##  Job Description

## Job Purpose & Objectives

Details

To carry out the role of Best Interest Assessor to make recommendations about whether it is appropriate for adults to be deprived of their liberty. To undertake Safeguarding Enquiries if operational demands require it.

## Main Duties & Responsibilities

Details

The role exists to ensure BCP Council meets its statutory responsibilities under the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards in order to promote the rights of adults who may lack capacity to make certain decisions.

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to employ Best Interest Assessors. This role can be undertaken by a Social Worker, Occupational Therapist, Qualified Nurse or Psychologist with proven post qualifying experience, who have gained a Best Interest Assessor qualification.

The role helps to ensure a high quality Deprivation of Liberty Assessment and advice service is provided which is driven by the Statutory requirements arising from the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, by carrying out detailed and analytical assessments and reviews, collating and evaluating complex evidence in an intensive service user focused piece of work.

The role requires detailed knowledge of case law relating to Mental Capacity and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

The role is vital in ensuring service users human rights are protected, and they have access to the statutory support they are entitled to, including support from an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate, and in some circumstances, a Paid Representative.

The successful candidate will be able to produce accurate, concise reports to a high standard.

To take active responsibility for safeguarding adults in vulnerable situations, being alert to the potential for abuse, and responding appropriately where there are concerns, including discussing with Practice Manager, and raising an alert where appropriate.

To ensure that any adult who may be at risk of being deprived of their liberty, who is living in a care home or hospital, is assessed in line with the Mental Capacity Act, and where necessary appropriate applications are made for authorisation for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

Carrying out Safeguarding Enquiries as operational demands require.

To be available for student and newly qualified Best Interest Assessors to shadow all aspects of Best Interest Assessor work, to provide guidance regarding the role and associated responsibilities, and the assessment process itself. This may include undertaking the role of Practice Educator or On Site Supervisor/Mentor for students undertaking training in the same discipline.

## Supervisory/Managerial Responsibilities

Details

No formal requirements. Practitioners would be encouraged to undertake Practice Educator/Mentoring role with students and expected to work alongside newly qualified BIA's in supporting their development.

## Communication/Contacts

Details

• Clients/Carers/Family • Colleagues in local authorities • Health colleagues • Hospital staff • Providers • Safeguarding Practitioners • AMHP’s etc.

## Career Path Linked to this Post

Details

Not appropriate

## Additional Information

Details

## General Information for all Posts

This is an outline job description only and the post holder will be expected to undertake the duties commensurate within the range and grade of the post or any lesser duties as directed by the Service Director/Headteacher.

NB: The aim of the job description is to indicate the general purpose and level of responsibility of the post. Please be aware that duties may vary from time to time without changing their character or general level of responsibility. Duties may be subject to periodic review by the Service Director or nominated representative (in consultation with the postholder) to reflect the changing work composition of the business.