

## FINAL

### **Mental Capacity Act: Ambitions for the Health and Social Care System**

Through a shared and complementary programme of work, the joint ambition of the member organisations of the Mental Capacity Act Steering Group is to foster and enable a health and social care system where:

- Individuals lacking the mental capacity to make their own decisions receive the same opportunities and same quality of care as those with mental capacity
- Individuals lacking mental capacity are supported to express their health and care preferences and exercise choice in the same manner as individuals with mental capacity
- Informal carers of those lacking capacity (such as close family and friends) are appropriately involved in best interests decision making. Where appropriate, individuals lacking mental capacity will be supported by an IMCA.
- Assessments of mental capacity are undertaken whenever appropriate
- For individuals who lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions (even after all appropriate steps to support them to do so have been taken), decision-makers proceed with the best interests of the individual first and foremost in mind.

Such a system will mean that no longer will individuals, who may lack capacity with regards to certain decisions at certain times, simply be labelled as lacking the capacity to make decisions on any aspects of their care and treatment. Instead, we will see a health and social care system, with the five fundamental principles of the Mental Capacity Act firmly embedded from home to headquarters. A system where everyone is as empowered and engaged in their own care as possible, and as such, a system where individuals will more likely achieve good health outcomes, a positive patient experience and improved well-being.

The member organisations of the Mental Capacity Act Steering Group are:

Academy of Medical Royal Colleges  
Association of Directors of Adult Social Services  
Care Provider Alliance  
Care Quality Commission  
College of Social Work  
Court of Protection  
Department of Health  
Health Education England  
Local Government Association  
Ministry of Justice  
Monitor  
NHS Confederation  
NHS England  
Office of the Public Guardian  
Public Health England  
Royal College of Psychiatrists  
Social Care Institute of Excellence