

RIGHTS IN COMMUNITY CARE DRAFT MANIFESTO FOR CARE



Rights in Community Care (RICC) is an umbrella grouping of organisations including Law Centre (NI), Carers NI, Age NI, UNISON, Disability Action and Alzheimer's Society NI.

RICC support an equality and human rights-based approach to the delivery of community care services and support. One which will demonstrate an understanding of and focus on needs, voice, choice and control in the provision of good quality care and support services for all individuals and carers. This should be delivered in an equitable way, including upholding and protecting the rights of workers who provide services and support.

Social Care

With effective treatment, fair and equal access to services, appropriate levels of funding and prevention strategies, older people can continue to experience good health and remain in their communities. Investment in early prevention strategies to enable those in need of social care to live independent and fulfilled lives will pay dividends as our society continues to age and the aged dependency ratio increases.¹

RICC believes that HSC Trusts should be incorporating equality and human rights principles into the provision of social care. This means that

- the language of care should shift from one of services to one of needs and outcomes.
- assessments should be of a person's social care needs and the outcomes they wish to achieve and should not focus on the person's suitability for a particular service that Trusts may offer.

Principles of Social Care:

RICC believe the following principles should at the heart of the social care system in Northern Ireland.

¹ Labour Market Bulletin No. 23, March 2011

- ***Dignity, independence and choice*** For older people who need care this means
 - being treated with respect and getting the care that meets their needs
 - having the same choice as anyone else about where and how they live.
- ***Trust*** . This is a major component of this as older people need to trust:
 - that they will be treated fairly and equally
 - that the care they receive is safe and of good quality;
 - that they will get clear information and advice; and
 - that those who care for relatives or friends are supported to do so.
- ***Support*** . Most of the care and support to older people is provided by carers, many of whom are older themselves. This informal care and support is estimated to amount to £87 billion annually in the UK.²

RICC is calling for all MLA's to commit to:

- **A fundamental review of social care provision**
- **Ensuring that dignity, independence and choice are at the heart of social care**
- **Preventing poor health as well as treating it.**

² Carers UK (2007) *Valuing Carers- Calculating the Value of Unpaid Care*