

Social workers Mental Capacity Act 2005 toolkit

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Project method

Workers undertake a day's MCA training, however we focused on relating this to practice and supporting workers to be confident in recognising when assessments are required and how to ensure adherence to the act. We created MCA notebooks for workers to carry, containing best interest's checklists, assessment prompts with regards to tenancies, medical treatments and restrictive practices to be alert for when undertaking visits. Portability of information was our objective, as circumstances when assessments are required are away from offices and laptops. Within team meetings we have a set agenda item where we discuss mental capacity issues, recently focussing on s4 and best interests in relation to CTOP, with examples of best interests meetings to demonstrate the depth of report required, whilst dispelling myths around best interests decisions. We also have devised activities to reinforce understanding of the principles which underpin the MCA and also now the Care Act 2014. Please see pictures below.

Project results/evaluation

Worker's skill at implementing the Act increases by having bite size information at hand in practice settings with clients. A fun approach to learning their responsibilities encourages workers to reflect and retain information which they use to explain to third parties the importance of empowering individuals to make their own decisions.

Project area classification

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