

BIA PERSPECTIVES ON THE TRANSITION TO THE LIBERTY PROTECTION SAFEGURDS



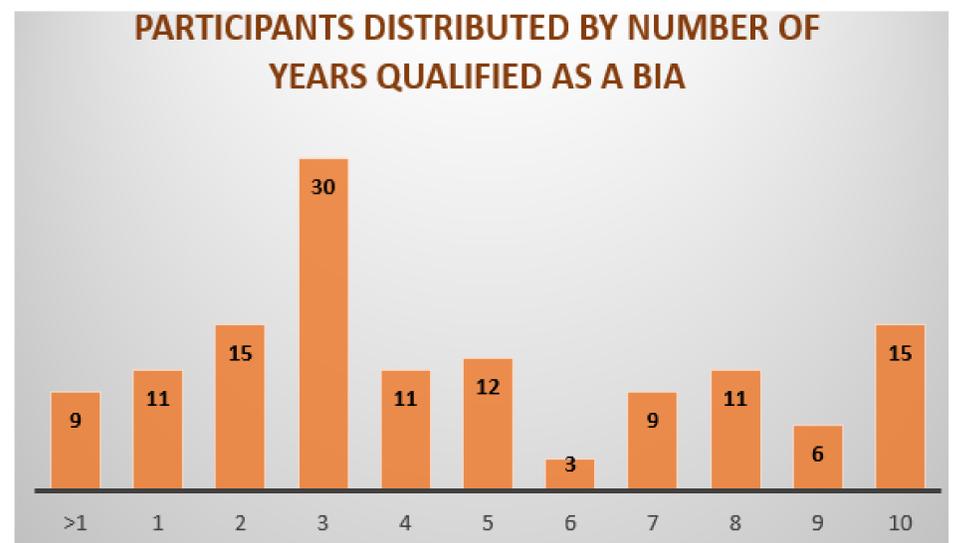
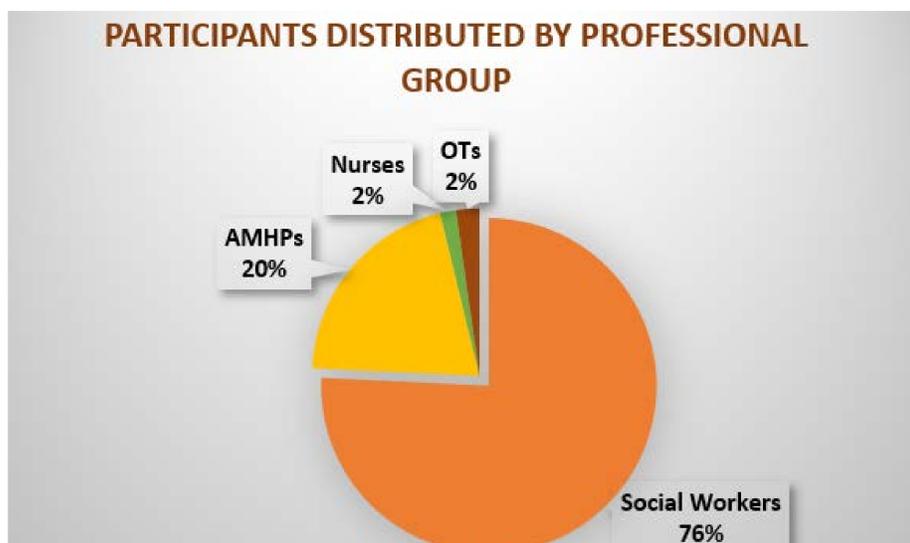
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INTRODUCTION & AIMS

This research aims to take a 'before and after' approach to capture how those currently practising as DoLS Best Interests Assessors (BIAs) perceive the coming Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS), and how they experience the transition between the two schemes in terms of impact upon human rights, service users & carers, organisations and individual practice.

METHODS & PARTICIPANTS

Working in collaboration with north east local authority DoLS leads, we gained ethical approval to collect data from a series of BIA Refresher Workshops which ran throughout March 2019. Within the workshops, the researchers outlined the provisions of the LPS and utilised a combination of discussion and case study exercises to help attendees consider and explore the new framework. 201 practising BIAs attended the workshops and were invited to participate in the research. 147 consented to having their views and discussions captured, 132 completed questionnaires and 121 consented to be followed up by the researchers after LPS implementation. Participants were from different professional backgrounds and ranged in experience from those who have recently qualified, to those who have practised as BIAs throughout the duration of the DoLS:



EMERGING THEMES

- Belief that LPS scheme is about cost-cutting and represents a reduced investment in safeguarding crucial human rights
- Regret that the specialist expertise of the BIA role will end and tasks will be devolved to staff who are ill prepared and already overloaded
- Optimism that LPS has the potential to be less bureaucratic/ process driven
- Concern about whether Local Authorities are prepared/ able to respond to such a huge shift in organisational culture. This concern is significantly greater in respect of health services and care homes, given that the MCA itself is still not well embedded in many of these settings

AMCP for objectors only – what about non-objector's rights?

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

LPS seems less intrusive, but with less expertise will people 'slip through the net'?

NEXT STEPS

Workshop data findings will be reported to NE Local Authorities and health bodies to inform operational planning for LPS. The research project will continue to follow participating BIAs as they transition from working under DoLS to LPS and findings will be reported in a series of future publications.

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