

Newsletter, January 2016

We wish all of our customers, colleagues and friends a very Happy New Year.

We hope this newsletter contains some items of interest – please feel free to ask us about anything in it, and/or to forward it to anyone else who you think might like to receive it.

Changes to DoLS are being drafted

As you probably know, the Law Commission’s consultation period on the proposed changes to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards closed last November. The current plan is that they will bring out their revised proposals sometime towards the end of 2016, which will eventually be debated in Parliament. [Click here for an interesting update](#) from “Community Care”. Whatever happens it is going to be a lengthy process, and in the meantime all service providers have to continue to comply with the existing Safeguards, however unsatisfactory you might consider them to be. We have lots of DoLS resources available for free on [our own website](#).

Excellent database of Serious Case Reviews and Safeguarding Adults Reviews

The website of the Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board contains a section called “[Learning from Experience Database](#)” which has links to lots of Serious Case Reviews (Safeguarding Adults Reviews from April 2015). You can filter by theme (eg self neglect, hate crime etc) or by local authority area or by year. Highly recommended.

We’ve updated our e-learning content

If you’re looking for high quality e-learning on a range of topics (Safeguarding, Mental Capacity Act, DoLS, Dual Diagnosis etc etc) then [please have a browse through our courses](#). Several of the topics have free demo versions which you can try out immediately. Take a look, and then drop us a line if you want more information about prices and packages.

Woman who “lost her sparkle” was allowed to refuse treatment

The Court of Protection deals with the Mental Capacity Act – and often its function is to make a ruling when professionals want to do one thing and the patient or service user wants to do something else. The Court has a long tradition of upholding the rights of the patient/service user to make their own decisions if they possibly can – even when those decisions might appear to be unwise. [This widely publicised case from a few weeks back](#) is a perfect example. Very sad for everyone concerned, we're sure, but the key issue was that the patient was deemed to know what she was doing by refusing the treatment. In other words she had capacity to make the decision for herself.

Samaritans' Suicide Statistics Report 2015

We deliver lots of training in Working with Suicide and Self Harm. The Samaritans recently published [an analysis of trends in this important subject](#) which is very enlightening. And if you want to talk to us about training on this, or any other issue, please feel free to drop us a line or give us a call.

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