

## **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