

7 Minute Briefing – Making Safeguarding Personal ‘MSP’ - August 2025 - Plain Text Version

1. Introduction

Making Safeguarding Personal (‘MSP’) is a shift from process-driven safeguarding to a person-led, outcome-focused approach.

It supports the **Care Act 2014**, which places a legal duty on local authorities to promote individual well-being and ensure safeguarding is person-centred and empowering.

MSP helps practitioners meet these duties by tailoring safeguarding to what matters most to the individual, leading to more meaningful and effective outcomes.

2. Why is MSP Important?

MSP is important because it ensures safeguarding is not just about protection, but about respecting the person’s rights, values, and voice. It:

- **Respects the person’s wishes and values**
- **Involves them in decisions** about their safety and support
- **Focuses on outcomes they want to achieve**
- **Promotes dignity, respect, and empowerment**
- **Builds trust and engagement** in safeguarding processes
- **Supports legal duties** under the Care Act and Mental Capacity Act
- **Improves effectiveness** by tailoring safeguarding to the individual

3. Core MSP Principles

- **Person-Centred:** Focus on what matters to the individual.
- **Empowerment:** Support informed choices.
- **Prevention:** Act early to reduce risk.
- **Proportionality:** Respond appropriately to the level of risk.
- **Protection:** Safeguard those unable to protect themselves.
- **Partnership:** Work with individuals, families, and agencies.
- **Accountability:** Be open and responsible in actions.

4. Applying MSP in Practice: Key Tips

- **Start with the person** – ask what matters to them.
- **Communicate clearly** – avoid jargon, check understanding.
- **Support decisions** – apply Mental Capacity Act principles.
- **Balance risk and choice** – respect autonomy.
- **Work together** – involve families and agencies.
- **Record outcomes** – reflect the person’s voice.
- **Reflect and improve** – learn from each experience.

5. Remember

- **MSP is about safeguarding *with* people, not *to* them**—putting the person at the centre of every decision.

- **Safeguarding should reflect what matters most to the individual**, promoting dignity, respect, and empowerment.
- **Legal and ethical duties** require empathy, accountability, and balancing risk with rights.
- **Every interaction counts**—small changes in approach can lead to better outcomes.

6. Legal and Ethical Considerations

- **Care Act 2014** – Establishes the legal duty to safeguard adults and promote well-being.
- **Mental Capacity Act 2005** – Supports decision-making and acting in a person's best interests.
- **Human Rights Act 1998** – Protects rights to dignity, privacy, and liberty.
- **Confidentiality vs. Safety** – Balancing privacy with the need to share concerns.
- **Positive Risk-Taking** – Weighing safety against the person's right to live fully.

7. Useful Resources

[Making Safeguarding Personal \(MSP\) \(SCIE Resource\)](#)

[The Local Government Association's MSP Hub](#)

[The Local Government Association's resources to support Making Safeguarding Personal](#)

[The Care Act 2014](#)

[The Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice](#)

[The Human Rights Act 1998](#)

[The Voice of the Adult | Salford Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

Contact details:

- **Salford Safeguarding Adults Board:** SSAB@Salford.gov.uk

[Worried about an adult?](#) Report concerns via [the Adults' online portal](#) or call 0161 206 0604.

- [Worried about a child?](#) Report concerns [via the Children's online portal](#) or call the Bridge 0161 603 4500