

Let's Plan Ahead

The Myths

Your 'next of kin' will be able to make significant decisions on your behalf should you lack the capacity to do so yourself. But no one can act on your behalf unless they are legally authorised to do so for your health and welfare.

It is only for older people. Anyone over 18 years old can hold a LPA. In the event of an accident or illness resulting in loss of mental capacity somebody you trust can make decisions on your behalf.

I will lose control. You will not. Your health and welfare LPA can only be used when you are no longer able to make decisions for yourself.

I can wait to make this LPA until I am older. False. By the time you need an LPA it may be too late as you have lost the mental capacity to make one.

Only family members can be attorneys. False. You can appoint anyone you trust over 18 years of age.

I need a solicitor. You do not need a solicitor to put this LPA in place.

It is very expensive. The cost is £82. There are exemptions for some means tested benefits and sometimes for people on a low income.

It is difficult. It is not. You can apply for the LPA online and there is guidance to help you.

Nobody will know I have it. They will. You can record whom you wish to inform about the LPA being in place on the application.

Online forms available at:

www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney/make-lasting-power

#LetsPlanAhead