



Safer Seven

On: Making Safeguarding Personal



Dudley Safeguarding
People Partnership

1. Introduction

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) means adult safeguarding must be **person led** and **outcome focused**. It requires engaging the person in dialogue about how best to respond to their situation to increase wellbeing, empowerment, and safety.

MSP must not be simply seen in the context of a formal safeguarding enquiry but also in the whole spectrum of safeguarding activity and across all agencies. This briefing offers some helpful tips for your practice.

2. Person Led

Ensure the adult understands what is happening at the point when the concern arises, that they are consulted, and that “the process” follows the adult and their pace. Choice and consent is important, taking account of mental capacity.

Refusal of help should not be taken at face value. MSP requires proactive engagement to help people make sense of their situations and make informed and considered choices.

3. Outcome focused

- Clarify and record the adult's desired outcomes, as determined by the adult, and use them to guide intervention.
- Support them to think through and understand the risks they face. This is likely to need more than a single conversation.
- Work in partnership with the adult and other professionals to achieve the adult's desired outcomes.
- If a crime is alleged the adult may need support to report this and understand what will happen next.

4. Consent and Safety

It is important to discuss a concern with the adult directly, MSP requires careful balancing of consent against safety.

There are situations in which action should be taken without consent even where the person has mental capacity:

- Emergency or life-threatening situations
- Other people are, or may be, at risk, including children
- A serious crime has been or might be committed.
- If the risk appears unreasonably high
- If someone in a position of trust is implicated.

5. Advocacy and involvement

Does the adult need an interpreter? Invite the adult and representatives to meetings and think about what this requires in terms of location, access, support etc. Make sure the adult or their representative knows what action is being taken, by whom and for what purpose.

There is a statutory duty to arrange an independent advocate, with consent, if the person has difficulty engaging in the process and if they have no appropriate people in their informal network.

6. Adult Safeguarding Principles

- **Empowerment** – supported to make their own decisions and informed consent
- **Prevention** – where possible, take action before harm occurs
- **Proportionality** – the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- **Protection** – support and representation for those in greatest need of protection from harm
- **Partnership** – work together with relevant organisations, practitioners, friends and family where appropriate
- **Accountability** – be accountable and transparent in delivering safeguarding matters

7. Further information:

View our website for further information on safeguarding adults:

<https://dudleysafeguarding.org.uk/adults/>

Visit our Learning Zone to see our selection of briefings and more [HERE](#)