

## INDEPENDENT MENTAL CAPACITY ADVOCACY (IMCA)



### **The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA)**

The MCA is a law to empower and keep people safe who may be unable to make some decisions for themselves.



### **What does 'lacks capacity' mean?**

A person who lacks capacity is unable to make a particular decision for themselves because they can't:

- Understand the information about the decision
- Retain that information
- Use that information to make the decision
- Communicate their decision



### **What is Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA)?**

The aim of the IMCA service is to provide support for people who lack capacity and have no-one else (other than paid staff) to support them to make important decisions about either:



**Serious medical treatment-** treatment which involves providing, withdrawing or withholding medical treatment



**Long term accommodation move** (a stay in a care home of more than 8 weeks or a stay in hospital for more than 28 days)

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**Care Review** - where a change in accommodation has recently happened and this is being reviewed to see if it is working for the person.



**Safeguarding Adults** – safeguarding is where somebody is protected from harm



The Mental Capacity Act (2005) places a legal duty ( a legal duty is where somebody has to do something by law) on Health and Social Care professionals to refer to an IMCA service.



**How can I make a referral? (a referral is when somebody tells us that you might need some extra support)**

It is the decision maker (health or social care professional who is making the decision) that has a legal duty to decide if the person meets this criteria and to make the referral.

**Westmorland and Furness Advocacy Hub offers a SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT for all advocacy enquiries in the area**

For more information or to make a referral:

Tel: **0300 3030 209**

Website [www.westmorlandandfurnessadvocacyhub.org.uk](http://www.westmorlandandfurnessadvocacyhub.org.uk)

Email: [referral@westmorlandandfurnessadvocacyhub.org.uk](mailto:referral@westmorlandandfurnessadvocacyhub.org.uk)

Online chat: [www.n-compass.org.uk/services/advocacy-service](http://www.n-compass.org.uk/services/advocacy-service)