

Making Safeguarding Personal

What Is Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)?

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is not simply about gaining an individual's consent, although that is important, but also hearing people's views about what they want as an outcome. It engages the person in a conversation about how best to respond to their safeguarding situation in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety. This means they are given opportunities at all stages of the safeguarding process to say what they would like to change.

Audit Aim

In November 2023 a dip sample audit was undertaken with multi-agency partners to review safeguarding enquiries where the adult had a diagnosis of advanced dementia. The purpose of the audit was to understand if practitioners were using the MSP approach to ensure the person was involved at all stages of the safeguarding process. This briefing summarises the good practice evidenced in the audit as well as some prompts to encourage continued practice improvements.

Best Practice Prompts

- Focus on making referrals to partner agencies in a timely way i.e. Police, health colleagues, legal services.
- Explore less restrictive options to ensure decisions and actions are proportionate.
- Consider being professionally curious and challenge appropriately to ensure discussions about decisions are fully explored. Where the person has fluctuating capacity, consider revisiting the person again to confirm decisions.
- When a Mental Capacity Assessment is undertaken with the person, remember to consider all risks impacting on the person and ensure these are explored.
- Consider less restrictive options or proportionate responses to risks.



Good Practice

- Evidence of positive engagement with the person throughout the safeguarding process including evidence of the person's views and outcomes being sought.
- The person is spoke to alone to ensure their voice is heard and they can articulate their views, to avoid concerns of coercion from the perpetrator.
- Evidence of supporting the perpetrator about their views, considering the impact of concerns on them and support being offered where appropriate, to ensure mitigations are in place to safeguard the person.
- Clear actions are in place to reduce risks to the person which is documented within the safeguarding forms. Where multiple risks are identified, these are managed effectively by the practitioner and evaluated with the person.
- Evidence of engagement with a family member as a representative and/or evidence of the use of an advocate.
- Recording of intervention on case files showed detailed and thorough information, reflecting the discussions undertaken with the person, the support offered and agreements made.

