

Speak up and make a difference.

Principles of the Mental Capacity Act:

- **Presume capacity** - most people can make some decisions
- **Make every effort** to help the person make the decision themselves
- A decision may be **unwise**, it does not make it wrong
- Any decision made for someone else must be in **their best interest**
- Any decisions made for someone else must be the **less restrictive** for them

Assessing mental capacity:

Capacity assessment is **time** and **decision** specific.

1. What decision needs to be made?

2. Consider – do they have all the information in order to:

- Understand the decision
- Retain what has been discussed
- Weigh up the pros and cons
- Tell you their decision

3. Does the person have an impairment which could affect their decision-making?

