

Mental Capacity Act Training – Nottinghamshire Police

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Nottinghamshire Police identified a real need for Mental Capacity Act training due to the number of scenarios a police officer may be presented with during his duty where the act could be applicable. There is a clear need for an officer to understand the legal framework that would allow him/her to restrain someone who lacks capacity and needs emergency care.

Edge Training were commissioned to deliver a training package to frontline Police Officers and PCSO's on the use of the mental capacity act 2005, examine the practical use of the act and its relationship with the Mental Health Act 1987. The training was delivered to 1200 frontline police officers and police community support officers, police custody sergeants and 250 contact management staff.

The key objectives sought to outline the rules and procedures when using the mental capacity act, explain how the act would impact on working practices in the police and demonstrate case studies so officers could relate the training to real scenarios they may face.

Specific case law such as the Sessey and ZH case were used to add context to the training.

Project results/evaluation

Police Officers and PCSO's have feedback an increased confidence that they can respond to someone who lacks capacity and needs emergency healthcare. They now understand what powers they have and when they can use restraint.

As an operational lead for mental health I have reviewed many incidents where officers have recorded their rationale in an accurate and concise way to justify the use or non use of the act depending upon the circumstances. This can only lead to Nottinghamshire Police Providing a better service to the community it serves.

Project area classification

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