



Risk enablement

Risk enablement is a key skill for practitioners in promoting wellbeing and achieving outcomes.

As an approach, risk enablement identifies a link between risk and enablement. Risk enablement recognises that taking carefully considered risks can enable individuals and help improve their wellbeing.

Positive risk-taking is a way of working with risk that promotes enablement. It is important to remember that the 'positive' in positive risk-taking refers to the outcome *not* the risk.

Identifying risk

Key features of how risk is defined in positive risk-taking.

- > Integral to achieving many common outcomes – can be minimised, but not eliminated.
- > Specific to the circumstances of the individual.
- > Dynamic and, therefore, subject to change.
- > Inherently linked to enablement.

Positive risk-taking and Making Safeguarding Personal

These shared features illustrate how positive risk-taking and *Making Safeguarding Personal* complement one another.

- > The approach to risk is rights-based.
- > People using services are kept well-informed.
- > Communication is adapted to individuals.
- > The wishes of people using services are at the heart of decisions.
- > The strengths of the individual are identified.
- > Decisions are balanced.
- > Reasoning is demonstrable.
- > Decisions are regularly reviewed.
- > Practitioners are reflective.
- > Practitioners are legally literate.

Positive risk-taking in the wider context

Examples of key areas of work that support a positive risk-taking approach.

- > Identifying the strengths of the individual.
- > Utilising assets in the community.
- > Understanding the role of independent advocates.
- > Working collaboratively with other agencies.

Legislation and guidance

Key areas of law and guidance in respect of risk enablement.

- > *The Care Act 2014*
- > *Making Safeguarding Personal*
- > *Mental Capacity Act 2005*
- > *Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)*
- > *Human Rights Act 1998*
- > *European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR)*

This chart accompanies the full Research in Practice for Adults Frontline Briefing *Risk Enablement*.

The briefing looks at how social care practitioners can manage the potentially conflicting demands of risk and enablement in order to promote wellbeing.

This concise reference chart provides key definitions and outlines key considerations in risk enablement. It should be used in conjunction with the main briefing as an aid and reminder of the issues outlined in greater detail within that resource, which is available on our website.

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