Mental Capacity Act Enquiry Panel summary

Objective

•To be asured that capacity is assessed quickly and accurately when safeguarding adults who are not able to make a particular decisions for themselves, ensuring they are safe and their wellbeing protected

Positive Findings

- Some agencies had undertaken formal or peer auditing to feel confident that the legislation was being implemented appropriately within their organisations
- •Some agencies could clearly say how staff were trained in assessing capacity although it was noted by the panel that this was not always mandatory (this was an area for development for some agencies who have 'voluntary' traiing in place)
- All but one agencies had produced guidance and policy for staff to support them when assessing capacity
- The local Authority had developed an onling resource for assessing capacity that anyone can acess for infromation and resources

Areas for Development

- Not all agencies were clear about their responsibiltiies to assess capacity, seeing as a social care and/or health undertaking via referrals
- Agencies could use case note recording more efficiently to evidence that a capcity assessment had taken place
- •Some agencies would ebnefit from increased staff understanding of the Mnetal Capacity Act and its application within their roles, but there were no clear action plans to detail how this could be achieved

Recommendations

- •The national training framework could be used to provide a CSAB preferred approach to levels of training. This may provide assurance that all professionals are trained to the appropriate standard.
- •Coventry agencies could produce and adhere to a piece of joint agency guidance around the Mental Capacity Act. This may provide consistency in Coventry's approach.
- Agencies could all be encouraged to work to NICE guidance 108 - 'Decision Making and Mental Capacity'.
- All colleagues can access the Local Authority MCA website for support and guidance (http://www.umccoventry.co.u k/)
- •The Board may wish to consider whether, in light of the Enquiry Panel findings, improving performance around assessing capacity should feature in 2019-20 priorities