

Minimising and Controlling Risk

Evaluating and monitoring risks are a necessary part of our work and life:

When we consider risks there are three main areas:

- Risks relating to our home and work. These may be general risks that could affect anyone working or living there. They tend to be specific to the environment or work requirements and only change if the environment or work changes.
- Risks relating to individual clients that are specific to their awareness and competence in dealing with safety and risk situations. These often change according to environment and changes in the awareness or competence of the client.
- Address risk to self, risk to others and risk from others.

With both areas of risk it is necessary to maintain up-to-date risk assessments to support the well being of those affected. Risk assessments should be undertaken at least annually, or when changes occur.

It is important to manage risks, that is, not to use a risk as a restriction to a client or to prevent them from accessing a service, but to ensure the risk is minimised or is taken appropriately.

When carrying out a risk assessment with a client it is important that the scoring is between 1 and 4, even if you feel there is no risk to clients or staff members, 1 still needs to be entered.

If there has been an identified risk, staff must enter the control measure in the column, so all other staff members are aware of the potential risk and how to manage this.

The probability score and the likelihood score needs to be multiplied to get the total score, not added.

A sample of risk assessments will need to be checked internally by Managers. Supporting People will also monitor a sample of assessments when reviewing the service.

When undertaking a risk assessment there are five clear steps to follow:

These are:

- Identify who is at risk

- Evaluate the risk
- Record your findings
- Review the risk assessment
- Revise the assessment as necessary

Risk assessments are very useful in helping us to identify possible hazards and harm that could occur and also in working to implement ways to control and minimise the possible harm.

Risks specific to an individual:

- Be aware of their humans rights
- Maintain a professional approach basing decisions on facts and experience, not personal opinion
- Involve the person in the process
- Weigh up the benefits of taking the risk against the foreseeable harm after steps to reduce or eliminate the harm have been identified.
- Record the process
- Monitor and review regularly

Risks relevant to the home and environment:

- Be aware of the Health and Safety policy and guidelines
- Make it relevant to the tasks undertaken and those doing the work/ using the facilities
- Monitor and review regularly (at least yearly or when changes occur)
- Communicate the risks and controls in place to those working and using the facilities
- Calculate the Risk Factor of a hazard where necessary (the severity of the harm that could be caused x the likelihood of the hazard causing harm)

There are many ways to control risks and hazards including:

- Elimination (e.g. a rug that causes people to trip is removed)
- Substitution

- Restricted Access
- Safer working practices
- New Safety rules
- Increased supervision (Warnings e.g. Wet Floor signs)

Outcomes of risk assessments should be included in the support plan.

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