

Lasting Powers of Attorney Workshop

I recently attended a workshop on 'Lasting Powers of Attorney' (LPA) arranged by Carers Outreach. Helen Scott from Julie Burton Law took the session and highlighted the benefits of an LPA.

Thinking and talking about what would happen if we lose mental capacity is uncomfortable. Yet if someone has difficulties that mean they can't make decisions anymore, they will need help managing their finances. Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document where someone nominates a trusted friend or relative to look after their affairs if they lose capacity.

Someone can lack mental capacity if they have an injury, disorder or condition that affects the way their mind works. The most common conditions this relates to are: stroke, coma, delirium, concussion, severe mental health problems, neuro-disability/brain injury, alcohol and drug misuse, Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

There are two types of LPA: one for finance and property and another for health and welfare. It allows you to plan in advance and is a safe way of maintaining control over decisions made for you.

Currently there is a Court fee of £110 for registration of the document. However, if the person who makes the LPA receives certain means-tested benefits at the time of registration they won't have to pay anything or if their income is less than £12,000 a year they will only have to pay half of the fee.

You can complete the forms yourself or use a solicitor who will charge a fee for the service.

The key is to act early. *You can only set up a Lasting Power of Attorney when you have mental capacity.*

I found this session extremely informative and was impressed that we were able to ask questions and obtain sound advice regarding our concerns.

I am very grateful to Carers Outreach for arranging such varied events, both educational and recreational. The events give carers up to date information and an opportunity to meet and share experiences with others. I realise that great care is taken in planning and organising activities to ensure the best possible outcomes for carers.

Attending these events is a great opportunity for carers to get valuable information free of charge and the free lunch was a real treat.

~ Lyn Hughes, Anglesey carer