

Who is really 'In Control' – service users, providers or commissioners?

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Rights and obligations in community care law on assessment, reviews, cuts, consultation and safeguarding

A Social Care Legal Seminar led by community care law expert Belinda Schwehr hosted by Community Living

Monday 12 December 9.30am for 10am – 4pm

Venue: Conference Room, The Directory of Social Change

24 Stephenson Way, London NW1 (by Euston Station)

Cost: £120, save £10 by booking by 28 October

(Subscribers to *Community Living* magazine can save an additional £10)

Book on the website at www.cl-initiatives.co.uk or email: admin@lldc.org

Enquiries: rosecli@btinternet.com or phone 01278 734591

Belinda Schwehr, LLM, is *Community Living's* legal correspondent. She is an expert in community care law having advised the ADASS, councils, service users, carers and providers and been successful in challenging decisions.

Nearly all the delegates at *Community Living's* social care budgets seminar in June rated the event as 'excellent' and in this follow-up seminar Belinda will cover the legal framework guiding assessment and commissioning and the emerging legal issues on cuts. She will clarify what should happen when decisions are made, particularly on the rights of carers and others to be consulted in assessment, and explain the

legal requirements of safeguarding, restrictions and deprivations of liberty.

Experience suggests some commissioners still don't understand their full legal responsibilities under the pressure of cuts or the limits on their decision-making abilities. Many family carers, service users, providers and advocates need to understand their legal rights and the limits. In the light of forthcoming changes in other areas of welfare benefits, it is vital that everyone fully understands the law as it applies now and in context. This is essential learning for all stakeholders in social care and should save unnecessary costs in complaints or legal action.

Belinda Schwehr, LLM, Legal Framework Trainer & Consultant, Care and Health Law

Belinda has extensive experience as a barrister and solicitor, teaching public law. She offers independent legal and training consultancy about the legal framework underpinning health and social care, and regularly appears at national conferences in England, Scotland and Wales. She also works as a regular consultant for Richmond LBC, ensuring that her expertise is up to date with real-life mental incapacity and adult protection questions.



Belinda runs the legal website www.careandhealthlaw.com and is accredited by the Law Society to offer continuing professional development points to those attending her courses. She has authored and presented a recent Legal Network Television Continuing Professional Development DVD on Mental Capacity as part of her work, and written the accompanying notes. She has also been grant funded by the Department of Health, to produce awareness raising materials about the Mental Capacity Act.