

Extra Meeting - Carers Reference Group
Friday 9th February 2018
Carers Leeds - The Headrow Leeds

Present at the meeting Jackie Hartley, Family Carer Liz Davis, Family Carer Louise Mills, Adult Social Care Lynn Bailey, Family Carer and Facilitator Madeleine Fahy, Through The Maze Maire Sykes, Family Carer Shirley Evison, Family Carer Suzanne Jackson Bailey, Family Carer Yvonne Ugarte, Family Carer	Guests Matt Lindley, Adults and Health, LCC Ian Brooke-Mawson, Leeds City Council Fiona Martin, Leeds City Council Apologies Becky Mitchell, Family Carer Maureen Lumb, Family Carer Kausar Iqbal, Family Carer
1.	Purpose of the meeting
	Carers had previously raised queries around decision making responsibilities and other practicalities associated with their caring roles. Fiona and Matt had offered to revisit the group and provide further information.
2.	Welcome and introductions
	Lynn thanked everyone for attending the extra meeting and asked people to introduce themselves.
3.	Mental Capacity – Matt Lindley, Safeguarding and Risk Manager within Adults & Health
	In preparation for this meeting, carers had been asked to provide examples of mental capacity situations they are concerned about. Matt worked through the examples and talked about things that have to be taken into consideration. These notes contain general information and links to other websites. As with all situations, the circumstances have to be addressed on a case by case basis.
3.1	Example 1 – dental procedure carried out without contacting the family carer. Factors for consideration – patient age; child or adult, did the patient understand what was going to happen (had they been shown an easy read guide to the procedure), could the treatment have been deferred? Has a mental capacity needs assessment been carried out? A breach of the MCA could result in a prison sentence for the person responsible. Actions and other sources of information: 1. Invite a dental service representative to a future carers reference group – this issue could also be raised via the Health Task Group.

	2. explore what tools dentists use to explain procedures to people with learning disabilities 3. Matt offered to look into the circumstances 4. Ian offered to make enquires within the CCGs 5. https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/consent-to-treatment/capacity/
3.2	Example 2 – Daughter going on holiday with boyfriend and two support workers. Sharing room with her boyfriend. MC assessment carried out but carer not involved/informed. Carer concerned about the couple sharing a room. Factors for consideration - There are different types of procedures for assessing the mental capacity of people to consent to having relationships/contact and this applies to people aged 16 years and over. Some of these tests require the high courts to make the decision. If a MC assessment has been carried out and the person is of a certain age they will be deemed old enough to make a choice, even if it isn't a wise choice. Actions and other sources of information 1. Matt to look into this matter 2. Click the following link Relationships and Sex and Learning Disability Mencap
3.3	Example 3 – Daughter turns 18 years of age and carer has little say in her care. How can carer's views be heard? Response: If a carer feels her daughter is unable to make her own decisions, has a MCA assessment been done?
3.4	Example 4 – How can I make sure my daughter's care and emotional care is looked after if I should pass away? Response: a court of protection can appoint a welfare deputy https://www.gov.uk/courts-tribunals/court-of-protection.
3.5	Example 5 - How can we make sure they are making the right decision and not being bombarded by somebody's views? Response: Carers can consider applying to become a court appointed deputy. See above link.
3.6	Example 6 – is there a plan that can be put in place to protect their interests and who should oversee it? Response: 1. Carers can apply to the Court of Protection 2. Health and Social Care Reviews – if someone is in receipt of social/health care funded services, they should be reviewed annually.
4.	General information about mental capacity and support
	In situations where there's serious doubt or dispute about what's in an incapacitated person's best interests, healthcare professionals can refer the case to the Court of Protection for a ruling. The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) says certain people must think about the code of practice. The mental capacity act says;

	• assume a person has the capacity to make a decision themselves, unless it's proved otherwise • wherever possible, help people to make their own decisions • if you make a decision for someone who doesn't have capacity, it must be in their best interests • Someone can lack capacity to make some decisions (for example, to decide on complex financial issues) but still have the capacity to make other decisions (for example, to decide what items to buy at the local shop). See links below: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support/mental-capacity/ https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-capacity-act-code-of-practice Where people feel LCC funded services are not providing the support they are supposed to, carers can raise the issue with a care manager, who will speak to the provider. Similarly, if support detailed in a care plan isn't being provided, care management need to know.
5.	Emergency support for Carers – Ian Brooke Mawson
	Ian provided an overview of the carers emergency planning scheme that Leeds City Council currently fund Ark Healthcare to provide. Carers can register with the scheme by contacting Ark Healthcare who will then arrange a home visit to complete an emergency plan. In the event of an emergency either the carer or emergency services should contact Ark who will then contact people recorded in the plan as emergency contacts (usual family or friends). If there are no emergency contacts (recorded or available) Ark Healthcare can provide emergency care for up to 48 hours. The scheme has been reviewed and we believe it can be modernised to increase the number of carers completing their plans and putting carers in control of completing their plans. We also want to make sure that robust arrangements are in place for the safe registration and storage of plans and that arrangements are in place in the event of an emergency. Ian agreed to keep the group informed as work progresses.
6.	Strengths based work in care management and carers emergency plan updates – Fiona Martin
6.1	Fiona attended the meeting to follow up on previous requests for information. Emergency planning – in addition to Ian's update, Adam Burton had also sent information for the carers. Paper copies were circulated at the meeting.

6.2	Transitions – carers had previously talked about the difficulties when young people with learning disabilities turn 18. Adults and Health are aware of the gaps and David Williams, Transition Team Manager is currently working with children’s services to address these issues. David and Fiona had attended the Better Action for Families group as requested to discuss issues.
6.3	Carers concerns around the reliability of providers – some of these concerns have been dealt with privately and Fiona advised that care management are starting a piece of work with partners/providers to work to improve provision.
6.4	Being Me Project – the project has been given the same name as the learning disability strategy so that the aims and ambitions align with the themes within the strategy. The project to date, has focused on 3 particular strands – crisis, new referrals and children transitioning to adult care.
6.5	Care Management are now working more closely with Through the Maze so they have more up-to-date information about opportunities in Leeds. Through the Maze have also attended home visits with care managers to assist in sign-posting and care managers have met people at Through the Maze drop in sessions, which has worked well.
6.6	The ASC Being Me project is moving into Stage 2 and will focus on the following themes; supporting people around risk (“Risk Enablement”), Employment, Reviews, Providers, Individual Service Funds. These themes align with the Being Me refreshed strategy and feedback received. The Being Me project will continue and has a wide membership. Lynn asked if there was a carer representative- there is Carers Leeds and Madeleine Fahy attends - Carers group members felt there should be a Carer on the group. Fiona agreed and extended an invite. Action: Carers Reference Group to identify who would like to attend.
6.7	Different types of reviews. Further clarification was sought over the variety of reviews and whether they can be done at the same time. Response: there are different types of reviews, for example education, health and social care and some can be done at the same time. Adult and Health also review the services they buy.
7.	Any other business/questions
	Lynn raised a concern over a taxi company continuing to send a car to a scheme despite several notifications that the service user is no longer attending. Action: Lynn to send Fiona further details.
8.	Date of next meetings
	• 2nd March 2018 – Carers Reference Group meeting • 8th June 2018 – Carers Reference Group meeting