



Strengths based approaches and the right to take risks.

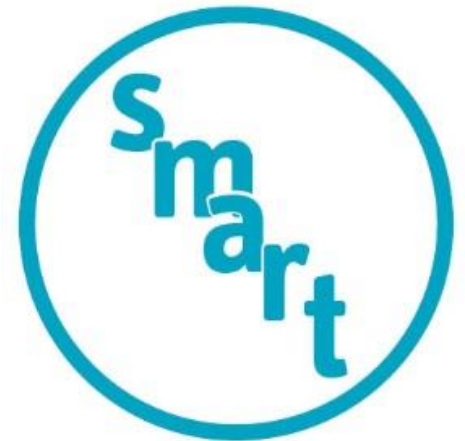
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Workshop objectives

- › Explain the significance of risk enablement in meeting the requirements of the Care Act 2014
- › Provide examples tools to promote using strengths based and risk enabling practice with older people





Some definitions

- › **Risk enablement** means working to enable individuals through carefully considered risk-taking
- › **Positive risk taking** is
 - › A **collaborative** process of balanced decision-making in relation to risk,
 - › In which the stakeholders weigh up potential risks **and benefits** and
 - › Take a **shared problem-solving approach** to try and find a way of managing risks

Risk aversion to risk enablement

- › 'Risky/ vulnerable' people
- › Worst case scenario
- › Focus on physical (someone getting hurt)
- › Medical problems, limitations, what's gone wrong before
- › A senior/ lead professional takes decision (and gets blamed if it goes wrong)



- › Risk of specific situation
- › Consider benefits too
- › Social, emotional also (hidden harm/ benefits)
- › Strengths, resources (outside services), what's worked before
- › Person & supporters, range of professionals share responsibility for managing risks

Implications of The Care Act 2014

- › Local authorities to promote *wellbeing* (not just provide particular services)
- › Assumption that we are best placed to judge our own wellbeing (and the outcomes that matter most to us) unless proven otherwise
- › People should be enabled to participate as fully as possible in decisions at every stage
- › Professionals to respond proactively to risk of abuse/ neglect, by making enquiries

Care Act 2014: Aspects of Wellbeing



IBA 2016

Risk enablement and safeguarding

Shared features of positive risk-taking and Making Safeguarding Personal:

- › The approach to risk is rights-based.
- › People using services are kept well-informed in an accessible way
- › The wishes of people using services are at the heart of decisions.
- › The strengths of the individual are identified.
- › Decisions are balanced; reasoning demonstrable.
- › Decisions are regularly reviewed.
- › Practitioners are reflective and legally literate

RiPFA (2016)

NB: It is possible that safeguarding alerts will increase where a risk enablement approach is being taken



MSP Evaluation/ Temperature check

'Looking at the level of risk *the person* will allow'

'Recognising people's right to lead a risky lifestyle'

'Shifting the focus from risk to wellbeing'

'It enables positive risk taking whilst safeguarding individuals from potential abuse.'

Question for discussion

- > *Think about decisions you have been involved in which have involved weighing up risks.....*
- > What has enabled a positive risk-taking approach?
- > What has got in the way?



How teams/ organisations can support risk enablement

- › A vision focused on empowerment and wellbeing
- › Space/ facilitation to discuss, disagree then reach consensus and share accountability
- › Communicate and celebrate positive outcomes
- › Tools and systems to record decision making
- › Supervision and support – especially where things go wrong, despite good decision-making
- › Create a culture that trusts in natural human relationships and conversations

Finlayson (2015)

Risk enablement & mental capacity

- › Don't assume someone can't make own decisions just because of diagnosis or age
- › Making unwise or unusual decisions doesn't necessarily mean someone lacks capacity
- › Capacity often fluctuates – the decision that someone lacks capacity is specific to that time and that decision and not a permanent label
- › If someone is assessed as lacking capacity, we make the decision in their 'best interests'. This is not about protecting them from all possible harm: it's about considering their past decisions, preferences and wider wellbeing

Mrs P and Bobby

- › Mrs P (in a nursing home, following a 2nd stroke) was not allowed visits from her dog because it would be 'irresponsible'
- › Yet court judged that this contact with her was critical to her quality of life and wellbeing
- › *Mrs P v Rochdale BC & others, 2016*



Questions to ask in decision-making

- › **Reaching a decision**
- › Identify specific risks, 'hidden harms', benefits
- › What are our worries and those of others?
- › Is there a way of doing this and reducing risks?
- › **Agreeing a plan:**
- › What is each person's role and responsibility here?
- › Any rules/ conditions we agree to follow?
- › What is the contingency plan (if things go wrong)?
- › Which changes should trigger a review?

Exercise: Mr F

- > Read Mr F's case study, on your tables
- > Discuss how you would use elements of a risk enablement approach to support him.

Questions/ comments



Further reading

- › Blood, I (2016) *Enablement in Dementia: Practice Tool*, Dartington: RiPfA
- › Cooper, A. et al (2016) *Making Safeguarding Personal: Temperature Check 2016*, ADASS
- › Faulkner, A. (2012) *The right to take risks: service users' views of risk in adult social care*, York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- › Finlayson, S. (2015) *Stop worrying about Risk*, Blog, The Centre for Welfare Reform <http://www.centreforwelfarereform.org/library/authors/stephen-finlayson/stop-worrying-about-risk.html>
- › ImROC Briefing 9 (2014) *Risk, Safety and Recovery*, Centre for Mental health



Further reading (cont)

- › Local Government Association (2015) *Making Safeguarding Personal: Report of the Evaluation 2014/15*, London: LGA
- › Neary, M. (2013) *Viewpoint: 10 jargon phrases used for my autistic son*, BBC News website
- › RiPfa (2016) *Risk enablement*, Frontline briefing, Dartington: RiPfa
- › Manthorpe, J. & Moriarty, J. (2010) *Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained*, London: Dept of Health
- › Steve Morgan's site includes links to his positive risk publications and podcasts:
<http://practicebasedevidence.squarespace.com>



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