Best interest decision making guidance for screening

If a person lacks capacity to consent to screening a best interest decision should be made. This should be a shared process with the decision maker (usually the screening practitioner), and those who know the person well including; professionals, family and carers. The learning disability team can support this process, provide guidance and support.

It is important to remember that no one can give consent on behalf of another adult. Parents cannot consent for or refuse screening on their child's behalf. However, their views can be considered as part of a best interest process.

When completing a best interest assessment consider:

- Will the person regain capacity in the future?
- Has the person participated in the decision, even if they lack capacity?
- What are the persons wishes?
- Have you gathered the views of people who know the person well?
- Do the benefits of screening outweigh potential risks?
- Have you considered the least restrictive option?
- Have you considered reasonable adjustments?

In addition:

- The learning disability team can support
- An Independent mental capacity advocate can support or advise if you need help to reach a decision.
- Consider any lasting power of attorney / court appointed deputy.

Best interest decision outcome?

In best Interests to attempt screening

Document in the persons GP record and health action plan.

The learning disability team can support facilitating reasonable adjustments to support access to screening.

A few attempts may be needed before a successful screening or it may prove too difficult in which case refer to adjacent column.

NOT in best interests to attempt screening

Based on previous attempts of medical interventions or the risk of distress versus benefits, it may be decided that screening is not in the persons best interests.

In this case it is important to:
Document in the persons GP record and health action plan.
An ongoing plan for symptom monitoring to be attached to persons health action plan.