



Working Towards Effective Adult Protection

Workshop A **Risk and Management in Adult Protection**

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Key Principles - Protecting Vulnerable Adults

- Ensure protection
- Minimise risk of further abuse
- Minimise change impact
- Support and help (ongoing)
- Resource agreement
- Providing safe and continued service provision
- Monitoring and reviewing of safety and support
- Evidenced based action

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Duty to Care

- Legal and ethical implications
- Balancing protection and autonomy
- Purpose of our service provision
- Direct link to Human Rights Legislation
- Organisational Policy and Procedures defines our approach
- Values and competent practice enables us to interpret that approach in how we work effectively with adult protection concerns

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Missed Opportunities Reflection Task

How does your analysis of the protection plan in the Tree House Case address the three key functions of an adult protection system:

- To stop abuse as soon as it's known about
- To prevent further abuse for victims and by perpetrators
- To help a vulnerable victim consider options for:

ACCESS TO SUPPORT & PROTECTION
REDUCING VULNERABILITY
REDRESS & ACCESS TO JUSTICE

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Serious Case Reviews/Inquiries/Ombudsman Reports - Common Features

- Low staffing levels, high use of "bank" staff, limited supervision and performance management
- Closed inward looking cultures, where a lack of knowledge/willingness to engage with reporting and protection procedures existed
- Restricted choice available for users, over use of restraint, underlying discriminatory stereotyping, examples of playing on known anxieties of people
- Concerns, complaints not dealt with appropriately, including a history of non compliance with minimum standards, regulations and law
- Limited independent oversight within environment (advocacy, medical, regulation)
- Maladministration on commissioning/contracting and monitoring of services – placing people in failing establishments
- Environment & Practice is institutionalised

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Exploring Risk

Risk

- Possibility of loss or injury
- Someone or something that creates or suggests a hazard
- The degree of probability of loss or actual / potential injury



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Danger versus Risk

Danger

- Immediate
- Known about
- Apparent harm
- Not reliant on past experiences
- Needs urgent attention to address dangers

Risk

- Can be less immediate
- Implies consideration of options
- Some risks are more subtle
- Directly links to our responsibilities of duty of care within our practice approaches



Different Views of Risk

Traditional Perspective

- Normally concerns the likelihood of harm or other form of loss
- Perceived as inherently wrong
- Preoccupation to avoid risk
- Aim is to eliminate risks for people

Enlightened Perspective

- Comparing and balancing likely benefits with likely harms
- Protection planning based on understanding of risks and impact of potential risks on the person(s)
- Considering person centred approaches to enable appropriate risk taking



Risk & Adult Protection

- Working with risk is inherent in adult protection practice
- Three main dimensions to working with risk
 - Risk Assessment
 - Risk Analysis
 - Risk Management
- Actions and decisions are based on the understanding of actual or potential risks
- Process of managing risk expected to be in the context of person centred practice



Risk Practice in Adult Protection

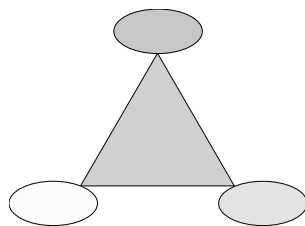
Fundamental Principles - Risk Practice Approaches

- Are person centred
- Are involved in working the person and their network
- Build on strengths and well as difficulties
- Are inter professional in approach (assessment/analysis/management)
- Are not a single event – continuous process
- Focus on enabling effective positive change, if required
- Decisions are based on evidence / outcomes of protection planning



Risk Factors in Adult Protection Concerns

- Vulnerable Person
- Care Provision
- Context of Safeguarding



Vulnerable Person

- Social isolation
- Emotional dependence
- Cognitive difficulties
- Mental health difficulties
- Poor relationships with care givers
- Financial dependence
- Limited support
- Lacking capacity
- Interpersonal family problems
- Limited communication
- Unpredictable behaviour
- Lack information
- Abused in the past



Care Provision

- Poor past relationships
- A blamer
- Inexperience
- Poor present relationships
- Family problems
- Reluctance to role
- Lacks understanding
- Drug use
- Alcohol use
- Sleep disturbance
- Relationships are placed under stress
- Lack support
- Forced change in lifestyle
- Isolation
- Pattern of family violence
- Financial concerns



Context of Safeguarding

- Awareness of adult protection systems
- Opportunities for staff, carers and vulnerable people to learn about responsibilities, expectations and rights
- Performance management processes to ensure implementation of local policies and procedures
- Integrated procedures across agencies / professionals
- National policy, legislation and protocols
- Clear co-ordination of tasks and functions directed at protecting vulnerable adults



Risk Assessment in Adult Protection

- It is a **comprehensive** process that identifies an individual's needs based on a holistic understanding of the person and the context in which they live.
- It is a **person-centred** activity with the emphasis on understanding the protection needs to maintain or increase **independence** and **quality of life**.
- Risk assessment includes both **subjective accounts** (individual's experience) with **objective analysis**
- The individual's **biography** is central to all assessments



Risk Assessment in Adult Protection

- A comprehensive risk assessment gives clear indications of the type and level of **intervention needed** and the most appropriate route to provision.
- The **language of the risk assessment** should be clear to all who participate in the process including the service user
- It is imperative for **options and choices** to be considered with the person to evaluate the most effective protection based interventions.
- Comprehensive assessment needs **time** if it is to be undertaken effectively.



Risk Assessment in Adult Protection

- Effective risk assessment requires competent practice including **effective communication** and **effective information sharing**
- Risk assessments need to be **coordinated**, with systems/processes that are supportive
- Decisions supporting risk assessment are supported by **objective evidence, user's preferences** and **professional opinion**.



Practice Approach to Risk Assessment

- Systematic approach to recording the analysis of the information based on the findings gathered during the process of assessment
- There is analysis of the information leading to decisions and/or recommendations for intervention/action/non action
- The process is transparent, evidenced based and considered from a multi-professional perspective



Risk Analysis

- The assessment is not an end in itself but a process which will lead to improvement in the wellbeing for the vulnerable person
- Analysis can be evidenced based and / or value based, using professional judgements based on knowledge
- The analysis is a process of organising the information to explore the different perspectives of the case situation working towards a shared understanding of what has happened and what needs to happen



Critical Stages in Analysis

- Determining what has happened and determining the extent of harm (actual or potential)
- Understanding the context of the vulnerable person and the context of their care provision
- Capacity of the person to contribute to improved wellbeing or safety
- Determining the likelihood for change
- Identifying clear actions
- Showing the process through recordings
- Reviewing whether such change has been achieved



Risk Management

In drawing up a plan for intervention, decisions need to consider

- How existing good relationships and experiences can be enhanced
- What type of interventions are known to have the best outcomes
- Can the person and their network cope with potential intervention
- How can the necessary resources be mobilised
- Are there alternative approaches
- Ensuring interventions achieve early success with a beneficial impact
- Is there a hierarchy of interventions
- Are there necessary timescales