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**Summer is here**

**Staff news**

Congratulations to Claire Chapman, our Registered Manager, on achieving her Leader in Adult Care level 5. Well done Claire – we know you have worked really hard on this award, keep up the good work that you are doing!

**College survey 2022**

In June we carried out an annual survey regarding the support we provide at South Essex College. Feedback was very good and we want to thank all staff involved in supporting students at the college – **well done!** Here is a sample of what students told us:

*“Without the support of SPDNS college support workers I would find college extremely difficult and I truly appreciate all the help I get”*

*“They give me support when needed, they are always there for advice if I’m unsure. They build my confidence and help me mix more & help me with my college work”*

**College staff told us:**

*“I am very impressed by the service offered to our students. Staff are friendly, kind and aware of their student’s needs. They are also flexible in terms of changes in student plans.”*

**COVID-19**

A reminder please to everyone to keep up with your **twice weekly lateral flow tests.** Rates of transmission are rising again in this area so it remains very important that we all follow this guidance to protect ourselves, our families and those we care for.

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**Please can you all read through this information on the**

**Mental Capacity Act 2005**

**A reminder of the five key principles of this Act**

The Act is underpinned by five key principles. It is useful to consider the principles chronologically: principles 1 to 3 will support the process before or at the point of determining whether someone lacks capacity. Once you’ve decided that capacity is lacking, use principles 4 and 5 to support the decision-making process.

Principle 1: A presumption of capacity

Every adult has the right to make his or her own decisions and must be assumed to have capacity to do so unless it is proved otherwise. This means that you cannot assume that someone cannot make a decision for themselves just because they have a particular medical condition or disability.

Principle 2: Individuals being supported to make their own decisions

A person must be given all practicable help before anyone treats them as not being able to make their own decisions. This means you should make every effort to encourage and support people to make the decision for themselves. If lack of capacity is established, it is still important that you involve the person as far as possible in making decisions.

Principle 3: Unwise decisions

People have the right to make decisions that others might regard as unwise or eccentric. You cannot treat someone as lacking capacity for this reason. Everyone has their own values, beliefs and preferences which may not be the same as those of other people.

Principle 4: Best interests

Anything done for or on behalf of a person who lacks mental capacity must be done in their best interests.

Principle 5: Less restrictive option

Someone making a decision or acting on behalf of a person who lacks capacity must consider whether it is possible to decide or act in a way that would interfere less with the person’s rights and freedoms of action, or whether there is a need to decide or act at all. Any intervention should be weighed up in the particular circumstances of the case.

**If you need any further information or advice on the Mental Capacity Act please speak to your manager.**