

Cathy Asante

Scottish Human Rights Commission

(Voice off screen) How do you think non-executive board members in NHS boards across health and social care can play their part to ensure standards of accountability for human rights is as high as possible?

I'm glad you asked that because I think accountability is crucial. It's obviously a nice goal to set out to take a rights-based approach but what we do see time and again is that intentions don't necessarily always translate into reality and particularly into changes in people's actual experiences on the ground and there's often that gap that does need to be filled. So, accountability is a really important aspect to try and fill that gap.

And what you can do practically for that is to build human rights accountability into your existing accountability mechanisms. Because everybody will have, whether it's as governance structures or annual reporting or whatever it is that you might do that already provides you with accountability but it won't necessarily be asking you questions about how you're progressing people's human rights. So, I think that's where it can be built in so that people can prompt themselves to check how they're actually doing in that work and have some way of demonstrating the accountability and being transparent about the work that they're doing as well. I would just emphasize again the importance of integrating into existing things if there's a separate human rights accountability process that's probably not going to be as sustainable as if it's part of part and parcel of what you're already doing.