

Suspicion of risk – safeguarding / protection scenarios for Activity 2

1. A 16-year-old girl tells you that her older brother is going to kill her because she has been seen kissing a boy in the street. She is very distressed.
 - Could this lead onto a serious situation, consider so called 'honour crimes'.
 - May also signal bullying or even sexual abuse within the family.
 - *However to avoid overreacting more needs to be known, has this happened before, any previous concerns.*

2. Meinir, 15, has been chatting on-line in secret with Alex. At first he seemed really nice and she found it easy to talk to him about lots of personal things. However he is now sending her lots of suggestive and explicit messages that have made her feel uncomfortable.
 - Telling someone may be enough, it will depend on Meinir's ability to respond safely.
 - Is Meinir considered to be potentially vulnerable for reasons other than her age?
 - How old is Alex?
 - Does Meinir have any intention of meeting him?

3. A 12-year-old you are working with as a volunteer at a youth club always seems tired and says he has to help a lot at home because of his parents' poor health. He has younger siblings, including a sister who has learning difficulties. He says he often has to look after her as well as cook dinner for the family.
 - Issues may be as a young carer he needs support and is a child in need.
 - He may not want to stop helping at home and his views and attitudes are important to see what the safeguarding issues may be.

4. You are interviewing a 16-year-old boy. You notice that he has a picture of his 13-year-old girlfriend on his phone, in the picture, she isn't wearing any clothes. He says it's a bit of fun and she does not mind.
 - There are issues to do with the boy being 16 and his 'girlfriend' being underage to consent to sexual activity.
 - The safeguarding may involve them both and their needs for improved self-worth also vulnerability to exploitation and future protection.

5. Of course, Alex and I are rushed off our feet just now. We hardly ever see each other. I'm launching the new range and never get in before nine and then I'm just dead. He still lives in London three nights a week and usually rolls in even later than me when he is home. Then what with his golf and my personal trainer, we have to get our diaries together if we want to say hello. Thank God we've got Maria to take the twins off our hands. She's marvellous and we barely hear a squeak out of them from one day to the next. Takes all the pain out of having children!
 - Lifestyle choices, professional backgrounds masking emotional detachment.
 - Issues of child development and best interest of the children.

6. You are a volunteer at a hostel. A young single mum regularly visits her boyfriend who is homeless in the hostel, bringing her 10-month-old baby with her. Mum will often go into town with her boyfriend, leaving the baby in the care of different residents.
 - Choices being made for a very young child, understanding of child's needs.
 - Attachment to child.
 - Vulnerability factors.



7. A 14-year-old girl has consensual sexual intercourse with her 16-year-old boyfriend.
- Cannot be consensual as under 16, safeguarding issues.
 - Level of maturity differences between them.
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8. Pavinda, 11, tells you her dad has been shouting a lot and has hurt her mum. She does not think she will be able to come to the club anymore.
- Domestic violence.
 - Emotional abuse.
 - Tip of the iceberg.
 - Or a recent problem that will be resolved?
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9. One of the younger boys in your setting is always using Facebook and online games and will not be without his iPhone. He became extremely agitated for an hour last week; he was crying and shaking he was so upset.
- Addiction.
 - Social isolation.
 - Parenting issues.
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10. Morgan and Lila are very young parents to four year-old Sky. Lila tells you that they let Sky watch all the films they have as they want her to grow up "knowing stuff".
- Lifestyle choice.
 - Human rights.
 - Emotional abuse.
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11. Your colleague is telling you what a great weekend she had. She says they had a houseful of friends for supper and drinks, including all the children aged six to 14-years-old. Everyone enjoyed themselves but got very drunk and a few people were too sick to get home.
- Lifestyle choice, human rights.
 - Perception of 'middle class' drinking not being harmful.
 - Focus on dangers and outcomes for children.
 - Different ages of children, different factors.
 - Provision for children during this time.
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12. Jade and Russ live in a converted van with Jade's baby (18-months-old). They often smoke cannabis.
- Lifestyle choice vs illegal drug.
 - Safeguarding of baby from effects and accidental consumption.
 - Extent of use and capacity to look after child at that time.
 - Provision for baby.
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13. A divorced mother makes excuses to prevent ex-husband seeing his children alone.
- Not addressing children's needs / wishes.
 - May be underlying reasons for this which could justify the choice.
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14. A 10-year-old lets himself into the house after school and makes a snack for himself and his younger brother until Mum is back from work.
- Safeguarding or children in need.
 - How long alone?
 - Other support available.
 - Little legal guidance.
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15. A sick 13-year-old girl sharing the bed with her mum / her dad?
- How long is this for?
 - Who is wanting this, who's needs are being met?
 - Family / cultural differences in what is an appropriate age.
 - Sharing beds and rooms would be normal in crowded family situations.
 - Where is the partner of the adult?
 - Does it feel different if it is mum or dad?
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16. Meg has been found cuddling Dave, an individual she is supporting in a care home, on their own. Dave was seen to be crying.
- Attached professional showing support and appropriate behaviour or crossing of professional boundaries?
 - Has it happened before with this or other service users?
 - How long have they known each other?
 - Any special relationship such as being a key worker.
 - What is in the care plan to show individual's preferences?
 - Is this an inexperienced volunteer / staff member?
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17. John attends a day centre and is loud and aggressive toward other individuals. He has just pushed and slapped Rhodri another individual.
- Needs to be taken seriously.
 - Is it a one-off incident or happening often to just Rhodri or more people.
 - How does Rhodri feel about it and what does he want to do?
 - Both need support and may need safeguarding to prevent further harm.
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18. Care staff at Alison's group home save small amounts of her money each week for things she needs but will not buy herself.
- Does Alison have capacity to make own decisions?
 - Is there a care plan which supports this?
 - What does Alison think about this?
 - What has been tried to support Alison in understanding what things she needs?
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19. Andrew has his medication crushed up in jam otherwise he will not take it.
- Does Andrew have capacity?
 - Does he know about this?
 - Has the nurse / doctor confirmed this is appropriate for this medication?
 - What alternative ways of taking the medication have been tried?
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20. Delyth has learning disabilities and at times bangs her head on the chair and table. If she is doing this and cannot be distracted her carer will sometimes hold her head still and hold her arms down.

- Does Delyth have capacity, does she agree this can happen?
 - What does the care plan say about protecting Delyth when this happens?
 - What else has been tried?
 - How long is this going on for?
 - Have staff been appropriately trained?
 - Do the family, advocate and social worker know this is happening?
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21. Alan has autism and because of this he sometimes gets into a temper and starts fights with people. If this happens his carers pull him away and hold him until he is calm.

- Does Alan have capacity?
 - Does he agree this can happen?
 - What is the care plan saying about protecting Alan when this happens?
 - What else has been tried?
 - How long is this going on for?
 - Have staff been appropriately trained?
 - Do the family, advocate and social worker know this is happening?
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22. A support worker (or befriender) takes Mike shopping at Tesco. As Mike doesn't have a 'points' card he uses his own.

- Does Mike know or agree?
 - What has the supporter said?
 - Why has a card not been obtained for Mike?
 - Points do count as financial gains so this would be considered in breach of the code of practice for many professions.
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23. Terry bathes and gives intimate personal care to his 20-year-old daughter who was paralysed after a car accident.

- Does this woman have capacity, does she agree this can happen?
 - What is the care plan saying, if there is one?
 - What else has been tried?
 - How long is this going on for?
 - Has Terry been appropriately trained so as not to injure himself or his daughter?
 - Do the wider family, advocate and social worker know this is happening?
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24. Rhiannon is 20-years-old; she has been in hospital with depression and substance misuse problems and now lives in a supported hostel. She seems to have a lot of boyfriends who come and go all the time.

- Lifestyle choice or vulnerable to exploitation.
 - Can consent but may need support to achieve any changes.
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25. Individuals in a residential home have their cigarette 'privileges' withdrawn for anti-social behaviour.

- Inappropriate use of sanctions and reminiscent of 'pin down' - these ways of working can become controlling and abusive cultures develop.
 - Against human rights.
 - Smoking is a choice and not a 'privilege'.
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26. Katy lives at home with her parents. She has learning disabilities and receives benefits. Katy's parents use this money.

- What is the money used for?
 - Does Katy know and / or agree, does she have capacity?
 - How old is Katy?
 - Who else knows or is involved?
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27. Gladys, 78, lives alone and has early stage dementia. Although she has difficulty expressing herself, her local corner shop supplies her with five bottles of sherry a week.

- Lifestyle choice, is Gladys choosing to do this?
 - Alcohol may adversely affect the dementia and make her more vulnerable.
 - Has anyone spoken to her or the shopkeeper?
 - What else could meet her needs socially etc.
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28. Ben is 35 and has not coped well with losing his hearing following an accident. His communication is very limited and he goes to the pub every night to meet 'friends'. Ben is always buying the drinks but says he doesn't mind.

- Choice is with Ben but support may be needed as there may be exploitation.
 - This can escalate into more serious abuse.
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29. A care home has a policy of locking its doors at all times. The reason it gives is that several of the residents are 'vulnerable' and cannot be allowed to visit the local town on their own.

- This is a violation of the rights to liberty and a private life.
 - The only lawful way of doing this is through a deprivation of liberty authorisation or using the powers under the *Mental Health Act 1983*
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30. An older woman living in a residential care home had a fall and was admitted to hospital. While she was in hospital, the local authority decided that she needed full-time nursing care and should therefore be moved to a nursing home rather than returning to the residential care home. She is not consulted.

- This is a violation of her right to respect for her private life, her home and probably her family life. These rights must be considered by the local authority.
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31. Ellis, 79, lives with his daughter and son-in-law; he is often confused and is getting frail. He used to work as a gardener and still tries to go outside whenever he can. He usually has no sense of where he is and does not notice cars, steps or other hazards. His family has started locking him in the house at night to keep him safe.

- Are the family in the house with him?
 - Is it normal to lock the door?
 - Could technology be used to 'sense' when Ellis is moving about in the night?
 - Other supports for the family.
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32. Sheila has visual impairment and is living in a residential home; she has periods of shouting that can last for hours. The home has asked for a prescription of sedatives to stop her shouting.

- Inappropriate prescriptions to suit staff or family are an abuse of human rights.
 - What else has been tried?
 - Why is Sheila shouting?
 - Who is advocating for her?
 - Is she in pain?
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33. Jackie looks after her mother at the home they share. She regularly takes some of her mother's pension to cover the costs of caring for her.

- What is the money used for?
 - Does the mother know and / or agree, does the mother have capacity?
 - Who else knows or is involved?
 - Does Jackie have power of attorney?
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34. Mr Lewis is shaved with Mr. Hughes's razor as his own cannot be found.

- This is inappropriate and show a lack of respect for dignity.
 - Has health and safety issues.
 - Does Mr Lewis know?
 - May be representative of a negative uncaring culture where individuals are not valued and person centred outcomes are not built-in.
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35. A male carer regularly bathes, dresses and takes Betty to the toilet. Betty has advanced dementia and cannot tell male from female anymore.

- This may well be inappropriate.
 - What would Betty's preferences have been?
 - What is the cultural norm for bathing?
 - Does Betty have an advocate and what would they think of this?
 - May be representative of a negative uncaring culture where individuals are not valued and person-centred outcomes are not built in.
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36. Mrs Smith lives at home. She is unable to go out because of severe arthritis and she sometimes gets confused. Her neighbour shops for her every week but never asks what to buy. When she is tidying up for Mrs Smith she throws away anything messy to keep things clean.

- This could become abusive and does not show concern for Mrs Smith as an individual.
 - Has the neighbour known her for long?
 - Have they had any advice or support?
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37. Morfydd 68 is receiving home care support following discharge from hospital. Each time you visit you are followed around the house by Morfydd's husband. He is clearly unwilling for you to be alone with Morfydd.

- What is Morfydd's attitude to this?
 - Is this over-controlling behaviour?
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38. You work with David who has recently married for the second time. In the past he has told you that he and his new partner often have shouting matches when they disagree. You have noticed that on Monday mornings David will often have scratches on his hands and forearms and last week appeared to have bruising around both eyes.

- Does David play a contact sport at weekends?
 - Could these marks be a result of David's physical abuse of his partner?
 - Is David's partner abusing him?
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