

Deciding right

An integrated approach to making care decisions in advance with children, young people and adults



Information for patients,
parents, partners and families

What is 'Deciding right'?



'Deciding right' is about making sure that a person is involved when decisions are being made about their future care and treatment. This is called shared decision making.



This leaflet will explain why we think this would be a good idea.

It will also tell you how we think this would happen.



'Deciding right' is a policy for use across the north east region. The policy looks at:

- care planning
- advance care planning
- 'best Interests' decision making for people who lack capacity.
- The Mental Capacity Act
- advance decisions to refuse treatment
- decisions about emergencies

Why do we need this?



This is Ralph's story. It will help to explain why we need to have a new way of doing things.

Ralph had not been well for a while. He did not want to be admitted to hospital again or to be resuscitated.



When Ralph became breathless and collapsed, the staff at his care home sent for an ambulance.



Because his wishes were written on ordinary paper the ambulance staff had no choice but to start resuscitating him.

He was then admitted to hospital and died soon after arriving.



There are lots of other examples of when this has happened to people.

How can this be made better for everyone?



The hospital has to have clear instructions for staff about what to do in an emergency.



People have the right to make decisions in advance about refusing treatment they do not want.



Decisions should be made in partnership between the individual, their carer or parent and their care professional. These decisions should then be communicated so that everyone knows what they are.



'Deciding right' should make sure that this happens.

How will 'Deciding right' help with this?



'Deciding right'

- Puts the patient at the centre of decisions about their care.



- Supports the partnership between the patient, carer or parent and care professionals.



- Gives the patient and the care professional the opportunity to talk about future care.



- Reduces the risk of getting unnecessary or unwanted treatment.



There is a leaflet which explains **advance care planning** if you would like to have more information.



- Introduces emergency health care plans to ensure that adults and children with complex needs receive the right care in an emergency.



If you would like some more information about 'Deciding right' please contact

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- Provides written forms that can be used in any place care is received.



Deciding right is a North East SHA initiative

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