

Can a Person with Dementia make that Decision?

This training session looked at capacity, consent, decision making and an overview of GDPR regulations. Everybody left with a detailed GDPR do's and dont's checklist which can be found here:

We explored in detail how capacity impacts on a person's right to make a decision for themselves. We also discussed Deprivation of Liberty safeguards and Power of Attorney.

DO'S	DONT'S
Always assume that a person has capacity to make a decision unless it is proven otherwise.	Assume somebody doesn't have capacity just because they have dementia
Do all you can to support someone to make a decision, whether that is verbally or through images, Makaton etc	Think it is easier to get a decision made through someone's family or friends. They may not be acting in a person's best interests
Acknowledge that capacity is time and decision specific, not something which stays the same at all times.	Use lack of capacity as an excuse to exclude people with dementia from having their voices heard.
Account for any communication needs detailed on the referral e.g hard of hearing, better during the afternoon etc	Talk over or for somebody just because their communication needs may vary. For example, you may want to follow up with a letter or speak to a family member too
Contact the office of the public guardian or adult social care if you are concerned about someone's power of attorney or have a safeguarding concern	Don't ignore abuses of power and rights. If you are concerned, speak out.
Adhere to GDPR guidance ensuring personal data is kept securely, appropriately and with the consent of the person concerned.	Leave personal data on display, unsecured or shared inappropriately.

