

# Health Liaison Team's Social Work Development Meetings

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## Project method

I work for a small LA adult services hospital discharge team which is made up of qualified social workers & unqualified assessors, approx. 12 staff in total. The team has a very mixed skills and experience set. 3 years ago we set up a Bi monthly Development Meeting which has a particular focus on the Mental Capacity Act and it's application and implementation in our hospital discharge work. I lead the meeting and other team members contribute. The meetings have consisted of:

1. An update on law/ case law / research relating to MCA, I use 39 Essex St newsletter/ SCIE website as a basis.
2. Case discussion- a team member discusses a case they are working on in relation to the MCA & team discuss, to provide learning for all.

## Project results/evaluation

The team both qualified & unqualified workers have good understanding of MCA, most importantly how it is relevant to our work (it is easy for workers to attend training and understand the principles without knowing how to implement them) this is what the meeting aims to support. The team learn from each other, in an open & safe environment. Hospital discharge work can be a challenging environment where the focus is always hospital discharge. The team has a good real knowledge & skills to implement the MCA including carrying out Mental Capacity assessments, making Best Interest Decisions keeping the individual as the focus, running Best Interest meetings if required, supporting people to make decisions when at all possible, referring for advocacy as appropriate, all whilst managing timely hospital discharges.

## Project area classification

Hospital care	x	Emergency care	
GP care		Dementia	x
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?	x
Acute care	x	For public and service users?	
Chronic care			