



QUICK GUIDE

Questions to support Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)

- Does the person understand they have been harmed or could be at risk of harm?
- Do they understand why others think they may be at risk or have been harmed?
- Do they have family, friends or trusted others that they want to help them?
- Did they appear comfortable talking to you?
- What do you think the opportunities and barriers were to effective communication and involvement?
- Have you genuinely consulted the person? Was there any evidence of coercion, fear, holding back?
- How does the person want to be made safe? What outcomes does this reflect? How can these be met? Are they realistic? Have you talked this through with the person?
- What are the person's wishes, feelings, values and beliefs?
- Are you making sure that you are not imposing your beliefs and values on them about how they should be viewing the situation?
- Does the person/representative understand your role and what you can/cannot do?
- Have you consistently kept the person central to the process? How? Can you do this better?
- Are others dominating discussions?
- Have you provided the person with enough information about the relevant options? How have you done this? Did the person understand? Have you used jargon free language? Is there another person who can explain this better than you especially where it requires specialist knowledge e.g. Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVA), Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVA)?
- Have you considered the person's strengths, especially in situations where they have made themselves safe both generally in life, in similar situations and importantly from the recent harm?
- Have you considered using an advocate? What kind of advocate would best fit this situation? Does the person already have an advocate, would they benefit from using them or another advocate or both? Are you clear about the purpose of the advocate? Is the advocate clear? Is the person, family etc clear about the role/purpose of the advocate?
- Are there conflicting perspectives which means you are losing sight of the person? Are other people taking over or imposing what they think should happen? Can you separate what matters to the person and what matters to others? (ensuring you are respecting all perspectives but giving prominence to the person's perspective)
- How do they want to be consulted/informed/involved about the progress of the enquiry? Have you explained the different ways they can be involved? What works for them?
- What are the risks? Is the person aware of them? Do they understand the

consequences? How do they feel the harm is impacting on them? How do they want to be protected? How have you involved them in the risk assessment and management plan? Did you feel comfortable asking these questions?

- Does the person have the mental capacity to make the relevant safeguarding decision(s)? Have you maximised their ability to make the decision(s) independently? How have you done this? Have you referred to the Code of Practice for more information?
- What do you see the difficulties around involving the person/ representative(s)? Have you used any of the tools to help unpick or clarify things? (especially in situations where there are different perspectives)
- If another agency is undertaking the enquiry have you ensured that they are personalising the experience for the person? How are they doing this? How could they alter their approach and how can you work positively with them to encourage a personalised approach? Have they done it really well? Think about how you can learn from their approach
- Have you suggested/considered the least restrictive protective measures?