**Position Statement**

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**DNACPR**

**Do Not Attempt Resuscitation**

A Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (DNACPR) form is sometimes used if someone is very ill and nearing the end of their life. It means that health staff will not try to save the person’s life if their heart stops.

Signing a DNACPR form is not something which a person with a learning disability should be asked to sign, just because they have a learning disability.

DNACPR is only used if a person is very ill and their body would not cope with having their heart re-started after it had stopped, and having it re-started would make them more ill afterwards.

When making a decision about whether to sign a DNACPR form, the person who is ill should have the right support from family and medical professionals to understand and think about what the decision means for them.

Sometimes it is not possible for the ill person to make their own decision. That should only happen if they are too ill to communicate or unconscious.

If the ill person themselves cannot make a decision about signing a DNACPR form, it is important that the person’s family members and medical professionals decide together about DNACPR.

All Wales People First supports Welsh Government’s Coronavirus specific Framework - ***Coronavirus: ethical values and principles for healthcare delivery framework***

**We call on Welsh Government to:**

Ensure that the principles which underpin the framework are followed beyond the Coronavirus (Covid 19) pandemic situation.

**We call on Welsh Government and health and Social Care professionals to ensure that:**

* People with learning disabilities should always have suitable support if DNACPR must be talked about:

Every effort needs to be made to help a person with a learning disability understand consent to DNACPR.

* DNACPR issues are never raised by mail with a person who has a learning disability.
* DNACPR is never enforced by mail on a person who has a learning disability.
* DNACPR consent is never sought by mail with a person who has a learning disability.
* DNACPR is never sought or enforced on the grounds of a person having a learning disability.
* DNACPR is never put on a person’s medical record without their consent, or family member’s consent where that is not possible.
* Or where a person’s consent about DNACPR is not possible, it should not be put on a person’s record without family consent.
* Having a learning disability is never part of the criteria for deciding which patients can have access to life supporting equipment and/ or life-saving treatment.

The lives of people with learning disabilities matter.

The lives of people with learning disabilities are as important as any other citizen in Wales.

People with learning disabilities are entitled to the same quality of care as any other citizen in Wales.

**NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!**

Simon Richards, Chair of the All Wales People First, National Council.

In consultation with the All Wales People National Council.

