

Scottish Mental Health Law Review

Communication and Engagement Advisory Group Meeting (Teams) 29th September 2021

9am - 10am

Attendees: Sophie Ryder (Chair), Karen Colvin, Rhona Willder, Vicky Piper, Mandy McLaren

Apologies: John Scott, Karen Martin , Irene Oldfather, Sam Philip, Eleanor Brewster

1. Human Rights – Alliance Event Feedback and Comments

Summary of Alliance event sent to advisory group, SR went through some of the questions and issues raised at the event by the participants. The group shared their own personal experiences and thoughts on where improvements can be made.

Advance Statements

- Should be encouraged and supported by professionals when a person is well enough to complete (early in treatment, not at crisis point).
- To include: *Medication preferences, Authorised Contacts, Welfare Requirements, Triggers of Distress and Comforts, Advocacy Support.*
- To be subject to planned review every 12 months by a medical profession, or in the event of a crisis.
- Discussions should be had to review advance statements when a person presents with mental ill health
- Awareness around advance statements needs to improved so people are given the opportunity to create one when they are well.
- People are not aware of the importance of advance statements. It is critical that this includes authorised persons that can be contacted and advised of a patients whereabouts should they be in a crisis situation.

Human Rights in Relation to Mental Health Awareness

- Lack of understanding (language) and knowledge where to seek information on human rights across the board. At what point and where.
- Awareness Campaigns to be recommended.
- Post crisis period, review issues that were highlighted, advice on entitlements.
- Organised discussion groups within the community are very helpful for information, i.e. Housing benefits, raising issues with treatment, independent advocacy, citizens advice.
- First encounters – normally can occur with GPs or the Police. They should be trained and equipped to share information on help available and have access to a robust referral systems.
- Opt out system for independent advocacy should be mandatory, however advocacy would not want to lose the support that they can provide specialist groups

- Big investment required to make sure we have the resources to accommodate this
- 'Mind Set' – Important that support and resources are a given and not a possibility.
- More investment required for resources to ensure this
- Education on HR in schools should be promoted

Recommendations

- Mandatory training for all professionals working within the mental health sector, including, police on human rights and how this translates to the care and treatment that they provide, including advocacy services
- Mandatory opt out advocacy services
- Advocacy services should also be available to carers
- Investment in advocacy services to facilitate this
- Education in schools on the link between mental health and human rights
- Improved awareness of Human Rights and improved availability of accessible resources to aid understanding of how these translate to day to day care.

For Information

[The British Institute of Human Rights](#)

[Home | Scottish Human Rights Commission](#)

[Just Right Scotland - Scottish Just Law Centre](#)

Action(s)

SR to share video link to Alliance event on Knowledge Hub.

2. Forward looking plan for the remainder of the Review

Advisory group meeting dates in diary for remainder of year.

- Wednesday 27th October 2021 @ 9:30am
- Wednesday 24th November 2021 @ 2pm
- Wednesday 22nd December 2021 @ 9:30am

3. AOB

No matters arising.