Risk, safeguarding and personal budgets: exploring relationships and identifying good practice

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Introduction

• Personalisation and risk
• Personalisation and safeguarding concerns raised
• Risk, Safeguarding and Personal Budgets
  – Aims and objectives
  – Methods
  – Emerging findings
Personalisation

Risk

?
Personalisation and safeguarding

• Some predictions that personalisation will enhance safeguarding (SCIE, 2012; Putting People First, 2007; Poll, et al 2005) but many fears expressed
• No Secrets review (DH, 2009) discussed need to integrate safeguarding and personalisation
• Adult Social Care Vision (DH, 2010) argued for: ‘sensible safeguards against the risk of abuse or neglect. Risk is no longer an excuse to limit people’s freedom’ (p8).
• Statement of principles – Empowerment a key aim of safeguarding – DH 2011, 2013
• Duty of care to people with capacity problems
Emerging concerns

• Hiring suitable and firing unsuitable workers
  – Are they able to deal with the problems of employing people that aren’t up to what they should be providing? (Care coordinator, people with learning disabilities)

• Service users being overwhelmed by managing IBs
  – If there’s a problem they can’t just ring us up and say, ‘Sort it’. Because if they’re actually employing the person, they’ve got to sort that out with whoever it is that’s supporting them to employ that person (Team manager people with learning disabilities team).

• IB used inappropriately and unproductively

• More open to physical and financial abuse
  – And I think we may have to consider with phenomena like domestic abuse could play a part in choosing to pay a family member. (ASCS)

• Loss of collective ‘voice’

Glendinning et al 2008 – IBSEN study,
While safeguarding is frequently raised as an issue, there is so far no evidence that people taking up self-directed support, including direct payments, are at greater or lesser risk of harm. There is clearly a need to ensure that the move to self-directed support is accompanied by better ways to identify and manage risks [. . .] (ADASS, 2009, p. 10).
Risk, Safeguarding and Personal Budgets

- Any evidence that abuse (including neglect) is more or less likely (or has a different form) amongst PB holders than non-PB holders,
- The extent of awareness and understanding amongst safeguarding practitioners and care coordinators (or similar) in local authorities
- The extent, availability and quality of support offered to PB (in particular DP) users or their proxy budget holders.
- What practitioners, budget holders and their carers consider ‘best practice’ in minimising risks of abuse.
Methods

• Analysis of Safeguarding Adults Annual Reports
• Secondary analysis of national and local data
  – Abuse of Vulnerable Adults (AVA) returns
  – Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care (RAP) and the Adult Social Care Combined Activity Returns
  – Local data
• Interviews with
  – Budget holders and proxy budget holders
  – Safeguarding coordinators and team members
  – Elected members and senior managers

http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/01/11/2010/115675/personal-budgets-pose-financial-risk-for-councils.htm
Methods and sample

• Ethics and governance approvals
• Safeguarding Annual Reports – read and coded
• National and local AVA and Community Care Activity data analysed
• Threes in-depth sites
  – 16 managers and professional interviews
  – 16 Service user and carer interviews
Analysis of national and local data

AVA Returns → National Datasets
  Multiple deprivation indices

Local Dataset 1
Local Dataset 2
Local Dataset 3

Community Care Statistics
Urban/Rural classification
Emerging findings

• Limitations of aggregate data and differing definitions

• Analysis of Personal Budget and Direct Payment uptake produced no statistically significant associations with:
  – Numbers of safeguarding referrals
  – Location of abuse
  – Likelihood of substantiating abuse

• Some indications amongst Self-Directed Support users:
  – Increased financial abuse
  – Perpetrators more likely to be domiciliary staff

• Some different patterns in rural areas – greater variation
Emerging themes

• Mental capacity – duty of care
• Approaches to balancing risk and choice
• Transfer of responsibility
• Adapting Assessment, support planning, review and monitoring
• Supporting Direct Payment employers
• Views of increased/decreased risk
• Impact on safeguarding process
Planned outputs

• Practitioner approaches
• Employment support
• Impact of direct payment on levels and patterns of reported abuse
• Data considerations
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Thank you

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