Equity Trustees

SUPPORTING SAFE FUTURES:

PRACTICAL EARLY-INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES FOR SAFER DECISION-MAKING

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WELCOME

We are here to work together in an interactive workshop, focusing on honing the skills to assist out elderly client in minimising their vulnerability to exploitation

- What “early” looks like
- Principles: neutrality, curiosity, dignity, consent to proceed, pacing.
- Language that normalises supporters
- Link to supporters: Early conversations surface values and who the person already turns to

ACTIVITY
(10 MINS)

BETTER QUESTIONS – PAIR EXERCISE

SUPPORTING WISHES AND CHOOSING THE RIGHT SUPPORTERS

- Eliciting values and preferred ways to be supported.
- Criteria for supporters: trustworthiness, reliability, insight into the person's values, ability to respect will/preferences, low conflict of interest, availability.
- Red flags: dependence on one person, history of misuse of authority, coercion, financial stress, family conflict.
- How to guide selection without directing; emphasise registration of supporters where relevant.

MICRO-EXERCISE
(5 MINS)

DECISION-MAKER / SUPPORTER MAP

IDENTIFYING GAPS AND UNDERSTANDING RISK-MITIGATION TOOLS

- Common gaps: unclear roles; over-reliance; no oversight; informal “help” acting as de facto decision-maker; no plan for escalation if supporters can’t act.
- Risk-mitigation tools
- Checks and balances
- Oversight and transparency
- Registration and visibility of supporters in relevant systems/processes.
- Clear escalation pathways to least-restrictive substituted decision-making
- Sensitive ways to raise risk and maintain dignity.

CASE STUDY

PREVENTION-FIRST LENS IN ROUTINE INTERACTIONS

What prevention-first looks like in everyday contacts

Spotting subtle risk indicators before they escalate.

Prompting supporter selection/registration conversations early.

GROUP ACTIVITY
(15 MINS)

SCENARIO LAB

WRAP-UP, KEY TAKEAWAYS PLUS Q&A

Three practical next-day actions

1. Add one “better question” to intake/review scripts
2. Start a supporters-first prompt in your organisation’s workflows
3. Introduce one light-touch oversight mechanism (e.g., monthly check-in)

THANK YOU!

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