

Making the Abstract Real: A report by the Acquired Brain Injury and Mental Capacity Act Interest Group

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Project method

An interest group of frontline professionals and policy makers who have a specialist interest in brain injury and from a variety of medical, therapy, legal and other backgrounds were particularly concerned with identifying actions to support recommendations made by the House of Lords Select Committee regarding particular issues raised by their client group. Input from members of this group was collated and a report prepared. Particular issues raised by the presentation of individuals with poor insight, retained verbal fluency who perform well on structured assessments of mental capacity but lack “on line” ability in real life settings was noted. This complex and often subtle group require specialist assessment of capacity.

Suggestions are made to promote awareness and understanding of assessors and IMCAS on the frontline. Awareness was raised at the British Association of Brain Injury Case Managers (BABICM) Conference 2015 regarding the findings of the group.

Project results/evaluation

It was suggested that the Brain Injury Needs Indicator (BINI) developed by the Brain Injury Trust (BIRT) and being piloted by the Department of Health might be expanded or a similar tool developed to alert frontline professionals of ABI related needs and potential to seek specialist support to aid decision making.

Project area classification

Hospital care	X	Emergency care	X
GP care	X	Dementia	
Social care	X	Learning disability	
Voluntary sector	X	Other mental health	X
Financial services	X	Palliative care	X
Police	X	Advance planning, LPAs	X
Legal	X	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		