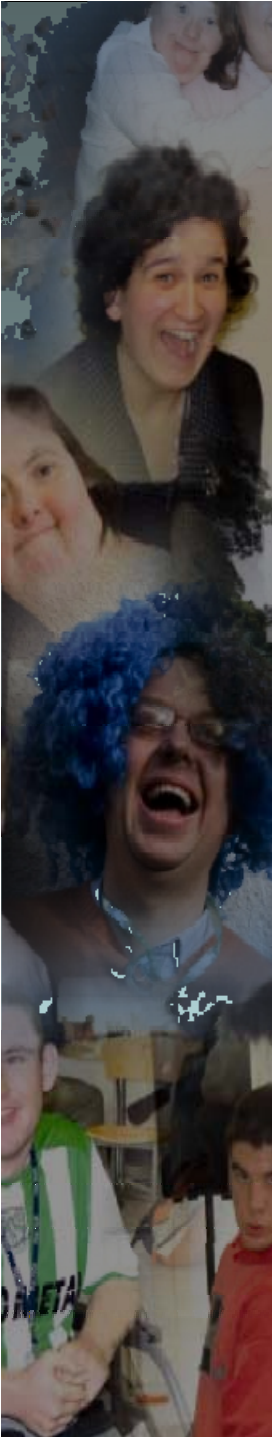


# Rights Review Committees Function & Challenges



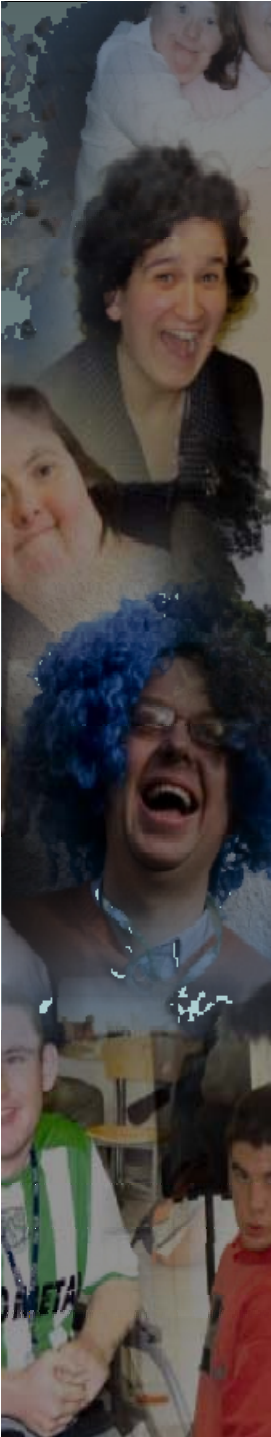
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# Key Focus Areas

- Membership & Function of RRC' s.
- Challenges for RRC' s.

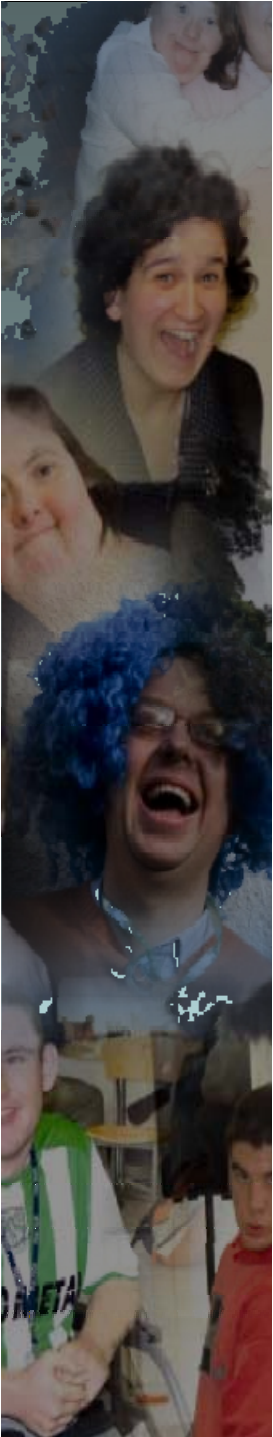




# Human Rights Committee

- “The Human Rights Committee is charged with a significant responsibility – to protect the due process rights of people receiving services & supports. This committee must be held accountable to understand due process and to question every situation in which a person’s rights are restricted for any reason”. ( CQL Quality in practice)





# Why Have a Rights review Committee ?

- To protect & safeguard Human Rights for all people with disabilities.
- Research has shown that people with disabilities can suffer abuses under the guise of effective treatment without proper consideration or review.

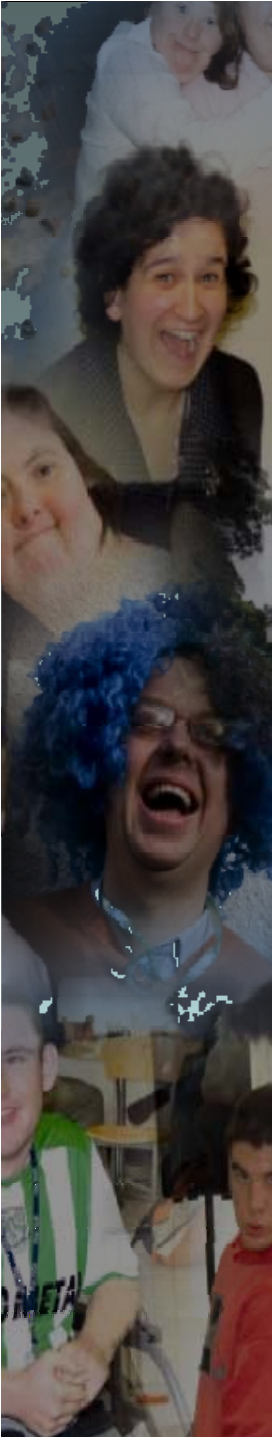




# 1st steps

- Committee selection.
- Define terms of reference.
- Consider conducting a Rights Audit.
- Training for Committee members.
- Rights awareness resources for all staff.





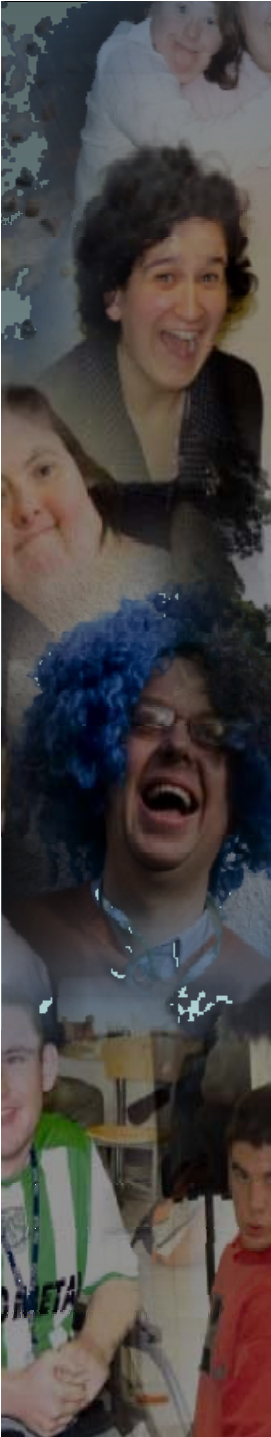
# Committee Membership

- Committees will vary from one organisation to another,
- Essentially one third of the committee membership should be people other than paid staff.
- Organisations may need to consider the Chairperson's role (Rotating or fixed )
- It may also be useful to appoint an administrative support person.
- It is also useful to include members from different backgrounds & perspectives.
- Representative from a person who uses services.



# Human rights training for all stakeholders

- Imperative to provide information & training to people who use services, in different formats, i.e.. Video, drama, discussion forums etc.
- Training for service providers is critical & should be provided in a supportive manner, (Be aware that some staff may be challenged by shift in service provision from medical/social to human rights based model).



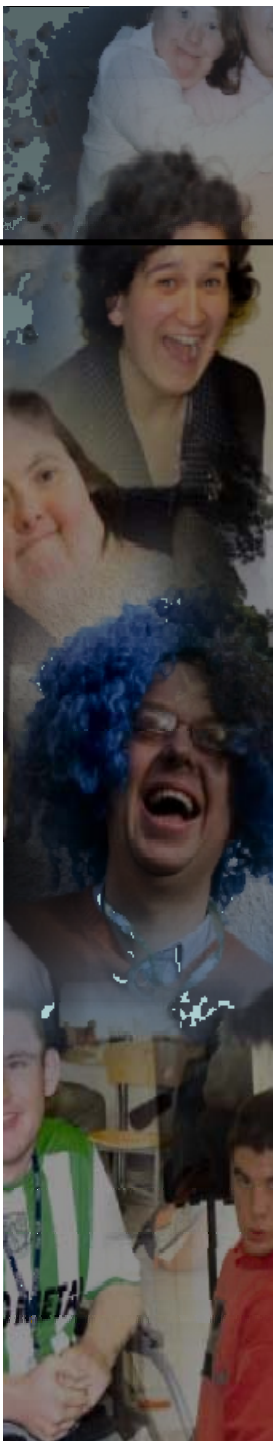
# Rights Review Committee

- Fully acknowledge that rights restrictions have to exist in certain circumstances.
- With a rights restriction comes a need for “Due Process”.

Due Process is defined by C.Q.L as

“ The guaranteed opportunity to protest, to be heard, to be informed, to give consent, and to have the determination to restrict rights made by an impartial party.”

The concept of due process is intended to protect people from exploitation or undue restriction of rights.

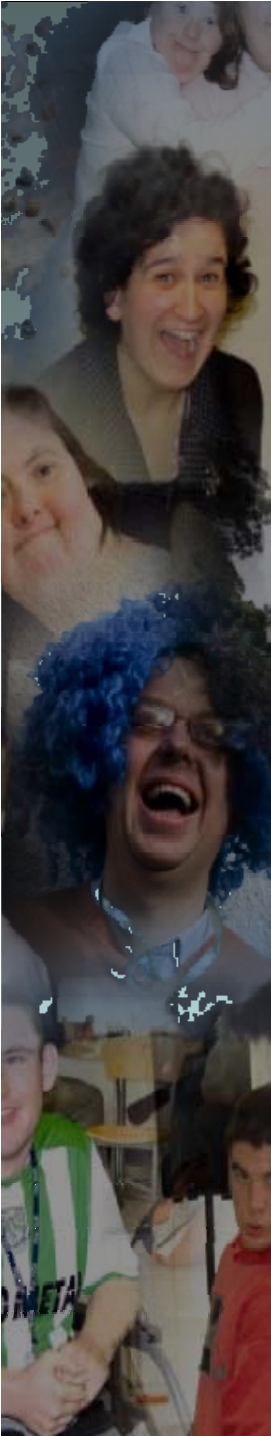




# When considering the need for a right restriction

- Who makes the decision when and how the rights restriction is put in place?
- What voice does the service user have?
- Who is the service user's advocate?

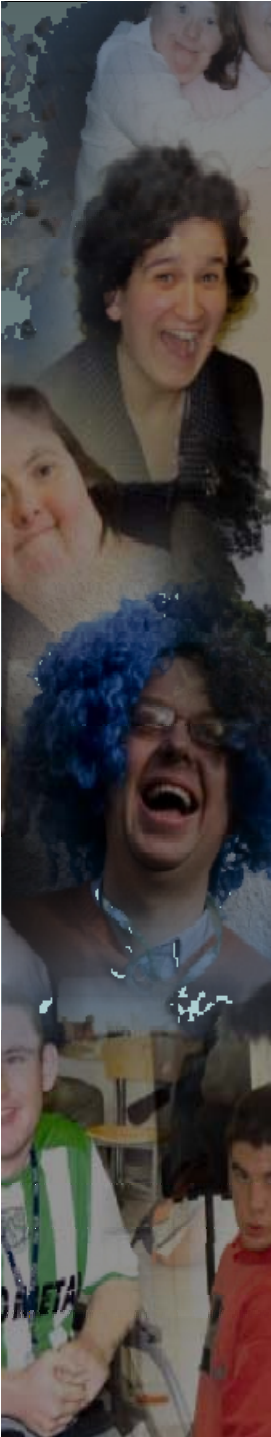




# Meetings of the RRC

- Determine meeting frequency.
- Schedule sufficient time for in depth discussion, brain storming potential options.
- Agenda setting & Minute taking.
- Format for issues to be presented.  
(rights restriction form)
- Flow of information.  
(rights restrictions, behavioural intervention plans, incident recording etc.)
- Encourage people who use services or advocates to attend.
- Confidentiality & Objectivity are key.



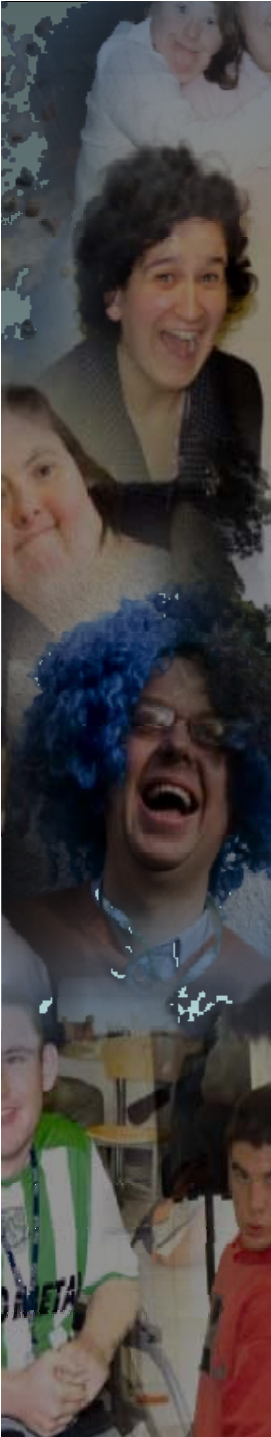


# Deliberations of Human Rights Committees.

- Assure that all appropriate issues are referred to the rights committee for review.
- These issues should include
- Individual rights restrictions.
- Restrictive behaviour support plans.
- Allegations & the review of investigations of abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- The use of psychotropic medication.
- Issues of informed consent.
- Assure that due process is followed in every situation that involves a restriction of rights.
- Assure that any plans that restrict rights includes a plan for restoring those rights and that all restrictions are time limited.

(CQL Assuring  
the basics)

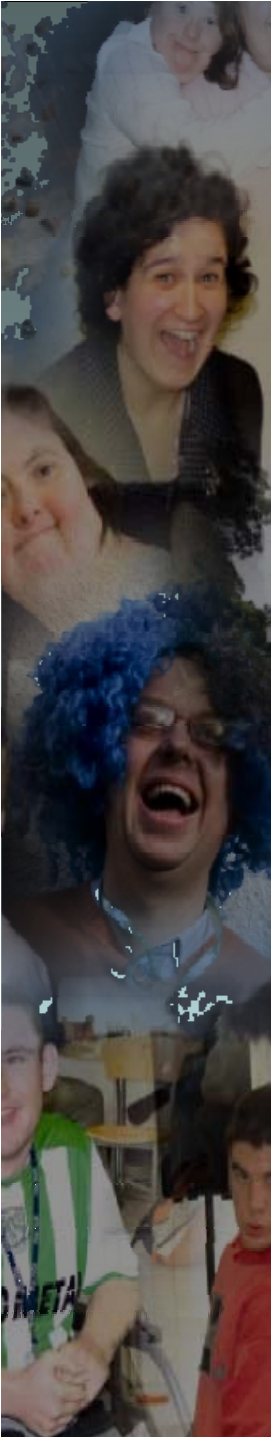




# Rights & Responsibilities

- Establish a culture where all people are seen as equal.
- Do not restrict rights **when** people do things that are irresponsible or unwise.
- Adults do not have to prove themselves before they have the right to exercise most rights.
- Encourage people to think through the consequences of their actions & decisions.
- Responsible behaviour is a learned choice for most people.





# Challenges for RRC

- RRC's may become an alternative to the existing complaints policy & procedure.
- Whose agenda is being referred ?
- On-going training of all stakeholders to heighten the awareness of rights issues.
- The sheer volume of potential restrictions (significant workload for RRC.)



# Challenges for RRC.

- Recommendations of the RRC have the potential to be a source of conflict.
- Advocacy opportunities need to be increased for all service users to support them to pursue rights issues internally & externally.
- Committee membership must include service user representation.





# Key Issue

- ALL PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS

**“ A right is not what somebody gives you, it’s what no one can take away from you”**

(Ramsay Clarke American Lawyer and human rights activist)



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