# Making Safeguarding Personal

# Briefing

# May 2024

## What does ‘Making Safeguarding Personal’ (MSP) mean?

The Care Act says that ‘’Making Safeguarding Personal means safeguarding should be person-led and outcome-focused. It engages the person in a conversation about how best to respond to their safeguarding situation in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety.”

## MSP and the principles of safeguarding adults

Fundamental to Making Safeguarding Personal are the six key principles of safeguarding:

**Empowerment** - People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent.

**Proportionality** - The least intrusive response necessary to the risk presented.

**Protection** - Support and representation for those in greatest need.

**Prevention** - It's better to take action before mistreatment occurs.

**Partnership** - Working in partnership to achieve local solutions in communities where we live.

**Accountability** - Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding and fulfilling our duty of candour.

## MSP in practice

MSP means before making decisions with the person (if safe to do so), and before submitting safeguarding referrals, we need to find out the person’s wishes and what outcomes they want to achieve taking into account the level of risk.

This means having conversations with the person and listening to their views. It is good practice to include any views and wishes in onward referrals and documentation should capture the voice of the person, using their words where possible.

Where safeguarding enquiries are being undertaken, the person’s views and wishes should again be considered at every step.

## Information sharing without consent

When a safeguarding concern is identified, we should always try to seek consent from the person to share information and we should always try to respect their wishes. However, there are some situations where we need to share information (such as with the police or Social Care Direct) without consent:

* Where there are concerns around wider public protection and there may be others also at risk. For example, if a person raises a concern about someone working in a position of trust.
* Where it has been assessed that the person lacks capacity to consent, and it has been deemed in their best interest to share that information. Best practice would be to inform the person of that decision. Staff should also think about advocacy if there is no one to support the person.
* If there is evidence or reason to believe that the person is being coerced and is therefore unable to consent.
* If there is reason to believe that seeking consent would put the person, you or others at risk of serious harm or prejudice the detection of a serious crime.
* Where action must be taken quickly and there is insufficient time or it is not safe to contact the person at risk.
* Where the person is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm.
* Where the concern involves a child(ren) or other person in the household who are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm.

Where these risks are not present and the person does not consent to sharing their information then it may be the responsibility of the single agency to provide support.

## Good practice tips

Provide people with clear information about safeguarding, avoiding jargon and acronyms.

Consider the person, their environment and their communication needs.

Ask what is important to the person or ensure this is considered if they are not able to communicate.

Build rapport and consider advocacy

## MSP toolkit

The MSP practice toolkit handbook guides you through the best approach and effective application of safeguarding with a range of helpful tools and practice based case examples.

[Making Safeguarding Personal toolkit | Local Government Association](https://www.local.gov.uk/msp-toolkit)

## For further information

Further resources on MSP can be found in section 5 of Calderdale Tri-X.

[Contacts and Practice Resources (trixonline.co.uk)](https://wynyy-calderdale.trixonline.co.uk/resources/contacts-and-practice-resources)

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