Developing rights based practice for AHPs working with people with dementia, their families and carers

Rights and Citizenship

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Aim

• Outline the key principles of rights-based practice.
• Identify key elements of the charter of rights relevant to Occupational Therapy (OT) practice.
• Critically analyse Citizenship and Rights.
• Rights vs. risk when working as an OT with people with dementia, their families and carers.

Principles of rights based practice

What was the benefit?

• Enabled client to participate in meaningful occupation (outdoor mobility).
• Gave empowerment, better quality of life.
• Client is able to be an active member in the community / Citizenship.
• Reduce family stress and relationships / Improved communication.
• Positive risk taking.
• Improved confidence for client.
• Sense of pride.
• Increasingly proactive approach to working with people with dementia.

Citizenship vs Rights

Charter of Rights & Occupational Therapy

• Meaningful Occupation / Activity
• Duty of Care
• Accountability
• Duty of Care / Human Rights Act
• Legality
• Human Rights / Person-centred
• Non-discrimination & equality
• Empowerment

Rights-Based AHP

Encourages AHPs to keep people with illness and disability to remain at home safely. This policy will be useful as an OT to enable me to give advice to my client, appropriate interventions and adaptations. From a Rights-based approach for my client, this would be the least restrictive

that looks at the role of the AHP in working together to support self-management by giving clients access to “right information, education, support and services”

Conclusion

• Being a rights-based OT is a complex process and takes into account several factors.

However all healthcare professionals have a duty of care to protect, clients that are not able to make decisions and to protect from abuse. (DH)

• Advance planning and decision making is important in the advance stages of dementia.

• By listening, offering dignity and respect, and by taking a collaborative approach, to communicate with our clients with dementia, their families and carers, to help them live well in an inclusive community.

References