



The unfortunate circumstances which initiated the movement to have such legislation introduced into Northern Ireland was due to the Dunmurry Manor Care Home investigation the subsequent COPNI report '**Home Truths**' and the later proactive response by the then Health Minister Robin Swann to have an independent review into Care in Northern Ireland by the CPEA. Unfortunately the Covid Pandemic didn't allow the progress which was highlighted in the Review and the Home Truths report to be implemented.

In October 2016 a group of grieving family members who lost parents along with concerned relatives of Dunmurry Manor Care Home Residents formed a small group. We held meetings and with the help of a few MLA's pushed the authorities to take action. It has been a traumatic experience over the past 8/9 years.

We as the grieving families who started this rolling and didn't shy down, need to see this happen. It won't be closure but progress.. We are all still involved at different levels within different agencies and haven't forgotten what our relatives went through.

I am not an academic but a service user who had a very poor experience and wants to see change.

I would like to raise a few points which have concerned me regarding the Bill after hearing what the Minister of Health Mike Nesbitt delivered to the Assembly on 30th June. None of which need additional explanation. I must add that I was encouraged by the points raised in the Assembly by the members and questions directed to the Health Minister.

While aware that finance has a lot to do with when the Adult Protection Bill will be implemented, how many more vulnerable elderly will suffer in the interim?

On publication of the Home Truths Report and CPEA independent findings I felt oddly relieved that at last someone had listened to me and importantly believed me. As stated my Mums abuse did not reach the criminal threshold because of the lack of legislation in 2016 . This is why this Bill and its implementation is so important. My statement to the Police and the CPEA was 26 pages long.

The constant in the Health Ministers delivery **LESSONS and LEARNING**. These have been the words constantly used but will it be?

Social Workers 'investigating' - I use the term lightly. What is independent about this process? How can they investigate themselves? Will they be social workers or special trained accredited investigators? Can they investigate the Trusts - their own employers? I recall the Chief Social Worker informing a meeting that they are Social workers not investigators so what will change in their training? My own experience was when I made a complaint - the Social worker phoned the care home, received an answer, accepted it and the case was closed all in less than 24 hours with no visit or consultation with me, or my Mum. In fact her appointed Care Manager did not visit Mum or myself for 9 weeks. I found it difficult to make contact with him. Investigation technique hopefully will have improved. The same Trust blocked me from moving my Mum to another Care Home when we discovered the poor care after a few weeks in Dunmurry Manor. During the 13 weeks she deteriorated rapidly and only her admission to the Lagan Valley Hospital where she received excellent care after having been visited by the Elderly Medicine Consultant did we all feel relieved and Mum was much more content. She felt safe. LVH had **CCTV in public areas** which allowed them to monitor the safety of the patients. The SEHSCT had a major part to play in turning a blind eye to Dunmurry Manor (highlighted in both Home Truths and CPEA reports) so how can any Trust investigate themselves when in this case they played a major part in the problem?

Duty of Candour

This has been an ongoing subject since Dunmurry Manor. It must have a place in the Adult Protection Bill.

CCTV mandatory in Public areas

If CCTV had been in operation in Dunmurry Manor Evidence would have been available regarding the Abuse and poor care (mental, physical, emotional). I did put in a granny camera for a few days. This was very upsetting to view but it did provide the necessary

information showing the poor care and the distress of my Mum. I shared this with the RQIA, PSNI and the CEO Runwood Homes. CCTV protects everyone, staff and patients.

Protection to Whistleblowers

If an employee witnesses wrongdoing, poor care or that protocol is not being followed and they report the same they should be protected. Not scrutinised by their peers or seen as a trouble maker. The Bill needs to include protection. Again those employees in Dunmurry Manor who wanted to raise concerns kept quiet or left the employment rather than be targeted as a trouble maker.

I apologise for my queries above, but there's only one shot at getting this right.

I am willing to meet to discuss with you or any of the Health committee.

Communication with those who 'walked the walk', the Dunmurry Manor families could highlight the impact that Dunmurry Manor has had on lives. Statistics and reports don't come close to the impact of Dunmurry Manor and the loss of parents and the appalling way we were treated by members of Statutory bodies. Eddie Lynch Home Truths report validated our sad story and Health Minister Swann taking time to meet, listen and indicating the CPEA independent Review has played a vital role in the movement for an updated Adult Protection Bill..

Regards

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