

Risk Management

What is risk?

Risk is the likelihood of an event happening and the impact that this could have for a particular person or others whom they may come into contact with.

Risk can often be viewed negatively, however, by taking into account well-being and choice, it should be possible to create a support plan which enables choice but also manages identified risks.

Managing Risk

Once the risks have been assessed practitioners should agree with the individual or carer how the risks will be managed.

Positive Risk Management should include:

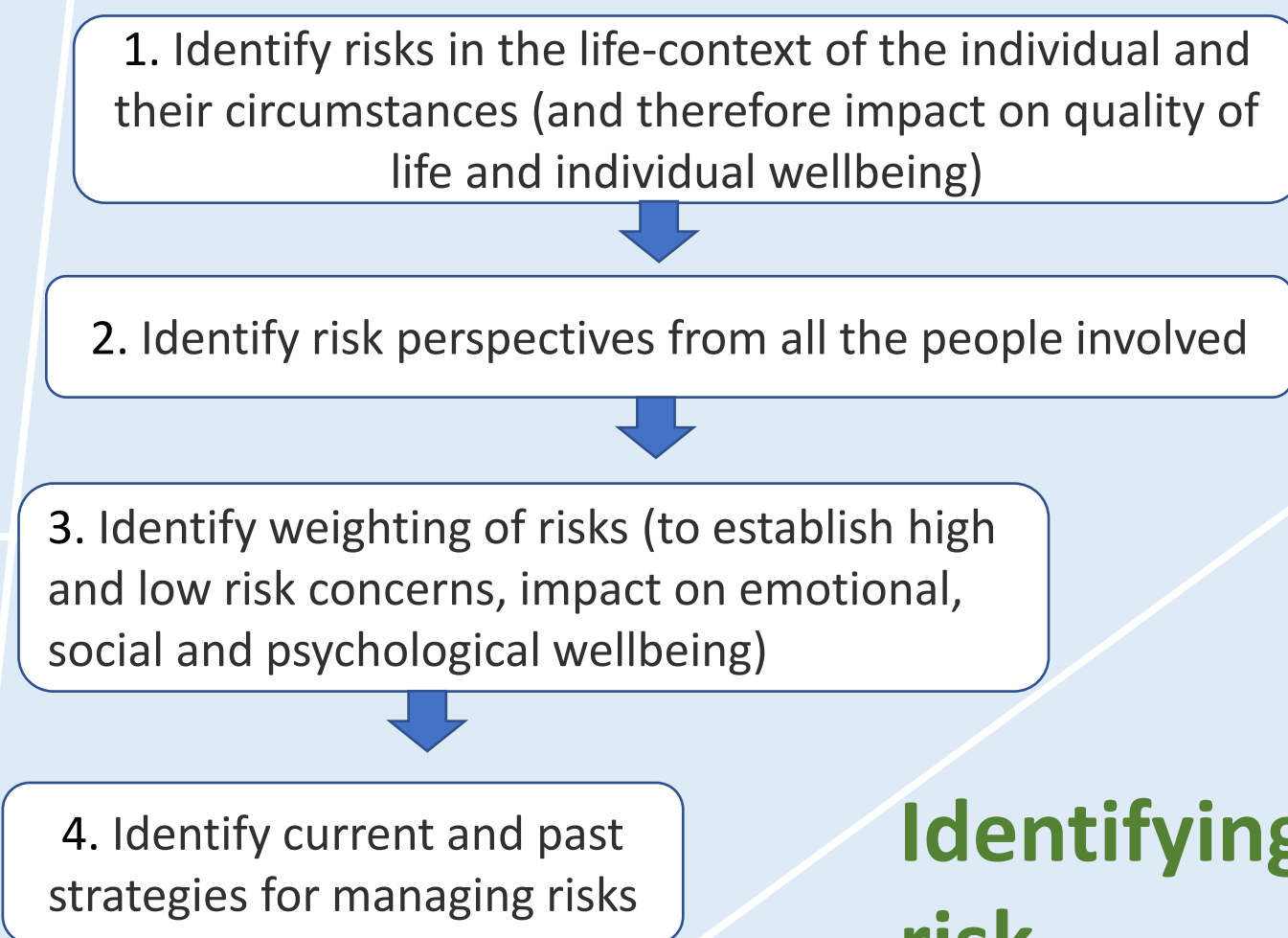
- Working with the individual to identify what may work well.
- Developing action plans that support positive priorities identified by the individual whilst minimising risk to them or others.
- Using available resources and support to achieve the desired outcome. Identifying clearly the services that will be involved in managing the risks.

! Any intervention should comply with the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Care Act 2014

Working in partnership:

- The individual and every agency directly working with them should be involved in the development of risk management.
- Where there are concerns about high risk that requires wider support, multi-agency risk management models should be considered.
- How will the plan be monitored? Agencies should agree on the frequency of reviews depending on the severity of risk.
- It may not always be possible to reach agreement, but professionals should evidence that all attempts to reach an agreement were taken.

The Four Stage Process (Clarke et al., 2011)



Identifying risk

It is important to identify potential benefits and harm of certain actions, decisions or behaviour.

These must be seen from the individuals point of view, with the professionals supporting them, exploring and understanding potential benefits and harm to them and others.

- Sources of risk can include:
- Private and family life
 - Community based risks
 - Service provision
 - Self-Neglect

Risk is dynamic and may fluctuate i.e. if there is change in circumstances then risks may also change.



Assessing Risk

Professionals should be mindful not to make assumptions. The existence of a risk factor doesn't always mean there is a risk.

- 'ethnicity, culture, language and social class can all play a significant role in shaping how risks are perceived and responded to.' (Centre for Social Justice, 2011).

Professionals should have an understanding of the legal structures in place, the documentation that can help and that needs to be completed i.e. Care Act 2014 and recording of mental capacity whether they are deemed to have it or not.

Assessments should consider:

- Individuals view of their own risk and their wishes
- What influences will increase or decrease the risk?
- What other agencies are involved in their care and what are their responsibilities?
- Is a referral needed for risk management processes i.e. MARM, MARAC or MAPPA

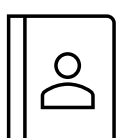
Practitioners should keep accurate records of discussions that take place around choice and mental capacity. These are critical for protecting the individual in making their choices as well as the organisation providing the care.

Contact details:

OSAB@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Worried about an adult?

[How to report concerns - Oxford Safeguarding Adults Board \(osab.co.uk\)](http://www.osab.co.uk)



Resources

- [Multi-Agency Risk Management \(MARM\) Framework](#)
- [MARAC Flyer & Referral Form \(reducingtherisk.org.uk\)](#)
- [Independence, Choice and Risk: A guide to best practice in supported decision making](#)

