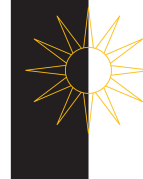


Society of Radiographers

Motion 57: Multiple Sclerosis Society – end of care crisis

THE SOCIETY OF
RADIOGRAPHERS



Chair, Delegates, Guests

Sue Johnson, Society of Radiographers, moving motion 57.

Haven't the Olympics been fantastic?

I think even the most cynical amongst us has been impressed at how they can achieve so much. The drive and energy of the competitors is truly awe inspiring.

It is clear our disabled athletes are getting all the support they could possibly need to live fulfilled and happy lives. But is that reality or am I being carried away on a wave of emotion?

Very few of us here would swap places with the disabled athletes, even if we gained their fitness and they passed on their gold medals. For example, Stephanie Millward who won two silver and one bronze medal in the swimming, she has Multiple Sclerosis, would you swap your life with her uncertain future? There are some here who understand the challenge of living with or caring for someone with a disability but, for the vast majority, disability affects others, not us.

Being the best requires drive and energy, a drive and energy that few of us possess. How many of us possess the drive and energy to live our lives with disabling diagnosis such as that potentially faced by people with Multiple Sclerosis?

The MS Society estimates that the number affected is between 85,000 and 100,000 in the UK. Access to suitable care, worries about your financial future, concerns for your family – these are very real issues for many disabled people, having any spare energy to navigate the complex and unfair care support system is in short supply.

Simon Gillespie, Chief Executive of the MS Society and Chair of the Care and Support Alliance, has described to us how he believes that the social care system in England is woefully inadequate. Hundreds of thousands of people now either miss out on the basic care they need or face enormous bills in paying for care that is often of poor quality.

The Society of Radiographers is bringing this motion at what could be a critical turning point for our care system. We would like to add the weight of the trade union movement to the efforts of the MS Society in persuading the Government to act now, to commit themselves at least to implementing the proposals of the Dilnot Commission and the Law Commission.

Let me quote Simon Gillespie again:

Congress's strong support for this motion will show that you are standing with the hundreds of thousands of older and disabled people who are being let down by our crumbling care system. We can not afford to let the pressure drop now. If the Government continues to avoid biting the bullet on this reform, they will be shamefully failing one of the crucial tests of a civilised society.

Congress, let us not be the ones to be shameful failures!

Congress, I urge you to support this motion.

For further information about this motion and the Society of Radiographers, please visit stand 13 or contact Paul Bromley: paulb@sor.org

www.sor.org