

Eileen Pritchard: A Needs Assessment



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of a set of options to minimise reliance on others, Eileen will regain some of the dignity and self respect which she once enjoyed. Eileen will continue to be motivated to make decisions and take responsibility for them in a way that strengthens her happiness and independence. Eileen wishes to continue to lead a life of self determination and to minimise her physical and psychological dependence on others. Independent living with full attendant care will allow her to continue to develop as a person and to sustain her family in a way that could not otherwise be possible.

Beautifully presented & thorough description, although it could have been accomplished in a lot less space. The aim is to be concise without missing the essence - a difficult task.

Reading through your paper the things that came through most powerfully for me were the powerlessness & the central role played by Philip. You certainly highlighted these issues in the text and provided several means of addressing them - attendants, electronics, house modifications, transport etc. It seemed to me that probably the most fundamental issue was the attendants, and her control over them. If skilled attendants were addressing many of the 'tending' duties fulfilled by Philip, the pressure on him would be reduced and he would more easily fulfil the 'caring' aspects of Eileen's life. The attendants also seemed to be extremely pressing as a breakdown in the current situation could be devastating. There is a real safeguarding issue here - the current situation is finely balanced and any number of small things could tip the balance - Philip's Movos, problems with the children, change in Government policy etc. Would involvement of more unpaid people help as a safeguard? Ultimately this could be more powerful than electronics - all the electronics in the world without Philip would almost certainly fail, but a group of people with shared commitment to each other (including Eileen) might succeed.

Very impressive and thoughtful work.