

Keeping risk person-centred

Person-centred planning process

Involvement of people who use the service, and relatives, in risk assessment	Involving the person concerned and the people who care about them most is one of the most fundamental tenets of any person-centred approach.
Proportionality	The management of the risk must match the gravity of potential harm. Using person-centred thinking means flexibility.
Contextualising behaviour	Why did the person behave in this way? At this time? In this Situation?"
Defensible decision making	There is an explicit and justifiable rationale for the risk management decisions.
Positive and informed risk-taking	The process is built around a positive view of the person – it seeks to learn what the person’s gifts and skills are, what people like and admire about them, as well as investigating what would be necessary to keep them and others safe while taking the risk.
A learning culture	The positive and productive approach to risk has a deep emphasis on ongoing learning using learning and reflective tools like the learning log, and “what’s working/what’s not working?”.
Tolerable risks	A key aspect of the person-centred approach is that it uses creative thinking techniques to mitigate risk and improve quality of life, moving from situations which make the person happy but unsafe, to where they and the community are safer, and from strategies where the person is ‘safe but unhappy’, to where they can be happier.

Adapted from Hughes, J (2006) *Levels of integration and specialisation within professional community teams for people with dementia*. International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry.