



Assessing risk (perhaps a bit better)

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What risks did we take coming here today?



Risk = harm?

Dominance of Risk as = Risk of **harm**

Some discussion of **Risk Empowerment**

Images of **Balance** or **trade off**

Often **subjective** more than **objective** (have to understand them both)

(see Nothing Ventured Nothing Gained guidance DH 2010)



Risk of harm = likelihood x severity



Risk assessment in safeguarding involves:

- Assessing the likelihood of harm and of benefit.
- Systematically gathering information about past and present concerns.
- Analysing the information to determine both the likelihood and potential seriousness of any risk of harm.
- Identifying the presence and significance of protective factors.
- Coming to an overall judgement about the level of risk.

Risk factor work – possibly helps

But tends to think everything is a factor, eg:

- Loneliness, living with someone,
- Having money – not having money,
- Having a carer or not ...



And hard to tell if the risk relates to actual harm or that the harm gets reported....

Limited knowledge of protective factors or resilience

No pretending it's easy

'Carer caught on video slapping and abusing dementia sufferer' (The Independent, 25 January 2018)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/carers-abuse-slaps-dementia-sufferer-video-stacey-george-sabine-marsden-a8177346.html>

'Care worker jailed for abuse of "incredibly vulnerable" elderly people with dementia' (Eastern Daily Press, 9 January 2018)

<http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/crime/care-worker-shari-childs-jailed-for-abuse-of-people-with-dementia-at-hillcrest-care-home-1-5346926>

Phone scam gang who stole 16 Hull pensioners' life-savings jailed for 33 years' (Hull Daily Mail, 1 December 2017)

<https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/hull-east-yorkshire-news/phone-scam-gang-who-stole-864198>

CAUTION

**THIS SIGN HAS
SHARP EDGES**

DO NOT TOUCH THE EDGES OF THIS SIGN



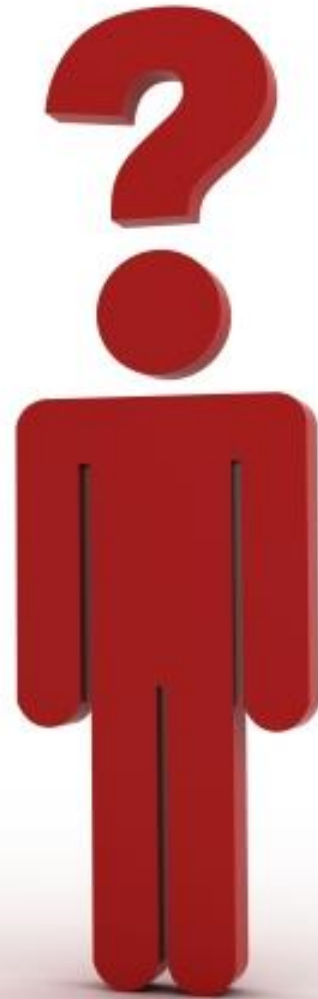
ALSO, THE BRIDGE IS OUT AHEAD



Adults at risk

- Seems a fixed state
- Need to say what 'risk' is
- And not use it if it is a certainty

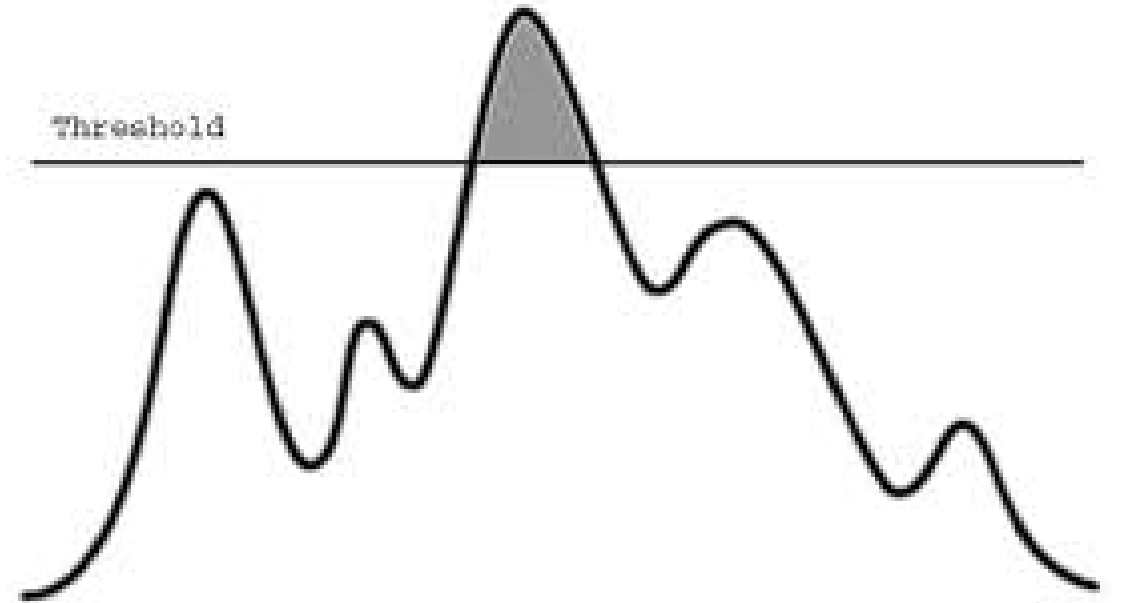




New(ish) risks (1)

Personal Budgets and Personal Health Budgets

- Understandable concerns
- Separate planets of personalisation and safeguarding
- Safeguarding seen as negative
- Belated discussions of duties and safeguards
- Research showing cases exist but not huge number
- Concerns remain about 'balance'



New(ish) risks (2)

Gambling-related harm



Risk of gambling related harm in being less able to calculate risks
Being targeted by people needing money to gamble

New(ish) risks (3)

Hindering & Cuckooing

- Third party refuses access to adult at home
- Not possible to see if adult has capacity to make this decision
- Varied advice and practice
- Uncertainty more evident than risks
- Cuckooing – term used broadly from identity theft, moving in for inheritance or nefarious ‘going ons’



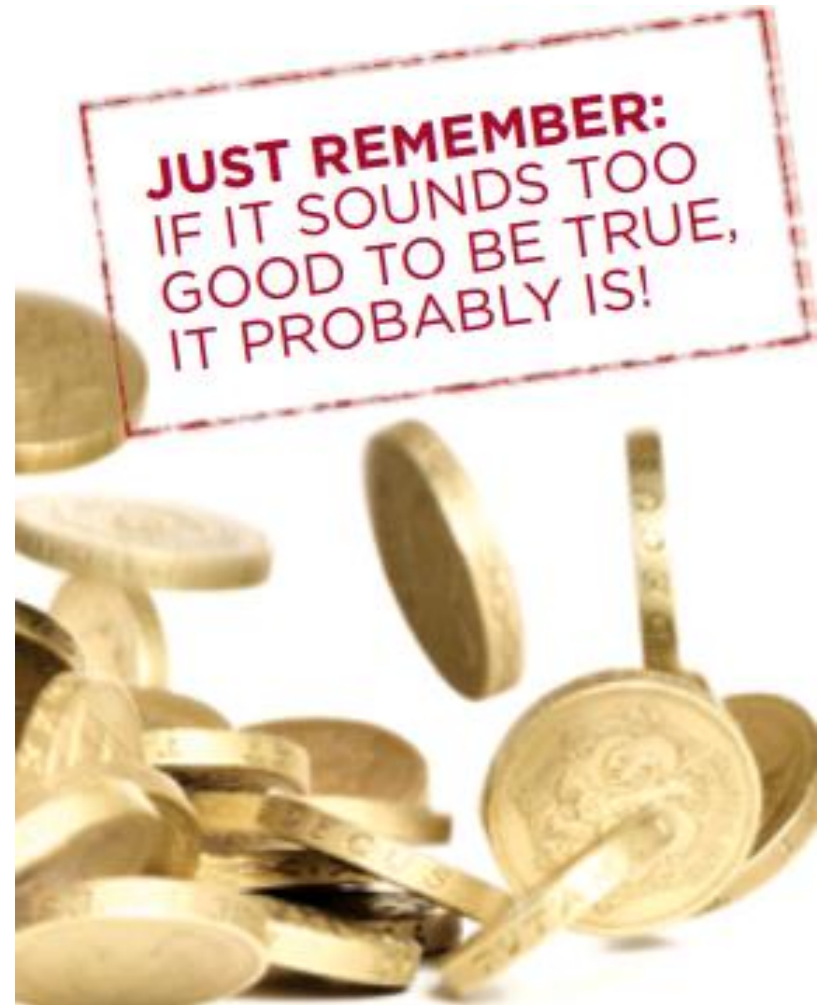
New(ish) risks (4)

Remote grooming & exploitation

Early adult protection focused on face to face risks

Now risks can be global:

- Romance scams
- Mystic scams
- Lottery, racing scams
- Tax, inheritance & diamonds
- 'Goods'
- Hacking



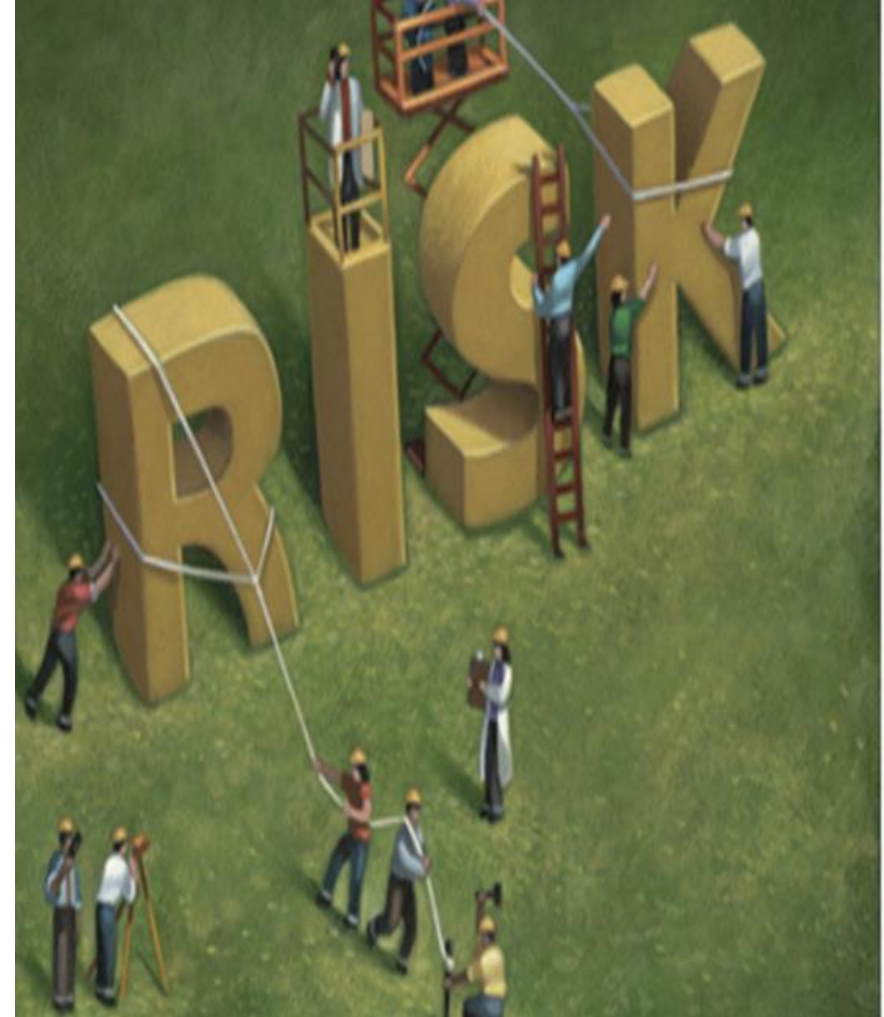
Managing risk involves :

Minimising

- factors which may lead to risks occurring
- undesirable impact of any risk.

And MAXIMISING

- potential benefits



Risk in a Making Safeguarding Personal context



- Telling the person why there is concern
- Recording the risk (likelihood and severity)
- Asking the person how they and others might reduce the risks
- Addressing differences of view
- Making a plan
- Working out changes (=/- ve)

Thanks for listening

For details of the studies mentioned please contact me. The Social Care Workforce Research Unit receives funding from the Department of Health and Social Care and the NIHR. The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author, not necessarily those of the Department of Health and Social Care, the NHS or NIHR.

