



Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum

Registered Charity No: 1141060

Feedback from Karen Dowman - Head of Service -Children's Social Care

Parents Voice Report Oct – Dec 24

Page 20 – Short Breaks:

Short breaks are designed to provide children and young people with disabilities or additional needs the opportunity to enjoy new experiences, develop independence, and build friendships. These breaks also offer parents and caregivers valuable time to rest, recharge, and focus on other family members or personal activities. More information can be found on the Local offer- [Short breaks services – What are short breaks - Lincolnshire County Council](#)

Page 35 -Best Interest Order:

Mental Capacity Assessment

A mental capacity assessment checks if your teenager can make their own decisions. It looks at whether they can:

1. Understand the information needed to make a decision.
2. Remember that information long enough to make the decision.
3. Think through the pros and cons of the decision.
4. Communicate their decision (by talking, using sign language, or other ways).

If your teenager can't do these things, they might not have the "mental capacity" to make that decision at that time.

Best Interest Decisions

When your teenager can't make a decision for themselves, others need to make a best interest decision for them. This means thinking about what would be best for your teenager. To do this, they should:

1. Consider your teenager's past and present wishes and feelings.
2. Talk to people who know your teenager well, like family and friends.
3. Think about your teenager's values and beliefs.
4. Avoid making assumptions based on age, appearance, or condition.

The goal is to make a decision that respects your teenager's rights and is best for their well-being.

[pfa factsheet - mca.pdf](#)