

# Mental Capacity Act Charter

The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) is a legal framework, designed to protect and empower people who may lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions.

## As Lambeth Safeguarding Adults Board members, we pledge to;

1. *Uphold the principles of the MCA in all of our work, these being;*
  - ✓ *Not to discriminate against a person's ability to make a decisions about their future based only on appearance or disability*
  - ✓ *To support people, to our fullest capability, to make their own decisions*
  - ✓ *To respect a person's right to make an unwise decision*
  - ✓ *To ensure that decisions made for a person are in their best interests*
  - ✓ *To consider decisions in terms of what is less restrictive of the persons rights and freedoms*
2. *Recognise and honour, wherever possible, a person's human right to decide their own future*
3. *View the 'assessment of capacity' not simply as a process, but as an opportunity for a meaningful conversation with the person*
4. *Wherever possible, continue supporting people who may have made what could be construed as an 'unwise decision'*
5. *Ensure the persons present and past wishes, feelings, values and beliefs are at the forefront of any decision made in a person's best interest*
6. *Promote legally recognised tools that help people make decisions in advance of any loss of capacity.*
7. *Support approaches where risk is viewed positively, thereby enhancing less restrictive practices.*
8. *Champion quality MCA practice through clear leadership and a culture of improvement.*
9. *Recognise and respond to a Deprivation of Liberty in a timely way, thereby ensuring the person has full access to their legal rights.*
10. *Contribute to raising awareness of the MCA both within our organisations and the wider community*