

Responding to the AJ case to uphold service user's Article 5 (4) Rights

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Project method

I analysed our DoLS “tracker” to establish people subject to DoLS (authorised by B&NES, as at the end of November 2015). I then composed a letter, which included a paper (written by Dennis Little) clearly outlining “AJ” and the possible implications. My letter requested homes to contact us if residents under DoLS were showing objections to their care or accommodation. This was primarily to establish whether there were any people we had assessed pre “AJ”, who might now need support to appeal to The Court of Protection, but also to ensure that homes were reminded of the need to contact us regarding any significant changes, such as changes to the RP’s care arrangements, or should the named RPR cease or significantly decrease visits. The letter ended with a reminder to homes that they must inform us if a resident under DoLS should die or move elsewhere, as we had found they were often failing to do so.

Project results/evaluation

The aforementioned letter was sent out to all 71 care homes and nursing homes where B&NES have authorised a DoLS. It is too soon to evaluate the results, however, admin have said that they have had some telephone calls acknowledging receipt of the letter with some preliminary queries. I feel this is a positive sign, as it has helped to develop lines of communication between us and the homes.

Project area classification

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