

Right to Care Update - June 2004

Claire Rayner leads consultation and demands for a review.

It is 5 years since the Royal Commission reported on long term care and the government has not reviewed the impact of its approach. The right to Care campaign is launching its own public consultation to collect people's experiences of long term care over the last 3 years. The campaign believes that the numbers paying for care are rising significantly, as more people are treated in the community.

Your organisation could help by publicising the consultation and giving your members the chance to tell us their experiences. To help, we can supply leaflets on how to participate or copy to go inside your own publications - contact paul@nhscampaign.org

Survey of Scottish nurses

A questionnaire passed to nurses in Scotland about the impact of free long-term care has received an enthusiastic response. The survey results are being analysed but early indications show that nurses over-whelmingly support the introduction of free nursing care and perceive definite benefits in terms of access and the delivery of care. Results will be published in August. We will use this information to help policy-makers recognise the advantages of the Scottish approach, rather than placing the burden on the individual, when they are ill and in need of support.

Discussions with the Health Select Committee

The Right to Care Campaign is discussing with the Committee about ways to hold an enquiry in to long term care. Health Select Committee members have expressed concerns about the government's approach to long term care. A report by this Committee would help to put pressure on the government to review its policy and focus the debate on the key problems and how they might be solved.

Parliamentary Questions

With the help of several MPs the campaign has submitted a series of parliamentary questions to explore aspects of the government approach. It has confirmed that the government has little progress in reviewing its approach and does not collect information about the numbers of people being charged for care.

Local campaigners

The Right to Care campaign has created a local campaigning guide to help local people and groups to raise the issue in their own area. It contains background information and advice on how to develop contacts with local MPs and the media. For copies contact Paul@nhscampaign.org or the contact address below.

Rolling petition

A 100,000 strong petition was handed in to Downing Street by the R2C campaign asking for free personal care for all those in England and Wales. We are continuing to collect signatures, Your support would help greatly. Copies of the petition can be downloaded from www.righttocare.org or on request from paul@nhscampaign.org.

Affiliate to Right to Care

The Right to Care campaign is supported by 18 national charities, trade unions and community groups. Our patrons are Royal Commissioners Claire Rayner and Robin Wendt. We would like your organisation to affiliate to show the level of public concern on this issue. It is important that your organisation lends its valuable support.