O'r hafod i'r hendre: The ups and downs of rural ageing

Aberystwyth, Tuesday, 2nd October, 2019

Workshop
Ageism - a thing of the past?

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And he's been trying to get me to have a go!
Well the thing is, I did all that back in the sixties!
Happy memories!
1. In this workshop we’ll start by exploring positive and negative experiences of being an older person.
   - What is it that makes an experience positive?
   - Looking at negative experiences, we’ll identify together any that may be fuelled by ageist attitudes.

2. We’ll take a whistle-stop tour on Human Rights and the 2010 Equality Act, and then apply these to life for older people living in care homes.

3. Finally and time permitting, we’ll list what needs to happen and how we can help make this happen.
1. Positive and negative experiences
2. A whistle-stop tour on Human Rights and the 2010 Equality Act
Equality Act 2010 a quick guide

9 protected characteristics

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Race
- Religion / belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage & Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy & maternity

6 prohibited acts / conduct

- Direct discrimination
- Associative discrimination
- Perceptive discrimination
- Indirect discrimination
- Harassment
- Victimization
6 prohibited acts / conduct

- Direct discrimination
  Being treated differently or worse
- Associative discrimination
  ‘Guilty by association’
- Perceptive discrimination
  Believed to be a ‘typical member’ of that group
- Indirect discrimination
  Where a rule affects some more than others
Perceptive discrimination

Dame Judi Dench appeared on BBC2's *Nothing Like A Dame*, together with Dame Maggie Smith, Dame Eileen Atkins and Dame Joan Plowright. In the show, the women discuss careers, husbands, and growing old disgracefully.

Dame Judi related what happened when she was being treated for a wasp sting.

"A paramedic walked into the room who was about 17 and said, 'What's your name?'

"So I said 'Judi', and he said, 'Have we got a carer?'

“And I'm afraid I completely blew my top. I said, 'You f*** off!'"
Article 2 – The right to life

Article 3 – Prohibition of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment

Article 5 – Right to liberty

Article 8 – The right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence

Article 14 – The right not to be discriminated against
Article 2 – The right to life

Public authorities must take appropriate steps to protect a person’s life, and, of course, not take away a person’s life, except in a few and very limited circumstances (e.g. withdrawing medical treatment).

Article 3 – Prohibition of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment

Inhuman treatment means treatment causing severe mental or physical suffering.

Degrading treatment means treatment that is grossly humiliating and undignified.
Article 5 – The right to liberty

Public authorities must not deprive anyone of their liberty except in certain circumstances. This could be, for example, a jail sentence. It could also be where someone lacks mental capacity and it is in their best interests to deprive them of their liberty.

Anyone deemed to not have capacity still has rights!
Article 8 – The right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence

Private life includes personal choices, access to personal information and participation in community life.

Family life depends on who an individual considers to be important to them, not just blood relatives or relatives by marriage

Home is the place where someone resides, with the right to enjoy it without interference

Correspondence means any kind - phone call, text, letter ...
Article 14 – The right not to be discriminated against

No-one may be discriminated against. Full stop. Add to this the Equality Act 2010 and the protected characteristic of age. Article 14 is not a free-standing right and must be linked to another convention right.
Time for a pub quiz

(but without the pub)
Where do we go from here?