

Presenter Gordon Boxall

Title Enabling Good Lives – The journey so far from a clean sheet of paper to the Christchurch Demonstration

Abstract

In human services, it takes a very long time to change the way we operate. This is true across the Westernised world. So, whilst we have talked for a long time about system transformation to reflect a more personalised approach to supporting disabled people, we have had limited success. The original Enabling Good Lives (EGL) Report sought to change this by engaging with sector leaders (including those with a disability) and describing what a service system would look like if we were able to start afresh. It looked quite different from our reality but quite familiar in terms of the expected aspirations of our 'mainstream' communities. In other words, it showed that disabled persons wanted to do 'everyday things in everyday places'. It also highlighted that you cannot take one segment of a person's life (in this case what people do during the day) without considering other parts, along with the degree of control they have over them. Since then different stakeholder groups (including NASCA) have been involved in considering how the principles of EGL could be introduced across a service system. This presentation will plot the journey so far which will identify the degree of resonance with different stakeholder groups and offer a rationale that, whilst the current proposed demonstration in Christchurch will have a limited impact initially, it could lead to the sort of wholesale transformation that only occurs once every generation. It could therefore have a significant impact every person in the room today.

Biography

Gordon has worked for over 35 years in the health, housing and disability sectors as a public servant, service provider and independent contractor. He has experience of working in institutions and in closing them as well as running large-scale residential care facilities and transforming them into more personalised facilities. He has operated traditional day services and seen how they can evolve into social enterprises to enable people to achieve real work with real pay. His ambition is to support a ground-up transformation of the disability system so it faithfully reflects the ambitions of the UN Convention. His belief is that everyone can aspire to a home, a job and a social life.