



Making Safeguarding Personal

What good person-centred adult safeguarding practice looks like in Birmingham



Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board is a partnership of organisations working together to try to ensure that we support adults who may be most at risk of potential harm. Every adult life is different, but we know that people with care and support needs may be particularly vulnerable to abuse or neglect in some circumstances.

As partners we work in a wide variety of settings, with adults of all ages, whose situations are all very different. We therefore deliver our safeguarding responsibilities in a range of different ways. However in Birmingham we are all committed to supporting adults on their own terms and in a way that works for them as an individual. This is what we mean by 'Making Safeguarding Personal'.

This booklet outlines what we as partners consider to be the basic best practice standards for 'Making Safeguarding Personal'. When we consider whether we are 'doing it right', this is what we have agreed we will measure ourselves against.



Hearing the person



- We give the person time and space to talk
- We listen to them
- We take what they say seriously
- We make sure they do not have to keep repeating the same thing to different people
- We ask what their priorities are
- We ask whether they want any help from us
- We ask what they think that help might look like

'No decision about me without me'



Respecting the person's choices

- We support the person to make their own choices and decisions
- We give them as much information as possible in order to make their own choices
- We respect their values and decisions
- We do not make the person feel judged or punished for the choices they make or the things they tell us
- We support the person to be as safe as they want to be
- We always act in line with the Mental Capacity Act where choice and decision making is impaired

'No decision about me without me'

Understanding the person



- We communicate with the person in ways they understand, without using jargon
- We get a sense of what matters most to them, and why
- We take steps to understand their culture, background and community
- We are curious, not because we want to take control of their life, but because we care about what happens to them
- We try to understand who they feel they can trust, and to keep those people around them

'No decision about me without me'

Being honest with the person



- We discuss our concerns with the person before deciding what to do
- We are open about any worries we have for them
- We keep them informed about who is doing what, and why
- We are honest if it is necessary to act against their wishes or expectations
- We seek consent before sharing any information about them
- When we do share information we explain who we are sharing it with, and why

'No decision about me without me'

For further information on adult safeguarding and full policy guidance go to www.bsab.org

Our commitment to 'Making Safeguarding Personal' should always be viewed as part of our wider commitment to working in line with the six adult safeguarding principles:



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