

Equipping the social care workforce to better understand the Mental Capacity Act 2005 as it relates to effective dementia care practice: an evaluation by the Mental Health Foundation

Executive Summary

This project involved the development, delivery and evaluation of a half day training session, '**Decision Making in Dementia Care**', aimed at equipping the social care workforce to better understand how the Mental Capacity Act 2005 relates to the care of people with dementia. The project was undertaken in 2014/15 as a partnership between the Mental Health Foundation and Support in Dementia and funded by the Department of Health. The evaluation found that the course was very successful in meeting its overall aim.

Key findings

- participants high expectations of how the course would increase their knowledge and skills were met
- participants came away feeling that they had had a positive learning experience
- the training was broadly effective in meeting its main aim, of increasing a sample of the social care workforce's understanding of how the Mental Capacity Act relates to the care of people with dementia
- people from all settings learned most about the five key principles of the Mental Capacity Act
- people attending the course significantly increased their understanding of best interests decisions
- people learned a lot about using the Act to assess people's capacity
- people working in supported living settings showed a greater increase in scores in their understanding than did those working in either residential or domiciliary settings

For more detailed analysis of the project please download the report from the Support in Dementia website www.supportindementia.com