

# Making Safeguarding Personal

A close-up photograph of a person's open palm, facing the camera. The hand is light-skinned and has a silver ring on the ring finger. The text "MY LIFE: MY CHOICE" is written in black, bold, capital letters across the palm. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and white.

MY  
LIFE:  
MY  
CHOICE

The aim of Making Safeguarding Personal is to engage the person in a 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.

It is an approach that sees people as experts in their own lives.

### **Making Safeguarding Personal seeks to achieve:**

- A personalised approach that enables safeguarding to be done with, not to, people
- Practice that focuses on achieving meaningful improvement to people's circumstances rather than just on 'investigation' and 'conclusion'
- An approach that utilises 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



### **Local authorities and their partners undertake to:**

- Work with adults (and their advocates or representatives if they lack capacity) at the beginning to identify the outcomes they want to achieve
- Review with the adult at the end of the safeguarding activity to what extent their desired outcomes have been achieved
- Develop a range of clear, well-defined and appropriate responses that focus on supporting the adult to meet their desired outcomes and reduce the risk of recurrence of abuse
- Record and review the outcomes in a way that can be used to inform practice and account to the relevant Safeguarding Adults Board.

### **What if the person wants to remain in the risky situation?**

Adults have a right to make their own choices, even if other people think these choices are “unwise”.

This is one of the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. In these cases, all relevant agencies will work with the Adult to help them manage and minimise the risk.

If the Adult is not able to make the decision for themselves, relevant agencies and representatives for them will make a decision in their best interests.

## Desired outcomes:

Some people may express desired outcomes or wishes that are not possible. This provides opportunities for frank discussion to establish what the next best option is within some broader boundaries and principles that they have stated. We will establish desired outcomes and work towards them.

There will be occasions when outcomes may not be achievable. (for instance if they don't want the police involved but the person who has abused or neglected them is in a position to do the same to others). We will have discussions to agree negotiated outcomes.

Again there will be opportunities to explain this honestly, and to find ways to most closely meet their wishes.



## The Six key principles that underpin all adult safeguarding work:

**Empowerment:** Adults are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions.

*"I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens."*

**Prevention:** It is better to take action before harm occurs.

*"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help."*

**Proportionality:** The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

*"I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them, and they will only get involved as much as needed."*

**Protection:** Support and representation for those in greatest need.

*"I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want."*

**Partnership:** Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.

*"I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me."*

**Accountability:** Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

*"I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they."*

The information in this leaflet has been taken from the following:

**Association of Directors of Adult Social Services:**

<https://www.adass.org.uk/making-safeguarding-personal-publications>

**Local Government Association:**

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/making-safeguarding-personal>

**Social Care Institute for Excellence:**

<https://www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/safeguarding-adults/safeguarding-adults-boards-checklist-and-resources/making-safeguarding-personal.asp>

**Safeguarding Adults Multi-Agency Policy**

<http://www.northsomersetsafeguarding.co.uk/userfiles/downloads/172/joint-safeguarding-adults-policy-final-22-dec-2017.pdf>

