

A Structured Approach to Risk Decision-Making

[Adapted from: Morgan, S. (2013) Risk Decision-Making: Working with risk and implementing positive risk-taking. Brighton: Pavilion Publishing & Media.]

1. Who is leading the need to make the decision (i.e. the client, family/carers, or the practitioners/service providers)?
[Note: this may link to considerations of **mental capacity**].
2. How have you **involved** the person and family/carers in the whole discussion of the risk decision?
[Note: evidence can be found in the use of their own words/language].
3. What is your **assessment of the risks** involved in making the decision (considering both main options to be weighed up)?
[Note: specific detail and context is required].
4. What is the **risk-taking** that will be involved in each of the options you are weighing up?
[Note: there is a distinction between risk assessment and risk-taking].
5. If you are considering 'positive risk-taking' in this situation, what are the clearly defined **positive outcomes** that the person/client &/or you the practitioner are hoping to achieve?
[Note: it is the desired outcome that provides the motivation to take the risk].
6. What is your **assessment of the strengths** in this overall situation?
[Note: these are the resources to be tapped to enact the plan].
7. What could go wrong, and how would this be responded to by everyone involved?
[Note: we need **crisis/contingency plans** for those early signs of something going wrong].
8. Has this type of decision been **tried before**, and if so what happened?
[Note: even if it has previously failed, do we know why, and could we do it differently?].
9. What is your **clearly reasoned risk decision**?
 - State the specific decision being made
 - State the clear reasons for making this decision
 - State the alternative(s) you were fully considering
 - State the reasons why the alternative was not the best option.
10. What is the **plan** for putting the decision into **action**?
11. Where are you going to **document your decision**?
[Note: include a brief statement of the **sources of information available** in the process of arriving at this decision].