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Working with risk and dementia – a risk enablement approach

Introduction

As part of the National Dementia Strategy there has been an increasing focus on positive risk assessment and management in working with people with dementia and their carers. The recent DH guidance 'Nothing ventured, nothing gained' (November 2010) places emphasis on the need to balance risk of harm to the individual with potential benefits to the emotional and physical wellbeing of the individual.

This workshop provides an opportunity to explore recent guidance and best practice in the context of both the DH guidance and the recent work of the Nuffield Council 2009 report on ethical issues in dementia. We will focus in particular on situations where assessment and management of risk is involved in an urgent assessment of a person with dementia, linking participants' own professional practice with the policy and good practice guidance.

Who should attend ?

Those involved in assessment of risk in people with dementia, for example Approved Mental Health Professionals, Care Managers, Best Interests Assessors, Independent Mental Health Advocates.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the workshop, participants will have an understanding of:

- The legal framework – Mental Health Act, Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- Risk Enablement and Risk Assessment – practice issues and differing approaches
- Safeguarding and risk
- The 4 step approach to assessing risk
- Developing – and monitoring - the personal risk portfolio
- Devising and implementing strategies to mitigate risks.

Learning Methods: The workshop will use a combination of teaching, case studies, and case discussions involving delegates' own experience within the framework outlined above.

Facilitator: Ben Bano, M.Sc, CQSW, DMS, LTh. Ben has been a social worker for 38 years and founded Telos Training Ltd some three years ago. He has specialised in training in person-centered approaches in working with people with dementia over the last few years. He is particularly interested in applying the principles of person centered care to the assessment process for people with dementia in the context of the Mental Capacity Act and Mental Health Act. He is currently facilitating a series of workshops on person-centered crisis intervention for people with dementia for Kent County Council and is also involved in training Best Interests Assessors in London on BIA issues in the context of dementia.