

Appendix D: IMCA accommodation and care review top tips

The following may help IMCAs with their work in accommodation decisions and care reviews. The points listed draw from the experience of IMCAs.

- Focus not just on the choice of the accommodation but also the support which will be received in that accommodation.
 - Check that the support will be personalised.
 - Get to know provision in your area for each client group (including knowing which services are on the local authority's approved provider list).
 - Find out about the local authority's eligibility criteria for adult social care.
 - Find out about NHS continuing healthcare and any joint NHS/local authority funding protocols.
 - Find out the local systems for making decisions regarding accommodation. For example, there may be a local authority panel where the decision to approve funding for a support package or support work is made.
 - Learn about local discharge policies and identify the discharge coordinators in local hospitals.
 - Familiarise yourself with the process of hospital discharge if someone is self-funding.
 - Visit hospital discharge teams and be prepared to discuss the MCA in relation to the Community Care (Delayed Discharge etc.) Act 2003.
 - Invest in developing relationships with key people in acute hospitals including managers responsible for older people's services and the patient advisory liaison service.
 - Try to get local authority care plans to clearly identify how specific needs will be met in the care plan. This should include who will provide the support, how often and for how long (e.g. supported to walk to the paper shop seven days a week).
 - Develop a photo library of care homes to support communication, including with those clients who would be unable to visit services in advance of a potential move.
 - Be aware of home closures, deregistration of care homes and other accommodation developments in the area.
 - Find out if there are local authority policies on how many accommodation options must be considered when making a decision and the maximum support hours that will be provided at home.
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