

# Vulnerable Dependent Drinkers

## 7. Myths

- The guide also explains how certain 'myths' can hamper practitioners' work with highly vulnerable, chronic, dependent drinkers and explains why they are false
- These are all inaccurate and create barriers to care and support; but unfortunately can still be commonly held.

## 6. Governance

- The guide also considers the governance of the use of these legal powers, and recommends using a robust management framework such as multi-agency management.
- It also provides advice on how such frameworks can be implemented.

## 5. Other legal frameworks

- Other legal frameworks can also be useful for practitioners who work with chronic, vulnerable drinkers, such as the Human Rights Act 1998, the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and various pieces of environmental health legislation.
- These are briefly covered in the guide

## Vulnerable Dependent Drinkers

- Alcohol Change UK has produced a guide on [How to use legal powers to safeguard highly vulnerable dependent drinkers](#).
- The guide provides an introduction to legislation that can be applied to chronic, highly vulnerable, dependent drinkers so as to improve outcomes for them, their families and their communities.
- The guide also outlines the limits of these legal frameworks and when they should not be used.



## 4. Mental Health Act

- The Mental Health Act should be used as a last resort.
- It specifically excludes people who are solely dependent on alcohol, but there are circumstances in which the Act may be used with people who have other mental or behavioural disorders arising from alcohol dependency.

## 1. Challenging Assumptions

- Practitioners should challenge the assumption that people 'choose' or 'like' an abusive or self-neglecting lifestyle should instead consider alternative ways of thinking about these people and the reasons for the challenges that they face

## 2. The Care Act (2014)

- The Care Act does apply to people with alcohol problems and in particular the inclusion of self-neglect as a form of neglect will encompass many in this client group.
- The SSAB has produced [practice guidance on self-neglect](#) that can be found on our website

## 3. The Mental Capacity Act

- The Mental Capacity Act can be used with people impaired by the effects of alcohol.
- There are challenges of applying this Act to chronic dependent drinkers because of a lack of specific guidance. However, the concept of executive capacity can be useful.