

## **HSC240            Contribute to the identification of the risk of danger to individuals and others (Level 2)**

### **Elements of Competence**

- HSC240a**     Contribute to recognising risks of harm and abuse
- HSC240b**     Take action to deal with risks of harm and abuse
- HSC240c**     Contribute to reviewing the effectiveness of actions taken to deal with risks of harm and abuse

### **About this unit**

For this unit you need to contribute to identifying potential harm and abuse to individuals and others, take action to deal with the risk of danger and contribute to reviewing the effectiveness of actions to deal with the risk of danger of harm and abuse to individuals and others.

### **Scope**

The scope is here to give you guidance on possible areas to be covered in this unit. The terms in this section give you a list of options linked with items in the performance criteria. You need to provide evidence for any option related to your work area.

**Harm** could be/have been: short term; medium term; long term and can be intentional; unintentional.

**Key people:** family; friends; carers; others with whom the individual has a supportive relationship.

**Ways that may prejudice future investigations** could include: asking inappropriate and/or leading questions; not following organisational and legal procedures; putting undue pressure on individuals.

Your **knowledge and understanding** will be specifically related to legal requirements and codes of practice applicable to your job; your work activities; the job you are doing (e.g. domiciliary, residential care, hospital settings) and the individuals you are working with.

### **Values underpinning the whole of the unit**

The values underpinning this unit have been derived from the key purpose statement<sup>1</sup>, the statement of expectations from carers and people receiving services, relevant service standards and codes of practice for health and social care in the four UK countries. They can be found in the principles of care unit HSC24. To achieve this unit you must demonstrate that you have applied the principles of care outlined in unit HSC24 in your practice and through your knowledge.

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<sup>1</sup> The key purpose identified for those working in health and social care settings is "to provide an integrated, ethical and inclusive service, which meets agreed needs and outcomes of people requiring health and/or social care"

## Key Words and Concepts

This section provides explanations and definitions of the key words and concepts used in this unit. In occupational standards it is quite common to find words or phrases used which you will be familiar with, but which, in the detail of the standards, may be used in a very particular way. **Therefore, we would encourage you to read this section carefully before you begin working with the standards and to refer back to this section as required.**

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<b>Abuse</b>	Abuse is causing physical, emotional and/or sexual harm to an individual and/or failing/neglecting to protect them from harm
<b>Active support</b>	Support that encourages individuals to do as much for themselves as possible to maintain their independence and physical ability and encourages people with disabilities to maximise their own potential and independence
<b>Harm</b>	The effects of an individual being physically, emotionally or sexually injured or abused
<b>Individuals</b>	The actual people requiring health and care services. Where individuals use advocates and interpreters to enable them to express their views, wishes or feelings and to speak on their behalf, the term individual within this standard covers the individual and their advocate or interpreter
<b>Key people</b>	Are those people who are key to an individual's health and social well-being. These are people in the individual's life who can make a difference to their health and well-being.
<b>Others</b>	Are other people within and outside your organisation that are necessary for you to fulfil your job role
<b>Rights</b>	The rights that individuals have to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• be respected</li><li>• be treated equally and not be discriminated against</li><li>• be treated as an individual</li><li>• be treated in a dignified way</li><li>• privacy</li><li>• be protected from danger and harm</li><li>• be cared for in a way they choose</li><li>• access information about themselves</li><li>• communicate using their preferred methods of communication and language</li></ul>

## **HSC240a**     Contribute to recognising risks of harm and abuse

### **Performance Criteria**

You need to show that,

1. you identify and access information and advice about potential risks of **harm** and **abuse** to **individuals, key people** and **others**
2. you contribute to the identification of factors that might lead to the risk of harm and abuse to individuals, key people and others
3. you identify signs and symptoms that individuals are:
  - in danger of being harmed and/or abused
  - are being harmed and/or abused
  - have been harmed and/or abused in the past
4. you support individuals to identify signs and symptoms that might lead to harm and abuse of themselves and others
5. you report any suspicions of harm and abuse to the appropriate people and organisations:
  - ensuring that your actions do not contaminate any evidence or prejudice future investigations
  - within confidentiality agreements
  - according to legal and organisational requirements

## **HSC240b**     Take action to deal with risks of harm and abuse

### **Performance Criteria**

You need to show that,

1. you develop a positive, honest, trusting and sensitive relationship with individuals that will enable them to discuss their fears and knowledge of potential and actual danger
2. you encourage individuals to talk about their experiences in ways that will not contaminate evidence or prejudice future investigations
3. you clarify the actions you have to take about disclosures of harm and abuse
4. you treat individuals with respect and dignity assuring them that you have taken the information they have provided seriously
5. you inform relevant people, as required by the legal and organisational requirements, about any disclosures or concerns about harm and abuse
6. you seek support for your own personal emotional reactions to the disclosure
7. you record and report in detail any disclosures:
  - ensuring that your actions do not contaminate any evidence or prejudice future investigations
  - within confidentiality agreements
  - according to legal and organisational requirements

**HSC240c** Contribute to reviewing the effectiveness of actions taken to deal with risks of harm and abuse

**Performance Criteria**

You need to show that,

1. you work sensitively to support and encourage individuals to participate in the review of actions, processes, procedures and practices for dealing with the risk of danger, harm and abuse
2. you agree your role and responsibilities and the roles and responsibilities of others in reviewing the effectiveness of actions to deal with the risk of danger, harm and abuse
3. you carry out your role and responsibilities in reviewing the effectiveness of actions to deal with the risk of danger
4. you work with all involved to collect information and feedback to allow a systematic review of the actions to deal with the risk of danger, harm and abuse
5. you record and report on the process and outcomes of the review:
  - ensuring that your actions do not contaminate any evidence or prejudice future investigations
  - within confidentiality agreements
  - according to legal and organisational requirements

## **Knowledge Specification for the whole of this unit**

Competent practice is a combination of the application of skills and knowledge informed by values and ethics. This specification details the knowledge and understanding required to carry out competent practice in the performance described in this unit.

When using this specification **it is important to read the knowledge requirements in relation to expectations and requirements of your job role.**

You need to show that you know, understand and can apply in practice:

### **Values**

1. legal and organisational requirements on equality, diversity, discrimination and **rights** when contributing to the identification of the risk of danger to individuals and others
2. how to provide **active support** and promote the individual's rights, choices and well-being when contributing to the identification of the risk of danger to themselves and others
3. the rights of individuals to refuse to participate in investigations related to risk of danger harm and abuse to individuals, key people and others

### **Legislation and organisational policy and procedures**

4. codes of practice and conduct, and standards and guidance relevant to your own and the roles, responsibilities, accountability and duties of others about identifying and dealing with the risk of danger, harm and abuse
5. current local, UK and European legislation, and organisational requirements, procedures and practices for:
  - accessing records
  - recording, reporting, confidentiality and sharing information, including data protection
  - health, safety, assessing and managing risks associated with identifying and dealing with the risk of danger, harm and abuse to individuals and others
  - the identification of the risk of danger to individuals and others

### **Theory and practice**

6. factors that can make it difficult for you, key people and others to recognise danger, harm and abuse to individuals
7. types of relationships:
  - where individuals feel they can confide what is happening/has happened to them
  - that support individuals to cope with what has happened to them
8. ways of working with individuals who are distressed, fearful and/or uncertain about what will happen to them
9. the effects that being at risk of harm and/or abuse and/or having been harmed and/or abused can have on the individuals' social and emotional behaviour, their health and their physical well-being
10. any special provisions relating to the individuals' conditions
11. how people carrying out abuse conceal what is happening
12. the types of evidence that are valid in court and how to ensure that evidence required in investigations is not contaminated by your actions

