
National Mental Capacity Forum – Chair’s update June 2016



Dear Forum member

I am writing to update you on work we have been doing since the Action Day and to set out how we plan to keep in touch with you all and support you in your work. I also want to let you know about an excellent [short film](#) about the MCA that is being launched today – more details below.

National Mental Capacity Action Day – date for your diary

Feedback about the Action Day has been overwhelmingly positive and I’m grateful for the role you played in making it such a success. All of the [submissions](#) we received are now online and I would encourage you to continue to make connections and continue the conversations that started on the day.

The next Action Day will be next March, with an event to mark this at the Royal College of Physicians in London.

My focus for the year ahead

I recently wrote to Ministers setting out what I have heard on the ground since I took up my role as Chair of the Forum in October. It’s been very important to me that I’ve been able to hear from as many people as possible and over the last six months I’ve attended dozens of meetings and events – most recently speaking at the Dementia 2020 conference in Manchester.

I also set out the key priorities that myself and the Leadership Group have identified and where we will be focusing our action. We will of course be maintaining the Forum’s overall focus of continuing to improve awareness and implementation of the Act across all the sectors with a role to play.

Alongside this the Leadership Group and I will be:

- Working with national partners to improve training for those professionals and practitioners and to build further on existing good practice
- Seeking to better enable carers to fulfil their vital role in ensuring that the views and interests of those they care for are heard and acted upon, including through building a greater understanding of their contribution among professionals and practitioners

Building momentum and supporting Forum members

The work that you do every day is what really brings the principles of the Mental Capacity Act to life – making sure that people are supported to make decisions, that decisions are in their best interests and take in to account their wishes and feelings, and that people are able to plan ahead for the future.

We are working with the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Health to make sure that you can access the support you need and are able to feel that you are part of a wider movement, for example by:

- Increasing the resources available online via the SCIE website <http://www.scie.org.uk/mca-directory/>
- Developing a new materials that can be used by every Forum member
- Sharing updates from key national bodies
- Giving you the opportunity to get involved in and support wider communications about the MCA, including through social media and blogs
- Encouraging more people to join the Forum – please do ask your colleagues to apply, details can be found on the [SCIE website](#).

I'm really pleased to say that a new [short film](#) about the MCA is being launched on the SCIE website today. It features a wide range of people talking about how the MCA has helped them to have a voice and I'd really encourage you to look at it, share it, and use it in your work.

So you will be hearing more from myself and the Leadership Group over the coming weeks and months, and I look forward to keeping the conversation going. If you have some news that you think other Forum members would like to hear about in a future newsletter, please do let us know.



Ilora Finlay

(Prof Baroness Finlay of Llandaff)