Maintaining human dignity, particularly in the face of adversity, is a core human value.

Respect for personal identity is the critical aspect of dignity that has to be addressed in health and social care.

Increased reliance on technological solutions to health problems has supplanted human caring and human values.

Fragmentation of health and social care, scarcity of resources and reductionist approaches have dehumanised and desensitised staff.

In health and social care these factors have led to people being treated as objects, rather than individual human beings, resulting in detrimental effects on their well-being.

**The ‘Dignity Balance’**

- Treating people as objects
- Loss of Dignity
- Disrespect and Humiliation
- Treating people as individual human beings
- Increased Dignity
- Mutual Respect and Trust