# Making Safeguarding Personal Learning Briefing

This guidance is designed to assist practitioners and providers across agencies to understand what is meant by Making Safeguarding Personal and how to apply it to safeguarding situations.

*With thanks to the East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board, on whose work this document is based.*

## What is Making Safeguarding Personal?

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is an initiative to develop an outcomes focus to safeguarding work, with responses that support people to improve or resolve their circumstances. The work is supported and promoted by the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care (ADASS) and other national partners. Key aspects of MSP are:

* A personalised approach that enables safeguarding to be done with, and not to, people;
* Practice that focuses on achieving meaningful improvement to people’s circumstances and not just on “investigation” and “conclusion”;
* An approach that uses social work skills rather than just putting people through a process;
* An approach that enables practitioners, families, teams and Safeguarding Adults Boards to know what difference has been made.

A series of tools to support MSP, measure effectiveness and improve safeguarding practice is available. These are contained within the [Making Safeguarding Personal Toolkit](https://www.local.gov.uk/msp-toolkit) (Local Government Association (LGA), 2019).The toolkit is divided into three main sections:

1. Providing information and support in safeguarding;
2. Upholding the rights of people involved in safeguarding;
3. Achieving resolution and recovery in safeguarding.

Use the toolkit to find the best practice and most personal approach to a safeguarding situation. Download and print off strengths-based practice tools as required, or the case examples and reflective exercises to support application to safeguarding practice.

## Myths and realities about MSP

MSP supports and promotes relationship and strengths-based approaches to practice. It acknowledges the complexity of people’s lives and the challenges for practitioners to enable people, with their representatives or advocates if they lack mental capacity, to keep themselves safe and safeguarded, and to achieve resolution and recovery in their lives.

**It is a myth that MSP means that if someone says they don’t want anything to happen then you can close the case and walk away.** Use your professional curiosity and relationship-based practice skills to ensure that someone is not pushing you away because they are influenced, coerced or controlled by someone else. Persevere and establish trust to support people to minimise the impact of any unwise decisions on their health and wellbeing.

**It is a myth that MSP is just a chat over a cuppa’ or ‘that MSP thing’.** MSP is about practice and culture change. Use the core principles of the Human Rights Act, Care Act and Mental Capacity Act to join up all parts of the system that can support the person at the centre of concern and resist seeing safeguarding as simply moving through a process.

**It is a myth that MSP doesn’t bring perpetrators to justice because the person doesn’t want action and they will go on to abuse again.** Use MSP to stop abuse and neglect. Use your legal literacy and professional responsibilities regarding duties of care and public interest to ensure that anyone who could abuse others is properly dealt with.

**It is a myth that MSP takes too much time.** MSP is time effective. It may take you longer in the beginning to explain everything and establish what the person wants but, in the long term, better choices will be made, protection plans will be more effective and people will be supported to achieve the outcomes that matter to them.

**It is a myth that it is not possible to use a MSP approach with people who lack mental capacity.** MSP is for everyone, including people who lack mental capacity. Use advocates and people who know the person to find out what the person might have wanted. Use the Mental Capacity Act to make best interests’ decisions in relation to specific safeguarding risks and involve all relevant parties.

**It is a myth that the MSP approach cannot be used when a person refuses help.** MSP is for everyone, including people who refuse support. Use your skills, knowledge and experience to check that someone else is not pressurising the person. Speak to the person in private and think about why they may be turning down help. Build up trust, work together with someone they know well; someone needs to keep trying and that could be you.

As part of MSP, it is important that practitioners find an opportunity for direct personal contact with the person at the centre of the concerns and separate from family members. While families invariably have the best interests of their loved ones at heart, there may be situations where people want to talk to professionals alone but do not have the confidence to request this themselves. Practitioners need to take the initiative and ensure they meet with the person on their own.

A full discussion of the myths and realities of MSP, and other myths about safeguarding, is contained in the document [Myths and realities about Making Safeguarding Personal](https://www.local.gov.uk/myths-and-realities-about-making-safeguarding-personal) (LGA, 2019).

## Recommended reading and resources

Cooper, A (2019) *‘Myths and realities’ about Making Safeguarding Personal*. Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS). Available from [www.local.gov.uk/myths-and-realities-about-making-safeguarding-personal](https://www.local.gov.uk/myths-and-realities-about-making-safeguarding-personal) [accessed 27 January 2021]

Local Government Association (2018) *Making Safeguarding Personal Outcomes Framework.* Available from [www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/msp-outcomes-framework-may-2018-framework.pdf](http://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/msp-outcomes-framework-may-2018-framework.pdf) [accessed 27 January 2021]

Local Government Association (n.d.) *Making Safeguarding Personal.* Available from [www.local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/making-safeguarding-personal](https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/making-safeguarding-personal) [accessed 27 January 2021]

Local Government Association (n.d.) *Resources to support Making Safeguarding Personal*. Available from [www.local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/making-safeguarding-personal/resources](http://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/making-safeguarding-personal/resources) [accessed 27 January 2021]

Local Government Association (n.d.) *Support for developing audit questions and methodologies*. Available from [www.local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/making-safeguarding-personal/support](http://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/making-safeguarding-personal/support) [accessed 27 January 2021]

Local Government Association (n.d.) *Working with risk*. Available from [www.local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/making-safeguarding-personal/working-risk](https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/making-safeguarding-personal/working-risk) [accessed 27 January 2021]

Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) (2019) *Making Safeguarding Personal Toolkit Handbook*. Available from [www.local.gov.uk/msp-practice-toolkit-handbook-0](https://www.local.gov.uk/msp-practice-toolkit-handbook-0) [accessed 27 January 2021]

Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) (2019) *Making Safeguarding Personal 2018/19 Case studies*. Available from [www.local.gov.uk/making-safeguarding-personal-201819-case-studies](https://www.local.gov.uk/making-safeguarding-personal-201819-case-studies) [accessed 27 January 2021]

Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) (2019) *Making Safeguarding Personal for commissioners and providers of health and social care.* Available from [www.local.gov.uk/making-safeguarding-personal-commissioners-and-providers-health-and-social-care](http://www.local.gov.uk/making-safeguarding-personal-commissioners-and-providers-health-and-social-care) [accessed 27 January 2021]

Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) (n.d.) *Safeguarding resources.* Available from [www.local.gov.uk/topics/social-care-health-and-integration/adult-social-care/safeguarding-resources](http://www.local.gov.uk/topics/social-care-health-and-integration/adult-social-care/safeguarding-resources) [accessed 27 January 2021]