

Mental capacity is everybody's business

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Project method

Mental capacity, alike safeguarding should be viewed as everybody's business. Leads in these fields often provide expert knowledge and support as well as being responsible for the implementation of the Act. However, the practical application of the Act in different clinical settings means that professionals themselves can, and often do, play an expert role.

Instead of a traditional top-down or an expert to clinician approach, a clinician or team initiated project can achieve higher results. After the initial trainings and acquiring the basic skills and knowledge, professionals should be encouraged and motivated to come up with their own ideas and applying the universal principles of the Mental Capacity Act in their professional and service development.

The organically grown ideas will meet less resistance and the fusion between the clinical expertise and the mental capacity knowledge can create long-lasting change.

Project results/evaluation

Both the Continuing Health Care Team and the Respiratory Team have decided to design their own service specific consent and mental capacity flowchart and the deputy manager of Care Link created a Mental Capacity power point presentation tailored to cater for the need of the team. My role as an expert only manifested in confirming the accuracy.

Project area classification

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