

HILLINGDON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP

7-MINUTE BRIEFING

MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL

7. The 6 Safeguarding Principles

Empowerment - promote person-led decision making and informed consent

Prevention - take action before harm occurs wherever possible

Proportionality - support in the least intrusive way, proportionate to presenting risk

Protection - represent & support those in greatest need of protection from harm

Partnership – work together with relevant organisations, practitioners, friends and family where appropriate and safe to do so.

Accountability - be accountable and transparent when involved in safeguarding matters

1. Introduction

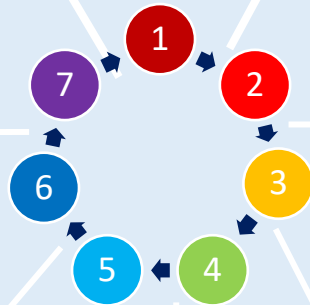
Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) means adult safeguarding must be person-led and outcome-focused. It is embedded in the Care and Support Statutory Guidance. It requires engaging the person in dialogue about how best to respond to their individual situation to increase wellbeing and empowerment, as well as safety.

MSP is relevant to the whole spectrum of safeguarding activity, across all agencies, and is not only relevant in formal enquiries.

2. Person-led

MSP is about understanding what the adult wants to happen and how they want it to happen - this may differ to what professionals think is right! Choice and consent is important, of course taking account of mental capacity.

But refusal of help should **not** be taken at face value. MSP requires proactive engagement work to help people make sense of their situations and make informed and considered choices. People's motivation to make changes in their lives is not set in stone.



6. Advocacy and Involvement

Speak direct to the adult. Do they 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 substantial difficulty engaging in the process and if they have no appropriate people in their informal network.

Before deciding the next steps ensure you seek information held by other professionals or informal supports.

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 to you unreasonably high
- If someone in a position of trust is implicated.

5. Balancing consent and safety

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

4. Support Networks

Explore family and wider informal support networks and involve them as far as the adult at risk wants, taking into account the impact on risk.

Support family and relevant others to access support as needed.

Involve professional support networks in working towards the adult's desired outcomes.

3. Focus on outcomes:

The purpose of adult safeguarding is to work with the adult to improve their quality of life and empower them to keep themselves safe.

Clarify and record the adult's desired outcomes, as determined by the adult, and use them to guide your 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.