



# Deprivation of Liberty and You

**You may need to be looked after in a way that deprives you of your liberty (this is a legal term) which may mean that you cannot do the things that you want to do, when you want to do them.**

If you are deprived of your liberty you will require special protection called Safeguards to make sure you are looked after properly and kept safe. These are called Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS).

## Who decides if I need these safeguards?

The Supervisors Body, in Stockport this is the Council, must decide if you need DoLS. They will do this by arranging for specialist workers to assess your situation. The main assessment will be completed by a 'Best Interest Assessor (BIA)' who will check how you are being treated and cared for. They will liaise with you and your representatives.

The BIA will submit a report to the Supervisory Body confirming that the care required, does deprive you of your liberty, but is necessary and is in your best interest. They will also state how long the safeguards should last. This report will be shared with you and your representatives. On receipt of the report the Supervisory Body, will issue the Managing Authority, with an authorisation for the safeguards. The report may contain conditions, for example, changes to the way you are cared for, the changes must happen by law.

## What happens if I am unhappy?

At any point you or your representative can request a review of the safeguards or make a complaint to the Supervisory Body. In addition, you can apply to the Court of Protection at any time during the authorisation period to challenge the decision.

## Who will check that I am ok?

Everyone who has a DoLS Authorisation must have a representative. The Supervisory Body will make sure you have one. A paid representative will be commissioned by the Supervisory Body if you do not have a relative or friend to take on this role.

If you want the support of an I.M.C.A as well as a representative this must be arranged by the Supervisory Body. The CQC may visit you and check your care plan to make sure you are being looked after and protected.

