

5 Principles Which Underpin The Mental Capacity Act:

In order to protect those who lack capacity and to enable them to take part, as much as possible in decisions that affect them, the following statutory principles apply:

- 1** You must always assume a person has capacity unless it is proved otherwise
- 2** You must take all practicable steps to enable people to make their own decisions
- 3** You must not assume incapacity simply because someone makes an unwise decision
- 4** Always act, or decide, for a person without capacity in their best interests
- 5** Carefully consider actions to ensure the least restrictive option is taken.