

## SCDSW15

# Agree risk management plans to promote independence and responsibility



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### Overview

This standard is for social workers working with individuals, families, carers, groups and communities. The association between risk, independence and personal responsibility makes risk management within social work a dynamic undertaking. It includes balancing different rights and responsibilities, and exploring ways to enable risks to be taken where these have the potential to enhance people's lives. The standard addresses these areas while recognising that specific safe-guards may nonetheless be necessary. It sets risk management planning in the context of collaborative work and highlights the importance of shared agreement and on-going monitoring of risk-related plans

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#### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 review your own and the organisation's legal and professional duties when supporting people to balance risks, rights and responsibilities
- P2 assess the individual's capacity to make decisions regarding risk
- P3 assess risk according to legal and organisational requirements
- P4 use assertiveness to ensure that the actions of others work in the best interests of the individual and take account of the wider community
- P5 with the individual, develop a plan to minimise risks while maximising independence and the responsibility for taking positive risks
- P6 work with the individual and others to ensure they understand the reasons why specific safeguards need to be put in place
- P7 establish agreement to the plan with all those who will share the management of risk
- P8 agree a strategy for monitoring and reviewing the risk management plan
- P9 complete records of the risk management plan**

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 international legislation, its relationship to UK **policies** and social work practices
- K2 UK legislation, its relationship to national **policies** and social work practices
- K3 national legislation, its relationship to **policies** and social work practices
- K4 statutory and professional codes, standards, frameworks and guidance; their relationship to social work policy and practice
- K5 the characteristics of the home nation, its language, culture, geography and institutions
- K6 theories underpinning our understanding of human development and factors that affect it
- K7 theories underpinning our understanding of social issues from psychological, sociological and criminological perspectives
- K8 theories of discrimination in contemporary society
- K9 theoretical and research based critiques of the relationships between legislation, **policies** and social work practice
- K10 social work as a profession, including historical accounts and contemporary issues
- K11 the nature, role and mandate of the social work relationship, including professional and ethical boundaries
- K12 principles, theories, methods and models of social work intervention and practice
- K13 **factors** commonly associated with social work involvement
- K14 your own background, experiences and practices that may have an impact on your social work practice
- K15 principles of risk assessment and risk management
- K16 principles of positive risk-taking
- K17 techniques for problem solving and innovative thinking
- K18 principles of conflict management
- K19 the nature of conflict and post-conflict impact on society
- K20 working in your organisation: principles, procedures and professional practices
- K21 assessment and planning tools and frameworks
- K22 formal requirements for legal and other external processes
- K23 the purpose of working with other professionals and agencies
- K24 the remit, functions, ethos and responsibilities of disciplines and organisations involved in multi-disciplinary work

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- K25 the cultural and language context of the individual, family, group or community
- K26 principles of partnership working with individuals, families, carers, groups and communities
- K27 the potential of individuals to use their personal strengths and resources to achieve change
- K28 the value and role of family networks, communities and groups in achieving positive outcomes, and ways to develop them
- K29 the nature of personalisation and personalised services, including self directed support; and the role of the social worker in relation to these in the context of national policy
- K30 the range of resources available within informal networks, within the wider community, through formal service provision and through innovation
- K31 the eligibility criteria for services or funding streams
- K32 the opportunities afforded by different funding mechanisms including individual budgets and direct payments
- K33 how to express written information with accuracy, clarity, relevance and an appropriate level of detail
- K34 legal and organisational requirements for recording information and producing reports
- K35 legal requirements, policies and procedures for the security and confidentiality of information
- K36 principles of reflective practice, critical thinking and learning
- K37 how and when to access informal support in the course of practice

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### Additional Information

#### Scope/range

Social work practice with individuals, families, carers, groups and communities in a wide range of contexts including statutory and non-statutory social services, community development, criminal justice and educational welfare

#### Scope/range related to performance criteria

**Legal and professional duties** include duties to promote life opportunities and independent living; reduce social exclusion; protect people from harm; prevent offending behaviour

**People** may be individuals, families, carers, groups or communities

**Records of the risk management plan** will include actions, decisions, uncertainties, disagreements, unresolved conflicts and areas where shared understanding about risk has not been possible, with rationales justifying decisions made

#### Scope/range related to knowledge and understanding

**Policies** may include those relating to social care, safe-guarding, re-settlement/community re-integration, criminal justice, migration and asylum, education, health, housing, welfare benefits, diversity, discrimination and promoting the independence and autonomy of adults, children, families, groups and communities

**Factors** may include substance misuse; mental health; frailty; physical ill health; physical disability; learning disability; sensory needs; migration and asylum; poverty; adults or children at risk of harm or abuse; children in need; difficulties around schooling; ethnic or other minority group status; offending behaviour; public protection

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#### Values

Adherence to the regulatory codes of practice applying to social workers, and the values embedded in them

#### Skills

- 1 plan courses of action to achieve identified outcomes
- 2 communicate in an open, accurate and understandable way
- 3 facilitate each person's use of language and chosen form of communication
- 4 maintain the trust and confidence of individuals, families, carers, groups and communities
- 5 work effectively with those whose views or values conflict with your own
- 6 negotiate with others to achieve agreement in complex situations
- 7 challenge others when necessary, in ways likely to achieve change
- 8 analyse and synthesise complex information
- 9 apply creative thinking to resolve complex problems
- 10 make professional judgements about complex situations
- 11 use your own interpersonal and other skills and knowledge as a resource
- 12 apply person centred approaches
- 13 balance person centred outcomes and the well-being of others
- 14 exercise assertiveness, power and authority in ways compatible with social work values
- 15 produce records and reports that meet professional standards
- 16 access and use information and communications technology systems for the collection, storage and dissemination of information
- 17 access and use professional supervision and support in situations beyond your own knowledge or experience

#### Links to other NOS

This NOS links closely with:  
SCD SW 13 Plan in partnership to address short and longer term issues

#### External Links

This NOS links with regulatory codes of practice applying to social workers.

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