

## Making Safeguarding Personal briefing for AAG

### **Making Safeguarding Personal: “No decision about me without me.”**

Helping people to make their own decisions about the way they live and the care they receive is fundamental good practice in Adult Social Care.

It enables people to have better outcomes and an improved sense of wellbeing. Our approach to safeguarding should be no different. Safeguarding should not be a process we apply to people, but instead has to be something we do with them, on their own terms.

Any adult with care and support needs should be in a position to say confidently:

“I am asked my opinions if there are concerns that I am at risk”

“I get help and support to report abuse or neglect”

“I feel listened to and what I say is taken seriously”

“I know that decisions are made in my best interests when I lack capacity to make them and that this is clearly explained to me”

“I am asked my views and this directly informs what happens next”

“I am given information I need, in a way that I need it.”

When concerns about abuse or neglect are reported to the ASC service there is a statutory duty under the Care Act 2014, to make enquiries where necessary. However it is important that wherever possible a conversation is had with the person concerned, about what it is that they want to happen. Their opinion should always inform the actions of the investigating social worker, although the social worker may still have a duty of care to act in some way, even against their wishes.

The City of London Adult Social Care team, through the Making Safeguarding Personal principles, are encouraged to use their professional judgment to make defensible decisions about how they practice.

Reporting everything under the umbrella of “Safeguarding” is not the answer to every concern, and other options and pathways maybe open to social workers and to the person with care and support needs.

Things to consider when Making Safeguarding Personal:

- What does the person themselves want?
- Do they have Mental Capacity to make their own choice about it?
- Are they being coerced, pressured or influenced by others?
- Is there anyone else involved in their support network? Is a discussion needed with them?
- What other options are available? Can the person be supported in another way?
- How serious is the level of risk? Is anyone else at risk? Is there a clear duty to act, even if the person themselves does not want the practitioner to?

The City of London Adult Social Care team are able to report on the Making Safeguarding Personal outcomes, to The City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board, by reporting on key MSP principles at the beginning and the conclusion of the SA episode. City of London cases will also be part of a multi-agency Safeguarding audit which will seek to examine cases of self-neglect that have been subject to the safeguarding process, those that have not, and how the MSP approach has been adopted in practice. The outcomes of this audit will be reported on at a future meeting.

It is also hoped that a campaign aimed at raising City resident’s awareness of Making Safeguarding Personal will be developed in the new financial year 2017/18.

Marion Willicome-Lang. Service Manager ASC. 12/4/17