

Newham Health Team for
Adults with Learning Disabilities

Making decisions about a person's health:



The

Mental Capacity Act



This leaflet tells you about how our team works with adults with learning disabilities when they do not have capacity to consent for health team input



When people turn 18, there is a change in the way decisions around their health have to be made



This is because of the Mental Capacity Act



This states that if anyone aged 18 or over cannot make a decision on their own



the decision can either be made by a someone else who has Power of Attorney for Health and welfare (agreed through the Courts),



or the decision has to be made by the health professional in the person's best interests



Family and carers are very important in the best interest decision making process, but can no longer give consent for the person



Before completing a best interest decision, the health professional has to undertake a capacity assessment to show whether the client can make their own decision or not



You can find out more on these websites:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support/mental-capacity/>

http://www.easyhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/mental_capacity_act_0.pdf



Or please speak to one of the health team



You can phone us on 0207 059 6600