

RISK ASSESSMENT

1. What is 'Risk Assessment'?

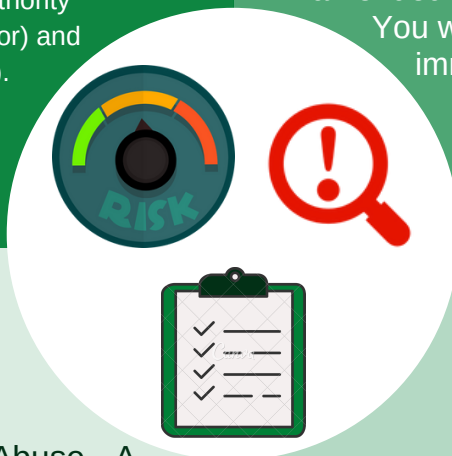
Risk assessment is a professional judgement of an individual's needs, and includes consideration to potential harms they could face.

"The emphasis must be on sensible risk appraisal, not striving to avoid all risk, whatever the price, but instead seeking a proper balance and being willing to tolerate manageable or acceptable risks..."

Lord Justice Munby (Local Authority X v MM (By the Official Solicitor) and KM [2007] EWHC 2003 (Fam).

2. Key Messages

- Trust your gut: Risk assessment tools are associated with many safeguarding procedures & should draw on multiple forms of information about the individual, the people around them & their environment.
- Who else needs to be involved? Wider family, carers, other agencies, may have relevant information.
- Keep an open mind & ensure all assessments of needs & risks are holistic. Listen to the victim. Work in a non-judgemental & reassuring way.
- Make use of risk assessment tools & have confidence in your professional judgement. If something doesn't feel right, ask yourself why.
- Assessments should be dynamic, updated & amended to reflect change & evolving needs. You will not always get the full story immediately & families continually change.
- Practitioners should not be wary when putting their name to a risk assessment.



4. Resources

- Adult Safeguarding & Domestic Abuse - A guide to support practitioners and managers
- SSAB - Risk Assessment Tool
- LSCP - DASH Risk Identification Checklist
- Barnardo's - Domestic Violence Risk Identification Matrix
- Birmingham SAB - Risk Enablement Guide
- LSCP - Threshold Guidance
- LSCP - 'Signs of Safety'
- All Age Exploitation Screening Tool
- LSCP - Graded Care Profile 2
- This SAR, in Coventry, is an example of poor risk assessment impacting on the individual

Click on the text above to access the link

3. What Does This Mean for Me?

- Do you feel confident and competent in using the local risk assessment tools?
- Action plans are required to manage risk - identifying the risks, who is at risk, what can be done to reduce or remove the risk, who is responsible
- Good risk assessments need robust information sharing practice