

Choice Support

Human Rights Act statement of intent

At Choice Support, we will continue to amplify the voices that cannot be heard. We stand in solidarity with all people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health and with all the organisations that provide essential services to them.

In the UK, almost all people with learning disabilities and autism live either with their family or with support in their own home or in a community-based service. For them, access to care and support is vital. It forms a part of their fundamental and basic human rights but sometimes they must shout to be heard. Sarah Maguire, our CEO, says: “Even with legislation, the rights of people with learning disabilities and those who have no voice or those people who are marginalised are often just ignored. This is why families can become so vocal and angry as they have to shout to be heard”.

Since the Human Rights Act 1998 (currently under review) became law, the rights of disabled adults have been reinforced. For example, human rights should be at the very core of all service design and planning for people with disabilities.

The Human Rights Act works well alongside the many other Acts that protect people with learning disabilities and autism. The Care Act 2014 is one such Act that clearly emphasises the human rights aspects via its six key principles, which includes ‘empowerment’ - the need to **empower** people. Adults have a right to independence, choice, control, and self-determination. They have the right to be supported to determine what they consider might improve their wellbeing and to look at ways in which they can take actions themselves.

As a provider of social care, we play a significant role in the protection and promotion of human rights. Implementing human rights means that people enjoy life the way they want to and not the way public bodies want them to.

We will be monitoring the review of the Human Rights Act closely. It is our hope that the Act is strengthened rather than weakened when it comes to protecting disabled people, people with learning disabilities and/or autism.

We understand that we cannot expect to improve people's health and wellbeing, if we are not ensuring that their fundamental human rights are respected.