

## *St Thomas Training Newsletter - October 2014*

We hope you find lots to interest you in this month's newsletter.

We are always pleased to hear from you – please feel free to comment on any item here, or ask questions, by replying directly to this email, or by using Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter (links at the bottom of the page).

You are also very welcome to forward this newsletter on to any colleagues who might find it interesting.

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### **Cheshire West Supreme Court DoLS ruling continues to cause ripples**

Perhaps “ripples” is too mild a word, for what has actually been a major jolt to the entire system. We have a [summary of the issues on our own site](#), and “Community Care” magazine has also [published a series of articles](#) recently examining the effects over the past 6 months since the Supreme Court published its ruling. If you need a reminder of the seriousness of depriving someone of their liberty unlawfully then you might care to read [this recent case from Somerset](#), or perhaps [this even more recent case from Milton Keynes](#), both of which had worrying echoes of the (in)famous [Steven Neary case in Hillingdon](#) in 2009.

Don't forget that we can train your staff in what it all means for you. DoLS has been our most-requested training topic of the past few months – unsurprisingly.

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### **We need more trainers!**

Do you know anyone who is an experienced health or social care professional, and who is also an excellent trainer? If so then please get

them to contact us. Demand for our training courses has rocketed over the past few months and we need a few more people to join our approved list of Associate Trainers. An ability to travel throughout the UK would be a distinct advantage.

The main demand at present is for Mental Capacity Act, DoLS and Safeguarding, but we would also like trainers who can deliver training on the Care Act, Female Genital Mutilation and anything to do with the new Care Certificate. Anyone is welcome to call or email us first for an informal discussion and we'll take it from there.

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### **Suicide prevention resources**

We deliver a fair amount of training in “Dealing with Suicide and Self Harm”, and we would recommend the resources available on the website of [Grassroots Suicide Prevention](#). In particular they have an excellent app for iPad or iPhone (search for “grassroots” in the App Store).

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### **CQC's new approach to inspecting adult social care**

You will no doubt be aware that the CQC introduced its new inspection regime on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Amongst other things they are keen to know how well your staff understand, and use, the Mental Capacity Act and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. There are [extensive resources to help providers on their website](#). That page contains downloadable handbooks for different types of providers, together with a video clip of an interview with Andrea Sutcliffe, Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care.

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### **Our new service: Mental Capacity Act and DoLS audits in your workplace**

Would you like a highly experienced MCA/DOLS specialist to visit your establishment and give you a detailed report on how well you are implementing the Mental Capacity Act, and/or DoLS? Our consultant is a qualified Senior Social Worker and Best Interests Assessor with almost 20 years' experience in Adult Social Care. His most recent post was as the

Mental Capacity Act and DoLS Lead for a local authority.

For more details [please click here](#) or simply reply to this email.

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### Latest videos from Social Care TV

Many of you will be aware that the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has lots of useful (and free!) video clips on its site. The latest offerings include “Living with Dementia”, “Whistle-blowing: Improving Organisational Practice” and “End of Life Care: Supporting Staff in Care Homes”. Highly recommended viewing. [Click here](#) to see all the latest video clips.

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### Mental health pledges by the Liberal Democrats

St Thomas Training tries to be neutral when it comes to politics, but we were impressed (and frankly surprised) that one political party dared to talk about mental health at its recent annual conference. It remains to be seen whether the Liberal Democrats will ever be in a position to make good their pledge to set [waiting time limits for NHS appointments](#) for people with mental health needs – but it is at least a start!

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### Mental Capacity Act forms and resources

Gloucestershire County Council has developed a wide range of forms and resources which are [freely available on their website](#). Their MCA Governance Manager has assured me that these documents can be used outside of Gloucestershire, as long as an appropriate acknowledgement is given.

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