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Legal Literacy: Change Project

Dartington Trust

www.researchinpractice.org.uk

Welcome to the Legal literacy: Change Project

This suite of online resources is designed to support legal literacy across adult social care organisations. Engaging with the resources will support people to gain an understanding of:

- legal literacy
- the role and value of strategic initiatives in supporting the development of legal literacy
- the role of supervision and team development sessions in supporting practitioners to engage in critical thinking and other activities to develop legal literacy.

The resources relate to the legal framework in England and place emphasis on:

- How organisations can develop a culture of legal literacy and take strategic initiatives to support it.
- Supervision for social workers, occupational therapists and other practitioners whose role requires them to be familiar with, and act under, legal powers and duties exercised by adult social care.

The resources seek to address the findings of the *Legal literacy: Evidence Scope*, that:

- Explores the concept of legal literacy, and traces its development in adult social care.
- Sets out the current policy and regulatory background.
- Presents the available evidence on legal literacy in practice.
- Identifies available resources that can be used to support legal literacy.

Key Evidence Scope findings:

- Legal literacy is necessary across all tiers of organisations.
- To date there has been little focus on how operational managers and supervisors might enhance legal literacy through management, leadership and supervision.
- Strategic leaders, directors and assistant directors, senior managers and specialist leads, principal social workers, and councillors have a key role in shaping the structures and mechanisms that promote legal literacy.
- Supervision is valuable and plays a vital role in supporting practitioners to engage in critical thinking and other activities to develop legal literacy.
- There is a need to address the use of legal rules in adult social care practice (the resources therefore do not cover the broader agenda of powers and duties relating to commissioning, finance, or corporate law).

There is also an *Evidence Scope: Executive Summary.*

There are two central components to these resources, which reflect the priorities derived from the Legal literacy: Change Project:

- A set of organisational tools to support senior leaders in creating a legally literate organisational environment.
- A supervision and team Development Work Plan and set of associated resources providing activities that supervisors and practitioners, as well as teams and their managers and learning and development leads, can use together in supervision or team development sessions over time.

These are supplemented by the following resources:

- A webinar facilitated by Michael Preston Shoot and Suzy Braye explaining the project and exploring the concept of legal literacy and how the resources can be used.
- **Setting the context: Introducing legal literacy.**
- Additional resources: Websites and further materials for supplementary detail on legal powers and duties and up-to-date commentary.
- Glossary of terms: Explanations of technical legal terms.

The following resources are included in this PDF:

Setting the Context: Introducing legal literacy

Organisational tools

Standards for organisational legal literacy

Evaluating organisational legal literacy

Examples of organisational initiatives

Development work plan and associated resources

Legal literacy supervision and team development workplan

Law talk - putting law on the supervision agenda

Using case law and ombudsman reports

Case study and legal analysis

Shadowing experienced practitioners

Exploring practice through case law

Show your workings-making good decisions