

# How has the treatment of vulnerable adults evolved and are current legal protections fit for purpose?

The Lunacy Act 1890

This was the initial step towards a shift from the 'delegalisation' of treatment towards the mentally ill to the importance of safeguarding

The Mental Health Act 1959

This was the first major reform and arguably the first wholly significant shift towards the growth of an appropriate legal foundation for mental health services

The Mental Health Act 1983

This was designed to give health professionals the powers, in certain circumstances, to detain, assess and treat people with mental disorders in the interests of their health and safety or for public safety

The Mental Health Act 2007

The 1983 Act was reformed to tackle concerns about risks to the public posed by people with a serious mental disorder living in the community

The Equality Act 2010

This protects individuals with a mental health condition from discrimination when at work, buying or renting property, using services and using public functions

