

INDEPENDENT MENTAL CAPACITY ADVOCACY (IMCA)



The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA)

The MCA is a law to empower and keep people safe who may be unable to make some decisions for themselves.



What does 'lacks capacity' mean?

A person who lacks capacity is unable to make a particular decision for themselves because they can't:

- Understand the information about the decision
- Retain that information
- Use that information to make the decision
- Communicate their decision



What is Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA)?

The aim of the IMCA service is to provide support for people who lack capacity and have no-one else (other than paid staff) to support them to make important decisions about either:



Serious medical treatment- treatment which involves providing, withdrawing or withholding medical treatment



Long term accommodation move (a stay in a care home of more than 8 weeks or a stay in hospital for more than 28 days)

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Care Review - where a change in accommodation has recently happened and this is being reviewed to see if it is working for the person.



Safeguarding Adults – safeguarding is where somebody is protected from harm



The Mental Capacity Act (2005) places a legal duty (a legal duty is where somebody has to do something by law) on Health and Social Care professionals to refer to an IMCA service.



How can I make a referral? (a referral is when somebody tells us that you might need some extra support)

It is the decision maker (health or social care professional who is making the decision) that has a legal duty to decide if the person meets this criteria and to make the referral.

The St. Helens Advocacy Hub offers a SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT for all advocacy enquiries in the area.

For more information or to make a referral:

Tel: 0300 3030 202

Website www.sthelensadvocacyhub.org.uk

Email: referral@sthelensadvocacyhub.org.uk

Online chat: <https://www.n-compass.org.uk/get-support/advocacy/>