 **Welcome**

Nick Watson, Strathclyde Centre for Disability Research

10.30 -11.30 **Care and Dignity Session 1**

Professor Alan Miller 'Benefits of a rights-based approach'
Chair, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Maire McCormack,
Head of Policy, Office of Scotland's Commissioner for Children &
Young People

Followed by questions from the floor

11.30 – 11.45 **Coffee**

11.45 – 12.45 **Care and Dignity Session 2**

Billy Watson, 'Mental Health Care and Human Rights'
SAMH

Dr. Gillian Dalley, 'The human rights of care home residents'
The Relatives & Residents Association

Followed by questions from the floor

12.45 -13.45 **Lunch**

13.45 – 14.30 **Small Group Discussion:** How can human rights be used to promote dignity and autonomy in care/residential services?

14.30 – 15.15 **Small Group Discussion:** How can human rights interface with equality to ensure equal treatment means equally good treatment?

15.15 – 15.30 **Coffee**

15.30 – 16.00 **Reflection and implications for policy and practice**

Discussant: Dr. Joanna Ferrie
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University of Glasgow