

## QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC



Please return your completed question form to Democratic Support, Plymouth City Council, Ballard House, West Hoe Road, Plymouth, PL1 3BJ or email:

[democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk)

Question to be submitted no later than 5 clear working days before the meeting.

**Question submitted by: Mr Gregg Black**

**To the Cabinet Member or Chair for:** Health and Adult Social Care

**To be asked at the next (Council, Cabinet or Planning Committee) Meeting:** Cabinet

**Date:** 13 October 2025

**Question:** My mother, with undiagnosed dementia, was left to neglect themselves. Adult Social Services' 'least restrictive' approach led to them being found half naked and confused on Embankment Road, then detained by police. I feel let down. How will the Council ensure this doesn't happen to others?

**Answer:**

Least restrictive approaches are a key principle in adult social care and is embedded in a number of areas of legislation including:

The Care Act 2014 which requires local authorities and professionals to act in a way that minimises restrictions on an individual's rights and freedoms.

The mental capacity act 2005 also sets out that a least restrictive principles for individuals who may lack capacity to make specific decisions.

The Human Rights Act 1998 also protects fundamental rights and describes how any restrictions must be lawful, necessary and proportionate

Balancing what's in a person's best interest, the need for least restrictive approaches and risk to individuals is a significant challenge for professional decision makers including social workers, nurses, therapists and care providers. Making decisions on when to intervene and challenge a person's ability to make decisions is always difficult and we have a legal responsibility to respect how people choose to live and balance this with what we know of that person.

Whilst risk is an inherent part of life it is also important that, in the event of an unwanted event like that described, services again seek review decision making with those impacted to reduce or eliminate potential harm.