

Wiltshire Mental Capacity Act Project – Refocussing on the MCA

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Project method

An NHS Wiltshire CCG Evidencing Work Based Learning (EWBL) module was jointly developed with University of the West of England in relation to the application of the Mental Capacity Act in practice.

The EWBL phase of the project ran from March 2015 until 3rd November 2015 and included master classes, action learning sets and the expectation of a completed service improvement project.

The initial phase included participants from local acute and community Trusts, ambulance service and private providers.

The initiative started from an idea to re-focus the attention of the Wiltshire Healthcare care economy on the Mental Capacity Act following the publication of the post legislative scrutiny report.

The idea was to develop:

- A network of Healthcare staff across NHS and Private organisations with enhanced MCA knowledge and skills.
- Performance indicators to include metrics specific to the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty safeguards.
- An escalation process to support patients /carers address concerns relating to non-compliance with MCA locally.
- An awareness raising programme including 'localised' leaflets/information/workshops with details of who patients can contact for support/local mediation these areas would be specific to certain areas e.g.

*Your rights as a patient, including presumption of capacity, advance decisions, MCA best interest decisions – which could be incorporated into patient information leaflets.

- A series of rolling masterclasses and workshops

Project results/evaluation

The aim of the project is to enhance the knowledge and skills of key staff across Wiltshire developing ambassadors who can disseminate and support the cascading of knowledge. This will ensure that the application of the Mental Capacity Act across the Health Economy will be embedded and patient experience will be enhanced and the legal rights upheld.

Project area classification

Hospital care	X	Emergency care	
GP care	X	Dementia	X

Part of the MCA Directory www.scie.org.uk/mca-directory/

Social care		Learning disability	X
Voluntary sector		Other mental health	
Financial services		Palliative care	X
Police		Advance planning, LPAs	
Legal		Commissioning	X
Community health care	X	Training	X
Nursing and care home	X	For professionals?	X
Acute care	X	For public and service users?	
Chronic care	X		