**Mental Capacity Assessment – Best Practice 1**

**Section 1: The decision in question**

* Decision around future living accommodation.
* Whether it is in Es best interest to remain at xxx residential home on a long term basis.

**Section 2: People consulted**

* Consultee – Relationship View / Comments
* SO (Cousin by marriage and POA)
* EP (Cousin and POA)

SO has been supporting E since the onset of dementia and has become more involved in doing so as E's dementia has progressed. SO feels that a long term placement at xxx would be in E's best interests.

EP feels that it would be in Es best interest to remain at xxx. She states that she has seen a decline in Es ability to cope at home.

**Section 3: Support given to make the decision / maximise capacity**

When speaking with E I ensured that the environment was quiet and that I spoke clearly. If I felt that E was struggling to understand a question I would try to rephrase it to ensure she had the best possible chance of understanding what I was asking. Sometimes it would take E some time to formulate her answers so I ensured that I gave her the opportunity to take time to think things through.

**Does the person have an impairment of, or disturbance in the functioning of their mind or brain?**

* Yes

**Please describe the nature of the impairment**, *e.g. a brief summary of the diagnosis (is it permanent, temporary, fluctuating), the source of any information and how the diagnosis might impact on decision making:*

* E was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease around three years ago.

**Is it appropriate to delay the assessment until diagnosis is clarified?**

* No

**If the impairment is fluctuating or temporary would it be appropriate to delay the assessment:**

* No

**Please explain** why (i.e. Risk, urgency etc)

* N/A

**Section 5: Additional factors beyond the skills of the person**

* No additional factors.

**Do you consider the person able to understand the information relevant to the decision?**

* No

**Evidence:** I began by asking E if she knew where she was and why she was there. She said she didn't know where she was but knew she had been told that she'd had a fall at home (although she did not remember this happening). E as able to understand that she had been brought there after falling and that she was being looked after. I asked her how she felt about staying there on a long term basis and she said that she would be happy to do that as 'it's nice having your meals made' and 'it's nice having the company'. I asked E if she knew why she was at xxx (residential home) and she said she didn't know other than that she'd fallen. I asked her if she knew why she was being asked about remaining at xxx on a long term basis and she said she didn't know but that she would be happy to remain there. Although E could understand that she had come to xxx after having a fall, she could not understand why it may be in her best interest to remain at the home. I explained to E that due to her dementia she may have been forgetting to do things at home, for example E had not had a bath or shower for around eighteen months before she had her last fall. E said that she was able to look after herself at home and was having a bath once a week and was able to keep her home clean. This is contrary to information given from SO and EP. This lack of insight into her needs for care and support, I feel, means that E is unable to fully understand the information relating to this decision.

**Do you consider the person able to retain the information relevant to the decision?**

* No

**Evidence:** I spoke with E on two separate occasions and although her answers to any questions are consistent she had no recollection of being asked about this decision before. I asked E on the second occasion that I met her if she remembered who I was and what we had spoken about the last time I had seen her and she said she did not know. E could remember that she had fallen at home but could only remember being told this rather than having any recollection of the incident itself. E also could not retain information around her needs for care and support as her insight into this is limited, as mentioned above.

**Do you consider the person able to use or weigh up the information as part of the decision making process?**

* No

**Evidence:** As previously mentioned, Es insight into her care and support needs is poor. She stated that she was able to clean her own home and keep it tidy without support, she also stated that she was buying her own food from the shops and was having a bath once a week. In reality, E had not had a bath or shower for around eighteen months, SO had been doing all of her food shopping and E had been unable to keep her house clean. She had also become agitated and upset when others had tried to support her to clean her home or with any personal care needs. Due to this I do not feel that EP is able to weigh up the information relevant to the decision as the main reason that a long term placement has been suggested is because of the difficulties E was having at home.

**Do you consider the person able to communicate their decision?**

* Yes

**Evidence:** E was able to communicate her decision verbally. She was able to state that she would be happy to remain at xxx as she likes the company and likes having her meals made for her. She did also say that there was 'no place like home' but also said that she was lonely when she was at home and this made her feel down. E said that this was 'a big decision to make' but that she would be happy to remain at xxx.