

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP): 7 Minute Briefing

1. Introduction

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is embedded within the Care Act and is an approach to safeguarding adults which ensures that the views of the adult are at the centre to any action taken or not taken. It supports a person-centred, outcome-focus to safeguarding work, and a range of responses to support people to address concerns. Described in the Care and Support Statutory Guidance this includes having regards (to an adult's) views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. Professionals must always work within the 6 principles of the Care Act which are Empowerment, Prevention, Proportionality, Protection, Partnership, and Accountability.

7. Resources

Making Safeguarding Personal toolkit - Local Government Association <https://www.local.gov.uk/msp-toolkit>

Introduction Tools and Resources to MSP – Research in Practice

<https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/adults/content-pages/videos/introducing-tools-and-resources-to-support-making-safeguarding-personal-practice/>

2. Why is MSP important?

Research indicates that when we follow the MSP approach to safeguarding, that the adult at risk is more likely to be satisfied with the outcome and conclusion of any safeguarding section 42 enquiry. It also indicates that when we adopt this approach with adults at risk, that they are less likely to experience a repeated instance of that abuse or neglect within a 12-month period.

3. What does MSP mean to the person?

A personalised approach to adult safeguarding that is led by the individual, not by the process.

The adult must feel that they are the focus and they have control over the process.

It is about getting a person to tell us what kind of help they want, listening to them and making sure that what the person wants is understood and is a part of any plans.



4. What does MSP mean to the practitioners?

Always think of prevention of abuse and neglect and not only reacting to specific incidents.

Working in partnership with all agencies and individuals involved in the person's life.

Be flexible and ensure you enable the person to be involved which helps them to express their views.

Ensure the person's views and wishes are listened to and respected.

Recognise the person's right to make choices on how they live their lives.

Avoid prioritising process and making assumptions.

Putting the person at the centre of everything you do.

6. Family, carers and wider support?

Does the person need someone appropriate to act on their behalf or an independent advocate? Also MSP includes the importance of considering a person in the context of their family, friends, and wider community support networks, as well as taking into account the impact of the adult's need on those who support them, which supports us to take steps to help those in a support network to access information, advice, or support.

5. In Practice?

Have a conversation with the adult at risk. Ask, record, and work with person towards achieving their views, wishes and desired outcomes.

Consider if the person lacks capacity to understand, or has substantial difficulty engaging in the safeguarding process, or aspects of it.

People should be seen as experts and in control of their own lives.

Discuss with the person any options that are available, including any options that are not available or which are unachievable. Develop a plan so the individual knows how to stay safe.

Consider culture/ethnicity & possible language barriers & organise support as needed.

Ensure you invite the adult to meetings & think about what this practically means in terms of location, access, communication etc.

Ensure you share relevant information with other professionals and make referrals as appropriate.