

Always follow the 5 MCA principles:

- 1 Presume capacity; **and**
- 2 Support the person to make the decision before doubting their capacity
- 3 People are entitled to make unwise/eccentric decisions:
***doubt**
- 4 Best interest decision
- 5 Least restrictive option

* If capacity is in **doubt** at this point and the person has a disorder of the mind, no matter how caused, use the 4 point capacity test overleaf.

4 point capacity test

Can the person:

- 1 **Understand** the decision that needs to be made?
- 2 **Retain** the information long enough to make that decision?
- 3 **Use/weigh-up** the information?
- 4 **Communicate** their decision the way they usually communicate?

Failing any one of the above means the person lacks capacity to make this particular decision at this time. Now a '**Best Interest Decision**' can be made using the MCA Principle 4 checklist below.

'Best Interest' checklist

- 1 Will the person regain capacity?
- 2 Involve the person
- 3 Consult all relevant people
- 4 Consider all the information
- 5 Do not make any assumptions
- 6 Consider past, present & future wishes
- 7 The very least restrictive option