

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)

Background

MSP was introduced in 2010. It is a person-led initiative which aims to develop an outcome focus to safeguarding work using a range of responses to improve or resolve an individual's circumstances. The principles are empowerment, prevention, proportionality, protection, partnership and accountability.

Why it Matters

Professionals who work with individuals should always seek their views about their circumstances at all stages of the intervention - 'no decision about me, without me.' MSP allows individuals to be in control and not be put through a prescribed process. People are empowered to make choices and decisions about their lives, supported by professionals. We should gain the adult's views and wishes as we seek to work with them to change the risks they may be experiencing.

Questions to consider

- 1) Does your organisation have systems in place to work within the principles of MSP?
- 2) Does your organisation carry out audits to check for MSP compliance?
- 3) How can I use MSP if the adult at risk refuses to work with me?
- 4) Who can support very risky situations?
- 5) How can I assess fluctuating mental capacity and work in the person's best interest?



Information

MSP must not simply be seen in the context of formal safeguarding, but in the whole spectrum of activity & is not only a focus on front-line practice but a whole systems approach across all agencies. We need to use a relationship and strengths-based approach to achieve a safety plan that both protects and supports the adult's self-determination. Being safe may only be one of their wishes & they may value a friendship/relationship and want it to continue but for the abuse to stop.

Safeguarding is everyone's business

We need to remember that partner agencies such as health, housing and police colleagues have an important role to play. They may have specialist skills or knowledge of the adult at risk that is vital to MSP. By working in partnership, not only with the adult at risk/their representative but also other professionals, we may be able to provide a comprehensive, person-centred, multi-discipline safety plan with greater success than a single agency plan.

Key Questions

What are the person's views and wishes?
 What outcome does the person want?
 How can we support them to achieve their views and wishes?

You may find that wishes and views change as an individual becomes more confident and has greater insight into their situation. It is important to work with the person to negotiate a more realistic outcome.

MSP in practice

MSP is a shift in culture and practice. It's about:

- putting the person at the centre
- having conversations with people about how we might respond
- seeing people as experts in their own lives
- asking people their views and wishes and working with them to achieve these.