

Kirklees Council (West Yorkshire) BIA team supports managing authorities in specific decision capacity work

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Project method

A small BIA team was set up by Kirklees Council (West Yorkshire) in the Summer of 2015. The initial rationale of the team was to have a dedicated resource to undertake more BIA assessments in response to increasing DOLs authorisation requests. It became clear that many managers and staff within homes making requests did not in practice fully understand DOLs and specific decision capacity work despite attending provided courses. The BIAs within the pilot team were given encouragement from line management to invest time in supporting such managing authorities while undertaking BIA assessments in those homes. Managing authorities were supported with live practice to undertake capacity decision making with their residents to improve care plans presented to BIAs. Staff were encouraged to be empowering in manner and specific decision based. Issues of advocacy, recording decisions, regular reviewing of capacity decisions, case law around capacity thresholds, 'unwise decision making' and best interest decision making were also discussed and practiced.

Project results/evaluation

We learnt that managing authorities learnt more and felt more confident around the application of the MCA (in relation to DOLs) through direct practice. Learning relating to people they knew, cared for and supported seemed more accessible and bought immediate and direct results benefitting those people - 'organic training' as one of the BIAs termed it. More informed and considered DOLs requests were made and a number of requests withdrawn where further discussions had determined capacity for this specific decision. The BIA pilot team had been initially set up to undertake more assessments - it was now focusing more on supporting those making those requests to the benefit of those they supported.

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			