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

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Background

- Safeguarding and personalisation have both come to dominate social care practice
- Concerns raised about link between personalisation and increased risk of abuse
- However little evidence about the existence, extent and nature of the perceived risk and how it might link with personalisation

http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/mar/15/world-social-work-day-personalised-care
Aims

• To investigate the consequences for practice, and the outcomes for service users and carers, of PBs, particularly in the form of Direct Payments in respect of safeguarding

Objectives, to investigate:

- 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
Progress

• Ethics and governance approvals
• Advisory group recruited and one meeting held
• Safeguarding Annual Reports – read and coded
• National Data collections analysis underway
• Accessing local data
• Sites selected
• 8/15 managers and professional interviews
• Gaining access to interview service users and carers
Advisory group advice

- How can we maintain anonymity of sites, while retaining local context?
- Advised to remember positive risk-taking and not see this and risk-enablement as avoidance of duty of care. Have rephrased our questions and probes accordingly.
- Since recruitment would be purely through staff, remain aware that they were not selecting 'best-case scenarios' for us to interview - i.e. where it went well.
- Clarified that we would recruit and interview those with an LPA and an indirect payment, but not our first area of focus.
Analysis of Safeguarding Adults Annual Reports

- Context (as relevant to personalisation)
- Activity on personalisation
- Analysis of safeguarding case activity (related to personalisation)
- Safeguarding referral routes
- Non-case related activity (as relevant to personalisation)
- Learning points from previous year (as relevant to personalisation)
- Learning points for next year (as relevant to personalisation)
Analysis of national data

Local Dataset 1
Local Dataset 2
Local Dataset 3

AVA Returns → National Datasets → Community Care Statistics

Multiple deprivation indices
Urban/Rural classification
Research issues

- Impact of press reports
- Increasing pressure on local authorities to roll out Personal Budgets, especially as Direct Payments
- Maintaining local enthusiasm for the project
- Linking disparate datasets

[Link to article: http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/joepublic/2010/nov/17/personal-budgets-risk-transfer]
Practice development issues

Aims to draw out practice implications for:

• Support planning
• Monitoring and review (especially financial)
• Developing good support for people using Personal Budgets
• Identifying groups more or less at risk

http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/jan/18/social-care-fraud-personal-budgets
Disclaimer

• The views in this presentation and other reports of the research are those of the research team and do not represent the views of the NIHR School for Social Care Research
Thank you

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