

**Coalition on Charging Cymru
Proposed Domiciliary Care LCO
Definition of 'Well-being'**

As requested COCC expands below on its proposed amendments to the definition on 'well-being'. Its views are informed by the emphasis of its member organisations on adult services.

d) their contribution to society;

COCC proposes this change so that it reads more appropriately

e) social and economic well being and participation:

It is of vital importance to the wellbeing of older people, disabled people and carers that they have the opportunity to contribute and play a valued role in the community, in civic society, and in work, education and training.

This is recognised in international treaties, for example the UN Principles for Older Persons, which informed WAG's Older People's Strategy and the establishment of the Commissioner for Older People includes a section on participation. It recognises the importance of older people remaining integrated in society and sharing their knowledge and skills.

Link: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/pdf/olderpersons.pdf>

f) Securing their rights and dignity:

COCC considers that dignity encompasses having choice and control over how you live including:

- To be treated with respect
- To have personal choices, lifestyle and cultural preferences respected
- To maintain personal standards of hygiene, cleanliness, and preferences for dress
- Privacy and confidentiality

The UN Principles include a section on dignity which states that older people should be able to live in dignity and security and be free of

exploitation and physical and mental abuse and be treated fairly regardless of age.

COCC acknowledges that terms such as 'participation' and 'dignity' are included in other documents as well as in the UN Principles on Older Persons. However it remains vital to have them included in the definition of wellbeing referred to in the Domiciliary Care LCO as this gives weight to their significance. Service users of all ages regard dignity in particular as a very important concept.

The impact of charging on wellbeing

COCC recognises that the terms 'participation' and 'dignity' are crucial to the notion of well-being in any context. It does however wish to highlight how charging impacts on an individual's ability to participate and maintain dignity. Charging reduces an individual's personal income, very often those who have low incomes and high expenditure. This affects the ability to participate in society if income is diverted to paying care costs and not available for transport, clothing, social and leisure activities and learning opportunities. Furthermore charging deters many people from taking up some or all of the services to which they are assessed as needing. This can have a detrimental effect on maintaining dignity if individuals forgo services that for example, support hygiene and cleanliness.

Coalition on Charging Cymru
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