

Understanding Mental Capacity

Sam Mayne

Email Sam.mayne@policypartnersproject.co.uk

Policy Partners Project is working in partnership with Coventry Adult Social Care to:

- Refresh Coventry's existing mental capacity policies, procedures, practice guidance and information hosted on a new online website for front line staff, adults and carers that is easy to understand and access. This provides a hub for all policies, procedures, practice guidance, key local and national resources and assessment tools in one 'go to' site.
- Develop a comprehensive online assessment tool integrating relevant policies, procedures, legislation, practice guidance and checklists to support practitioners carry out assessments to a consistently high standard, with prompts to provide required evidence.

Both aspects of the project are being tested with the Coventry Best Interest Assessors group and adults and carers. Before and after questionnaires are being completed by staff in relation to information available regarding mental capacity. Feedback from these routes was used to inform the development of the final products. (149)

Project results/evaluation

Raises the profile of mental capacity with practitioners and the public; provides accessible online content; supports practitioner assessments of mental capacity; assists managers in fulfilling obligation to get advice/information to the public.

Other practice areas subsequently identified which would benefit from similar treatment – e.g DoLS and mental capacity/safeguarding issues. (49)

Project area classification

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