

What is meant by Making Safeguarding Personal

We know that residents in Southampton place a high value on safe, effective services that work together to keep vulnerable adults safe from abuse and neglect. We also know that for adults who are at risk of, or have suffered abuse or neglect, their families and carers it is important that any safeguarding intervention is focused on the wishes and needs of the 'adult at risk' and achieving outcomes that support people to improve or resolve their circumstances.

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is a set of principles which aims to develop safeguarding practice to ensure services are engaging with people about the outcomes they want at the beginning and middle of working with them, and then ascertaining the extent to which those outcomes were realised at the end.

MSP is a national initiative which seeks to achieve:

- a personalised approach that enables safeguarding to be done with, not to, people
- practice that focuses on achieving meaningful improvement to people's circumstances rather than just on 'investigation' and 'conclusion'
- an approach that utilises social work skills rather than just 'putting people through a process'
- an approach that enables practitioners, families, teams and SABs to know what difference has been made.

In 2015-16 our strategic plan recognised the need to ensure these principles were embedded into practice and an action plan was devised to encourage positive change in practice. The SAB held a workshop for professionals from across the partnership and community networks who considered these principles and the challenges faced in changing practice from a process based approach to a person led, outcome focused one. All those attending fully endorsed the principles and understood the treating people as '*experts in their own lives*' shows respect for the individual and enabled flexible responses that recognise diversity in the City. There is widespread understanding of the significant benefits in working alongside adults at risk and the people that matter to them as this enable them to better understand the risks and find resolution of their circumstance and recovery.

The LSAB has made use of a nationally developed [MSP toolkit](#) to ensure these principles shape data collection, audits and our quality assurance framework. Many of the training events hosted by the LSAB had MSP as a theme. The principles have also influenced the 2016-18 Strategic plan where embedding this practice change across the partnership remains a key priority.

There is, however, still much to be achieved before we can evidence a universal shift in practice across the partnership. The LSAB will continue to work with partners, supporting them to implement changes and seeking assurance that they are working alongside clients, their families and carers to identify and respond to safeguarding risks. Key to success will be demonstrating this programme has positively improved the adult at risk's quality of life, wellbeing and safety.

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