

Newsletter



Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding (DoLS)

Issue 1

September 2010

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding (DoLS) Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of this quarterly DoLS newsletter.

This newsletter has been designed to keep you up-to-date and informed on the latest changes and developments with DoLS and how they may affect you and the company you work for.

In each newsletter there will be DoLS updates, real life case studies, training & development opportunities and lots more.

In addition to receiving this newsletter a copy of the Bracknell Forest Council Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) Authorisation Process is attached and a Quick Reference Prompt sheet for all staff detailing the reporting procedure for DoLS.

What is Deprivation of Liberty?

Some people who live in care homes and hospitals cannot make their own decisions about their care or treatment because they lack the mental capacity to do so. Caring for and treating people who need extra protection may mean restricting their freedom for example:

- If may be necessary to stop a person from leaving a care home or hospital
- Staff may have to make most of the choices for a person in their care.

If there are restrictions like this, it may be that a person is being deprived of their liberty. However, sometimes there is no alternative than to deprive someone of their liberty as it is in their best interests.

Why should I report if someone is being deprived of their liberty in my workplace? It will make the organisation I work for look bad!

This is not true. Reporting that someone is being deprived of their liberty is probably one of the best things that you and the organisation you work for could do. By acknowledging that someone you care for is being deprived of their liberty you could give both the relevant person and you the additional help and support needed to cater for their needs.

When can someone be deprived of their liberty?

Depriving someone of their liberty who lacks the capacity to agree to care or treatment is a serious matter. The decision to do this should not be taken lightly.

The DoLS clearly state that a person may only be deprived of their liberty:

- If it is in their best interest to protect them from harm
- If it is a proportionate response to the likelihood and seriousness of harm
- If there is no alternative that is less restrictive

DOLS

How to make a DoLS Application?

In the first instance report your concerns to your care home manager, they will then using the appropriate forms report this to the DoLS Administrator at Bracknell Forest Council either by email dols.application@bracknell-forest.gov.uk or fax 01344 351596.

If you are unsure and would like to speak to someone regarding your concern please contact Gemma Symes – DoLS Administrator on 01344 351938 who will be able to help you with your enquiry and refer you to one of the Best Interest Assessors who will be happy to help you.

Best Interest Assessors at Bracknell Forest Council

There are 6 Best Interest Assessors at Bracknell Forest Council:

- Simon Broad
- Angie Limer
- Dawn Amer
- Susan Nutter
- Sally Palmer
- Yvonne Griffiths

Forthcoming Training Opportunities

NB: These courses are currently FREE if you are interested in applying please contact the Learning & Development Co-ordinator on 01344 352211 or 01344 352293

20th October 2010 Deprivation of Liberty

15th December 2010 Deprivation of Liberty

8th November 2010 Mental Capacity Act

11th October 2010 Safeguarding Adults Level 1

1st December 2010 Safeguarding Adults Level 1

Individual training can be arranged to suit your organisations needs. Please call Gemma Symes on 01344 351938.

If you have any questions or would like more advice or information, please call 01344 351938 or email dols.application@bracknell-forest.gov.uk