

Practice Tool 9

Risk Enablement

Risk enablement is a key skill for practitioners in promoting wellbeing and achieving outcomes.

As an approach, risk enablement identifies a link between risk and enablement. Risk enablement recognises that taking carefully considered risks can enable individuals and help improve their wellbeing.

Positive risk taking is a way of working with risk that promotes enablement. It is important to remember that the 'positive' in positive risk taking refers to the outcome not the risk.

An example of a risk enablement reference chart is detailed below.

Additionally the National Safeguarding Office has produced a guidance document on risk enablement and it can be read here [***Risk Considerations***](#)

Risk Enablement Chart

<p>Identifying risk Key features of how risk is defined in positive risk taking.</p>	<p>Positive risk taking and Making Safeguarding Personal These shared features illustrate how positive risk taking and Making Safeguarding Personal complement one and other.</p>	<p>Positive risk taking in the wider context Examples of key areas of work that support a positive risk taking approach.</p>	<p>Legislation and guidance (adapted for an Irish context) Key areas of law and guidance in respect of risk enablement.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integral to achieving many common outcomes-can be minimised but not eliminated. - Specific to circumstances of the individual. - Dynamic and, therefore, subject to change. - Inherently linked to enablement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The approach to risk is rights based. - People using services are kept well informed. - Communication is adapted to individuals. - The wishes of people using services are at the heart of decisions. - The strengths of the individual are identified. - Decisions are balanced. - Reasoning is demonstrable. - Decisions are regularly reviewed. - Practitioners are reflective. - Practitioners are legally literate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying the strengths of the individual. - Utilising assets in the community. - Understanding the role of independent advocates. - Working collaboratively with other agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse National Policy & Procedures, 2014 - Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 - National Standards for Adult Safeguarding, 2019 (Health Information and Quality Authority/ Mental Health Commission)