

Safeguarding Supervision - Top Tips

Introduction

Adult Social Care (ASC) operates in a world of complexity. The skill of a practitioner is to develop relational based practice with a range of people. Safeguarding can be a period of high emotional stress for the individual, family, carers, and professionals often at a time of crisis. At these times ASC practitioners have to have difficult conversations with those involved and they may hold conflicting views.

To support practitioners, the key role of their supervisor is to help them to understand their roles and responsibilities and when a situation needs to be escalated. These considerations are often needed whilst working in complex and risk situations, particularly when people are resistant to practitioners' involvement, but there are significant risks identified.

Supervision is the key tool we can use to support practitioners' resilience and wellbeing. Supervision can support learning and development.

I am sharing top tips for supervisors to consider using when supporting their supervisees work within the safeguarding adults arena. Whether support given to supervisees is planned or unplanned any direction or action should be recorded and added to the client's and/or supervision records.

Top tips for safeguarding supervision

1. Recognise when there are multiple and conflicting ideas, interpretations, and perspectives. Support the practitioner to keep the individual at the heart of their interventions.
2. Support the practitioner to reflect and share their actions, feelings, and concerns about their work in a safe environment.
3. Use supervision to support them to uncover assumptions, to analyse their judgements. Help them to clarify the focus of their work and identify a working hypothesis. Decisions reached and defensible decision are made.
4. Record their intervention in a timely manner especially if the situation changes rapidly. Consider a buddy system in times of absence.
5. Adopt a strengths based and human rights approach to intervention, assessment and support planning which is informed by the principles of the [Care Act 2014](#), the [Mental Capacity Act 2005](#) and the [Mental Health Act 2007](#)