

# **Policy frameworks for community living, the Independent Living Bill and challenges of the British system**

Neil Coyle, ECCL, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007

## **Disability Rights Commission**

- Disability Discrimination Act (1995, as amended 2005)
- DRC 'enforcement' 2001+ through legal, practice development, campaigning, policy
- Community Living, Independent Living and Equal Citizenship:
  - DRC vision 'a society in which all disabled people can participate fully as equal citizens'

## Britain by numbers

- Declining institutionalisation
  - Residential care at 276,000 and falling
  - Accepted rights and costs arguments
- Rising choice and control
  - Direct Payments over 30,000
  - Individualised Budgets

## Present challenges

- **A social care system in crisis**
  - Fair Access to Care Services eligibility criteria
  - Rising numbers of carers, including children
  - Wanless and LGA – older people
  - (Prime Minister in waiting) Gordon Brown
- **An opportunity?**
  - **Time for ‘a new compact’ between individuals, families and the state?**

## Independent Living Bill

- DRC and Lord Ashley of Stoke
- Provisions
  - Principles
  - Rights to Independent Living
  - Human Rights and residential care
  - Housing
- Timetable – Lords 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading, 24<sup>th</sup> April
- Commons, back to stage 1, piecemeal?

## The future opportunities: single equality and the CEHR

- DRC to Commission for Equality and Human Rights – the new coalition
- A Single Equality Act and Single Equality Schemes
- Office for Disability Issues, DWP – cost benefits and influencing the Treasury
- The Disability Agenda – influencing the broader equality agenda; a Formal Investigation into social care? Investment for purpose

## Contact details

- The DRC: [www.drc-gb.org](http://www.drc-gb.org)
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