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Witness Support

October 2009

General
Medical
Council

Regulating doctors
Ensuring good medical practice

Witness Support

Improving support for vulnerable witnesses

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Consultation

We conducted a survey of staff and witnesses to find out what kind of support they would find most useful:

Virtual Reality Tour	Pre-Hearing Visit
Travel & accommodation	Witness Liaison Officer
Expenses	Dedicated Witness Room
Website Information	Better Microphones
Guidance for staff	Follow Up re Case Outcome

Help for Witnesses Leaflet

‘The process of giving evidence can be intimidating. We are here to support you before, during and after you have given evidence...’

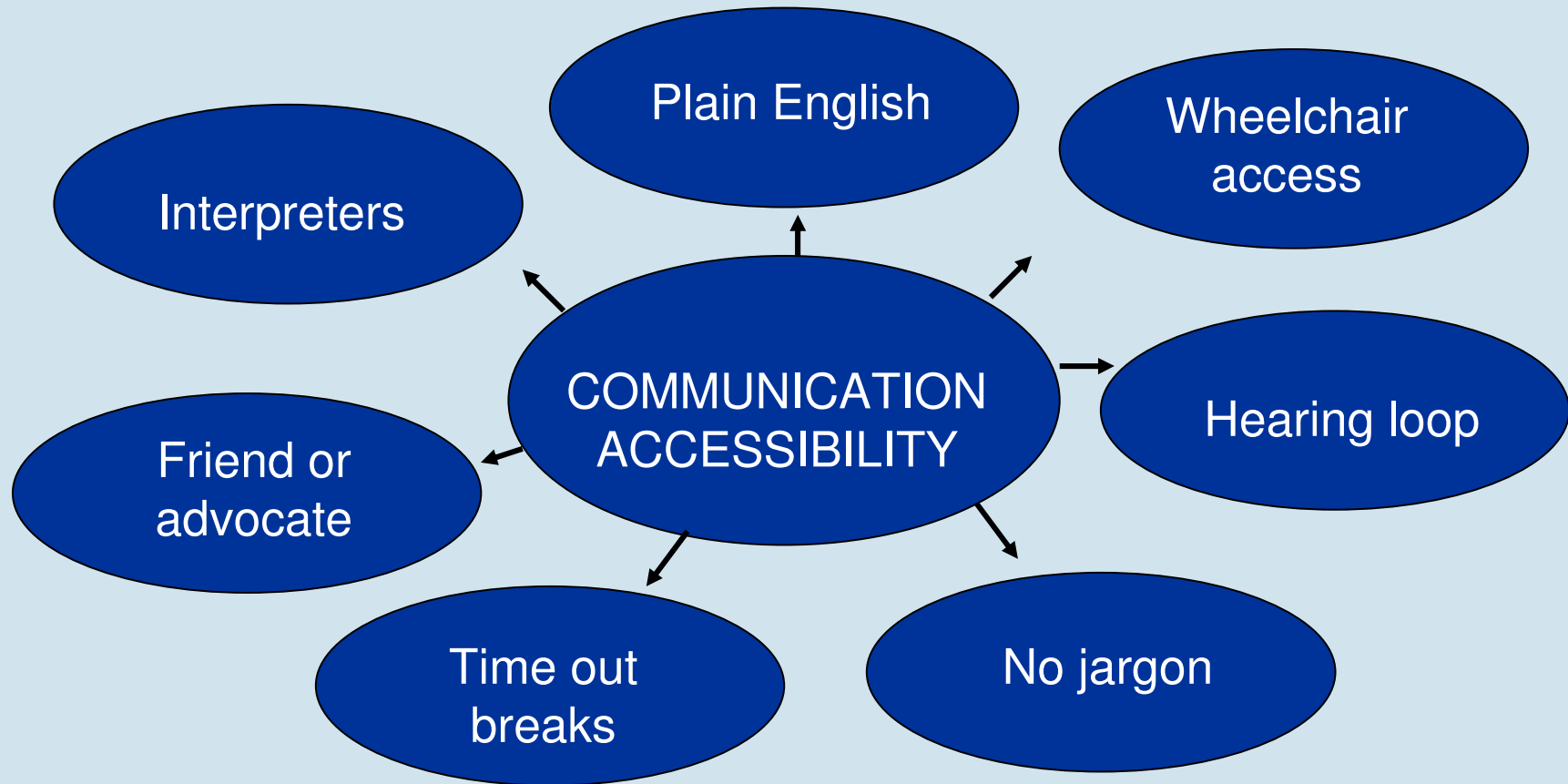


Vulnerable Witnesses

We recognise that being a witness can be very stressful, particularly for:

- People with Mental Health issues
- Complainant re Sexual Allegations
- Learning Difficulty
- Physical Disability
- Intimidation due to age, gender, race, sexuality
- Children & Adolescents

Common Concerns



Witness Support Pilot

A pilot support service for vulnerable witnesses begins September 2009

- Individual Care Plan
- Home visit
- Pre-hearing day familiarisation visit
- Continuous one to one support during the hearing
- Telephone follow-up

