**Best Interests Balance Sheet**

**Consider: (see overleaf)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MEDICAL** | **WELFARE** | **SOCIAL** | **EMOTIONAL** | **ETHICAL** |
| Advantages /  Benefits | Advantages /  Benefits | Advantages /  Benefits | Advantages /  Benefits | Advantages /  Benefits |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Disadvantages / Burdens | Disadvantages / Burdens | Disadvantages / Burdens | Disadvantages / Burdens | Disadvantages / Burdens |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Case law *(Official Solicitor, 2006)* has provided five areas that would demonstrate that the discussion has considered all aspects of the consequences of the best interests decision to be made. It is worth referring to these five areas when reviewing the information considered or the aspects discussed.

**Medical Aspects**

Not just the outcome, but what will be the burden and benefit of the treatment?

**Welfare Aspects**

How will this impact (for better or worse) on the way the person lives their life?

**Social Aspects**

What will this do to the person’s relationships etc?

**Emotional Aspects**

How will this person feel or react?

**Ethical Issues**

Are there any specific ethical issues that require separate consideration?