

The Right Balance

Individual Rights v Public Interest

Discussion

Case Study 1

- Ernest Fields – 87 years old
- Ernest has Parkinson's disease
- Fluctuating Capacity
- His daughter visits him once a week for an entire afternoon and they go for a walk together. This is not in his care plan

Ernest Fields - Factors

Individual Factors	Public Interest
Ernest's relationship with his daughter historically	Daughter attending premises may expose others to Covid-19
The pleasure that these visits bring and the impact on his wellbeing	Daughter may have contact with care staff and subsequently if she tests positive they will be required to isolate
Will a decision to prevent visits be more harmful than positive for Ernest	Ernest may carry Covid-19 as asymptomatic and therefore spread this during a walk if his capacity is such that he does not keep his distance.
Can this be facilitated in a none risky way?	
Will this lead to a different outcome on days when he has capacity and lead to greater restrictions than your average person?	

Case Study 2

- Dan Holmes - 35 years old
- Dan was diagnosed with LD and Autism.
- He requires 3 to 1 support to access the community but part of his care planning and positive behaviour management plan is that he can access the local park and visit with his mum there to have a picnic and feed the ducks.
- He does not have mental capacity and will not regain it

Dan Holmes - Factors

Individual Factors	Public Interest
This community access is in his approved care plan	If Dan doesn't understand the current situation at a Park he may come into contact with other people and either be at risk or pose a risk
If Dan doesn't do this it may lead to confusion and upset for him which will lead to episodes of behaviour requiring intervention	If Dan cannot wear a face covering this increases the risk
May lead to an increase in behaviour management medication	If Dan becomes challenging or agitated whilst in the community this may lead to other people coming too close in a bid to assist care staff and therefore coming within 2m of them
Dan may not have capacity but will understand that he cannot go out and the impact this has on him	

Case Study 3

- Etta Laurel – 74 years old
- Diagnosed with frontal lobe dementia and underlying condition of severe COPD
- She does not have capacity and will not regain this. She came to her home setting from an acute mental health inpatient unit following a psychotic episode believed to be linked to dehydration at another placement
- She struggles with eating and her husband comes to her residential home every lunch time to support her with nutrition.

Etta Laurel - Factors

Individual Factors	Public Interest
Etta may not have access to food and nutrition which has previously caused her harm	Her husband would need to come into the care home and may bring Covid-19 with him into the setting.
Etta has previously been an inpatient in a psychiatric unit; if she remained there at this time her husband would be encouraged to visit.	Other residents may approach Etta and her husband and contract the virus
Etta is at higher risk because of her COPD	Etta's husband may contract the virus in the care home and take it into the community with him
Etta's husband has expressed concern at being refused the opportunity to visit	Etta's husband may be required to use PPE which ought to be used for other purposes