**Course Title:** Introduction to the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

**Subject category:** Mental Health: Mental Capacity: Law

**Course aim:** To provide delegates with a basic understanding, skills and confidence to work with people sensitively and within the law in situations where capacity and liberty are significant issues.

**Course overview:** Research has shown that there is still a great deal of confusion and uncertainty amongst those working in health and social care surrounding the implications for their practice of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) introduced in 2008. Staff wish to offer sensitive, appropriate and person-centred support, particularly around decision-making, but are concerned that they may not be meeting legal requirements. This course aims to provide sufficient basic understanding of the relevant law and its implications for good practice to ensure that staff can deliver high quality and legally appropriate support with confidence.

**Pre course requirements:** None but experience working with vulnerable adults would provide context.

**Name of trainer:** Bernadette Lynch

**Who should attend:** Support and professional staff who work with vulnerable clients (which may include those with mental health issues, learning disabilities, dementia or a combination of those) in situations where decisions, both minor and major, are being made about people’s lives and where mental capacity and keeping people safe are key issues. This might include residential homes, respite care, hospitals and community settings.

**Course level:** Level One (Introductory)

**What you will learn:**

- Why the MCA and DOLS were introduced
- When they are relevant in our personal and professional lives
- What general principles and values underpin this legislation
- What is mental capacity and incapacity and how do we assess them
- What are best interests and how do we assess them
• What is an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) and when are they relevant

• What is a deprivation of liberty

• When is a deprivation of liberty safeguard (DOL) required

• How to work with all these areas of law whilst also providing sensitive, appropriate, person-centred support

Course timings: This one day course will run from 9.30am to 4.00pm with short comfort breaks, morning and afternoon and a one hour lunch break.

Programme:

9.30am Welcome, introductions, housekeeping and ground rules

10.00am **Introduction to the Legislation: MCA and DOLS**
Why did we need new law? Relevance at home and in work. Consent and capacity. Capacity and children. Key principles and values. Disorders and disabilities of mind or brain. Definitions of capacity and incapacity. MCA Code of Practice

11.00am Break

11.15am **Assessing Capacity and Best Interests**

12.30pm Lunch

1.30pm **Other MCA provisions on decision-making**

2.30pm Break

2.45pm **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards**

3.45pm Review and evaluation

4.00pm Close