

The role of the Older People's Commissioner for Wales

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Deputy Commissioner

Vision

We want to see a Wales in which respect for the rights and dignity of older people is a practical reality in all areas of life, where age discrimination is a thing of the past and where a positive view of ageing and of older people prevails.

Mission

- We will be a world-class Commission, utilising our powers to further the interests

UN Principles

- Independence
- Participation
- Care
- Self-fulfillment
- Dignity

UN Principles

- Older persons should be able to reside at home for as long as possible.
- Older persons should have access to social and legal services to enhance their autonomy, protection and care.

Functions

- Promote awareness of the interests of older people in Wales
- Promote the end of age discrimination
- Encourage good practice
- Review the law

Activities

- Conducting reviews
- Making reports
- Guidance on best practice to particular bodies
- Making recommendations
- Research and educational activities
- Assisting older people to make complaints and representations (where this is in certain legal proceedings such as court cases or tribunals, only if the case has wider implications).

Activities

- Enter premises and interview older people
- Making representations
- Examining an individual case which has wider implications
- Selection guidance criteria beyond those in the Act will be established. These will always include an element of judgement (ie even the list of criteria will not tell for sure whether or not the Commissioner will decide to act in a particular case. It is essential to retain the discretion of the Commissioner).
- Annual report to the First Minister, House of Commons and House of Lords

work to date

Includes

- Listening to older people
- Developing organisation and interim strategic plan
- Continuing healthcare
- Fuel poverty
- information

Work to date

- UN Principles (paying for care considerations, Single equality scheme)
- Informal resolution
- Recruitment
- Scoping of powers

Emerging themes

- information, advice and advocacy
- abuse and adult protection
- NHS reorganisation and the interface between health and social care: linked to prevention
- dignity and equality a theme through all