
Hyphen-21 – Principles and Purpose

Purpose

Hyphen-21 exists to contribute to a real validation of social care and responsibility and to promote the skills and values upon which all good caring is based.

We propose that it is relationship, based upon empathy, respect and personal authenticity, that is the medium through which effective change is achieved and well-being maintained. But this is difficult ground to hold. It is central ground and yet can be lonely and confusing.

Consequently, a primary focus for the charity is to support and affirm the professional task of caring and to give effective voice to people whose work is to help and support others.

Principles

- * Each individual has an equal and absolute value, whatever his/her gender, race, creed, sexual orientation or range of mental or physical ability. To devalue individuals is to threaten the future of Society.
- * Individuals are responsible to each other and to Society as a whole. “We are members one of another and without a set of relationships, a community and a society, no individual would survive or flourish.” (David Jenkins, ex-Bishop of Durham). Therefore membership of Society cannot simply be a matter of claiming individual rights.
- * No Society can be healthy without a just and rational sharing of resources and obligations.

The Role of Hyphen-21

The charity will engage itself in a range of projects that are in accord with its principles and within the scope of its resources.

The charity believes that the perspective of the ground level practitioner is under-represented in the establishing of care policy. The care services remain still largely dominated by a “command management” approach. To redress the balance, the charity will promote and publicise its paper "Morale in Care Services," which sets out a comprehensive strategy for attracting and retaining staff in these services, and includes the promotion of a network of Care Practitioners Forums. These are gatherings of ground level care workers who come together for mutual support and the dissemination of creative practice.

The paper "Morale in Care Services" can be read elsewhere on this site. A closer description of the Practitioners Forums is available on request. Contact r.wolf@charts.force9.co.uk

In addition, the charity supports two projects, one called “Poems for the Waiting Room” and the other, the "Shared Care Record.” The former is supported by the Poetry Society and funded by the Arts Council and the King's Fund. It offers poems for display in health waiting rooms. The latter supplies recipients of care services with their own record of the services they receive. There are two versions of it - one, a pocket sized booklet for people with mental health problems (this has been piloted with help from the Mental Health Foundation) and the other, an A4 file for people - usually elderly - who are house-bound (this has been implemented across Kensington, London).

These and other new projects will be detailed in a regular bulletin which will be put out on the web-site. Contributions are invited. The charity will hold a seminar for members (at least annually) which will be advertised on the web-site.

The Management Committee

The initial Founding Committee was made up of three people, all experienced care practitioners of one kind or another. The names of the original Committee members are : John Griffiths, ex-probation officer, now mental health outreach worker and psychotherapist ; Mary Young, psychotherapist ; Rogan Wolf , independent social worker (Secretary). These three remain the Trustees. The Trustees have now been joined by the following “core group members” : Peter Smith, social work manager, mental health ; Lynette Cawthra, Health Librarian ; Sarah Mitchard, mental health manager ; Anne Salway, mental health social work manager ; Fiona Loynes, social worker ; Dorothy Finch , mental health manager ; Mehvish Fund-raising Manager ; Tana Wolf, Arts Consultant ; Jo Wolf, Computer Science consultant.

Membership

Anyone with an interest in the issues outlined above and who supports the charity’s aims is invited to become a member. While the “core group” would like more members to be workers from the ground level, managers who share the charity’s concerns are very welcome to join.

Individual membership will cost £5.00 p.a. Corporate membership will cost between £25.00 p.a.(min) and £100 (max).

Membership draws you into our discussions and potentially into our support network. It secures invitation to our AGM. In turn it helps to fund our admin costs.

If you wish to join, please make out a crossed cheque to AEASR and send to : The Secretary, Hyphen-21, c/o Bishop Creighton House, 378 Lillie Road, London SW6 7PH. Please include your name and address so that we can put you on our mailing list. We promise not to pass on your name to any other organisation or individual without your permission. However, we *would* like to share your name and address with other members - if you decide to join and do not wish us to do this, please write and tell us.

Rogan Wolf and Sarah Mitchard, Summer 1998