

## **One Minute Guide to Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)**

### **What is Making Safeguarding Personal?**

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is an approach which emphasises a person-centred, outcome focused and strengths-based approach to safeguarding activity. Making safeguarding personal (MSP) is about professionals working with adults at risk or potential risk, to ensure that they are making a positive difference to their lives. The adult concerned where possible must lead on decisions about their own safety and wellbeing throughout the safeguarding process.

#### **'no decision about me, without me'**

The adult's views and wishes should be used as guidance for all professionals involved and must be respected. This short film, ['Risking Happiness'](#) is a good example of how individuals' thoughts and wishes can sometimes be overlooked, and highlights the negative effect this has on the individual (*Gloucestershire CCG and Gloucestershire County Council*).

When considering an individual's wishes and thoughts, you must consider:

- **Positive Risk Taking**

As individuals, we all have the ability and choice to take risks. We all have our own feelings, beliefs and values which enable us to take risks throughout our lives, and this is no different for a person with care and support needs.

- **Supported Decision Making**

Supported decision making focuses on the outcomes the person wishes to achieve, what is working in their lives and what is not. There should be a clear record of the 'conversation' with the adult, about their views and wishes. The person and their advocate should be fully engaged and consulted throughout the safeguarding process: their wishes and views are central to the final outcomes.

A Care Act Advocate (CAA) must be appointed if the adult has significant difficulty following the process and has no family or friends to support them. If they lack capacity, an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) must be instructed to support them through the safeguarding intervention.

- **Freedom from Undue Influence.**

A person might decline an intervention because of undue influence or coercion, in which case, such a choice should not be taken at face value. Support may be required to help a person make a decision free from such influence. Practitioners

should always follow their safeguarding process and use [professional curiosity \(sometimes known as 'compassionate enquiry'\)](#).

### **Involving the Individual**

MSP is about listening to the individual, understanding the outcomes they want, and then confirming the extent to which these outcomes can be realised. Does the individual have the appropriate support they need to express their view? Do they need any communication aids, an interpreter etc? Consider asking the individual:

- *Do you feel listened to?*
- *Are you happy with the proposed plan/outcome?*
- *Do you feel safe?*

### **What does this mean in practice?**

MSP means adult safeguarding:

- is person-led
- is outcome-focused
- is strengths-based
- engages the person and enhances involvement
- promotes choice and control
- improves quality of life, wellbeing and safety
- shifts the focus from process to people

### **Further Information**

The Local Government Association (LGA) has a suite of resources which describe what 'good' might look like in MSP for a range of organisations, and promote ownership of this agenda within and across all organisations:

- [No decision about me without me](#)
- [Support for Boards across the Safeguarding Adult Partnership](#)
- [What might 'good' look like for health and social care commissioners and providers?](#)
- [What might 'good' look like for the police?](#)
- [What might 'good' look like for advocacy?](#)
- [What might 'good' look like for those working in the housing sector?](#)
- [Supporting an adult's involvement](#)
- [Care and Support Statutory Guidance](#)