

Mental Capacity Project – Adult Social Care, Operations

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Project method

A six month scoping project was undertaken to ascertain the gaps and areas for development in relation to mental capacity good practice and execution of our duties under the MCA 2005 and CA 2014. A lead practitioner for Mental Capacity in Adult social care was appointed to coordinate activity and to be a point of contact for advice and guidance. Mental capacity champions in each service area were identified and participated in forums, stakeholder meetings were held with key service areas across the business (inc. finance, DoLs, training), research was undertaken into good practice examples and work being undertaken by other authorities, review was undertaken of the information available to staff and clients and the accessibility of this and review was undertaken of the training offered to staff. Both the forums and the stakeholder meetings fed into these activities and have informed the future work required.

Project results/evaluation

The scoping project identified that practitioners lack confidence in executing their duties in relation to mental capacity particularly in complex cases. However, it also identified areas of good practice and practitioners with significant knowledge and experience. The project proposed the following:

- partner agencies to identify mental capacity champions
- continuation of forums, to include participation from the partner agency champions
- redesign and implementation of training offer to staff
- production of service/issue specific quick reference guidance for staff
- provision of reflective workshops for staff and manager focusing on specific issues as identified by the participants
- development of an online resource database for staff to include, guidance, research, good practice examples, audit tools etc
- extension of the project and role of lead MC practitioner to achieve the above

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?	
Acute care		For public and service users?	
Chronic care			