

Making Safeguarding Personal in Everyday Practices

IASW Adult Safeguarding and Protection Group

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Safeguarding Adults Awareness Day

- Learning events are precious
- Sometimes we grow stale and need to be challenged and inspired or we must understand a new way of practising
- Reflecting on everyday practice provides a regular opportunity to develop (Spreadbury, K. and R. Hubbard (2020) *The Adult Safeguarding Handbook*, Bristol, Policy Press, p.10)

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)

- MSP “engages the person in 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 (Dept. of Health, Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2017,par 14.15)
- The MSP approach is supported in the revised adult safeguarding policy... (NSO Annual Report 2020, p 38).

The sound-surround system of safeguarding

(Ash,2014)

- **Lack of primary legislation-** *Adult Safeguarding Bill 2017*- stalled until publication of Law Reform Commission Report *A Regulatory Framework for Adult Safeguarding* ?2022.
- **Non Commencement** of *Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015*
- **Uncertainty:** *Revised HSE Safeguarding Policy?* ‘in the interim the 2014 Policy remains’; Overarching national policy Department of Health?
- Need for integrated **intersectoral safeguarding** on a firm legislative basis

Context: grappling with realities and constraints (NSO Annual Report 2020)

- The number of concerns in 2020 totalled 10,216
- Progressive increase in “reasonable grounds for concern” outcome
- Underreporting of elder abuse
- Over 50% relating to another service user/peer
- “indications of hidden abuse during lockdown” (DV, Institutional, People with disabilities)
- Self-neglect cases without a person allegedly causing concern have been **excluded**
- Balance human rights principles with protection
- Prevention

Social Workers' Enthusiasm: *'It's putting the human touch back into safeguarding'*

- **Moderated by:**
- Staff shortages; Lack of time
- Systems not suited to a person centred approach
- Organisational inertia
- Lack of management support for risk of actively involving service users in decisions
- Fear of legal challenges from providers, relatives

Embedding professional curiosity

- Curiosity is required to support practitioners to question and challenge the information they receive, identify concerns and make connections to enable a greater understanding of a person's situation
- Involve people with lived experience
- An open culture within organisations encouraged professional curiosity by enabling challenge to existing norms and developing innovative practice .

(Thacker, H., A. Anka and B.Penhale (2020) *Professional curiosity in safeguarding adults*)