

Information for adult social care providers

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Leicestershire
County Council

Issue 2:

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) update

Dear colleague,

DoLS is a statutory service that we are trying to maintain as the situation with Covid-19 develops.

We are asking the Best Interests Assessors to make contact with providers to complete the assessments, receive paperwork from yourselves via secure email and we will use previous assessments completed where we can. Our aim is to keep as many people as possible subject to a DoLS Authorisation so that their Article 5 Rights are upheld.

There will be individuals that we do need to complete a face to face visit for due to their circumstances or Court of Protection involvement and we will be in touch about these on a case by case basis.

The Mental Health Assessors are all consultant psychiatrists, they may also need to complete a face to face visit in cases where there is Court of Protection involvement, otherwise they may be able to request records from yourselves that indicate an individual's mental health diagnosis and impact that the restrictions are having upon the individual's mental health.

The Paid Person's Representatives, whilst not able to visit at this time, will be making telephone contact, I will ask them to avoid meal times and that you may need to end the call abruptly if you have a priority health call to make. They could also consider phoning the service user directly if they have their own phone.

The Paid Person's Representatives continue to have a duty to consider whether the individual is objecting to an element of their care and treatment or residence as well as checking on conditions and recommendations of the DoLS authorisation. I have asked them to be mindful of the pressure that you are all under however you are able to provide them with the information they need over the phone. If you have any queries about their identity or role, the DOLS team telephone number is 0116 3057853.

If you have any queries about DoLS during this period, we have a duty Best Interests Assessor daily so please phone or email in to dols.team@leics.gov.uk

Kind Regards,

Susan Callis

Service Manager, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Team