

# DEVELOPING & REVIEWING HOW WE 'WORK WITH RISK' IN PRACTICE PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING RESOURCES

Steve Morgan ~ *Practice Based Evidence*

---

## Positive Risk-Taking/Positive Risk Management

Working with risk is one of the core functions that all practitioners in all teams across all agencies are doing as part of their daily practice. Practice development and training resources need to prioritise the individual confidence and collective structures and processes that underpin good risk decision-making. Paperwork needs to follow practice (not vice versa) reflecting its more important roles of prompting and structuring good practice, then recording risks identified, managed and taken. Are we developing practitioners or producing more administrators?

The Department of Health have recognised the role of good risk decision-making through their support for 'positive risk-taking' as an integral part of the 10 Essential Shared Capabilities, and its place within the implementation of New Ways of Working. Furthermore, the concept of 'positive risk management' is identified as a key principle underpinning 'Best Practice in Managing Risk (DH, 2007).

## Developing Practice

The *Practice Based Evidence* practice development consultancy is one of very few resources that have been dedicated to developing the understanding of 'positive risk-taking' and developing its implementation within teams and organisational strategy for the last 10 years [see other sections of the website for details of this work]. Consultancy support is offered to any teams or organisations to help achieve the following priorities:

- Team development ~ applying a unique 'strengths approach' allied to positive risk-taking/positive risk management as a means of implementing the principles of recovery into practice in all types of teams
- Organisation strategy ~ independent reviews of risk policies and strategies for effective development of working with risk practices within mental health provider organisations (including looking at how to best achieve the training target set for all practitioners every three years)
- Ensuring a strong service user involvement in the development of risk resources and practices (supported through years of joint working with the ARW Training & Consultancy partnership)
- Seeking to build on very positive evaluations of individual projects to establish a practice & service user focused evidence base to underpin the principle of positive risk management and specific practice of 'positive risk-taking'

- Offering training within teams, services and other programmes (e.g. to provide specialist presentations and focused discussions within ASW/AMHP training programmes)

### **Established Track Record**

- Developed the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health risk tools and publications in 1998 & 2000)
- Development of good practice in 'working with risk' generally, and 'positive risk-taking' in practice specifically, with many teams through practice development contracts from October 2001 onwards [see 'Partnerships' section of the website for details]
- A strong relationship of joint working with the service user run ARW Training & Consultancy partnership, dating back to Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health projects from 1998, and throughout the work of *Practice Based Evidence* from October 2001
- Publication of the 'Working with Risk Trainers & Practitioners Manuals' through Pavilion Publishing in 2007
- Publication of numerous risk-related articles [see 'Practice Based Evidence' section of the website for details of my publications CV]
- Plenary presentations & workshops on 'positive risk-taking' at several national conferences
- Recognition of all the above work as one of the identified resources to support the implementation of DH 'Best Practice in Managing Risk' (2007)
- Practice-based reviews and policy reviews and consultations with a wide range of organisations, including:
  - Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust
  - Bury Mental Health Services
  - Camden & Islington Mental Health & Social Care Trust
  - Gateshead Council
  - Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust
  - Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust
  - Granta Housing Society
- Facilitating reflections on risk practice through ASW training events

### **Contact Details**

Any of the above ideas can be discussed further by contacting Steve Morgan through:

[stevemorgan57@hotmail.com](mailto:stevemorgan57@hotmail.com)  
[steve@practicebasedevidence.com](mailto:steve@practicebasedevidence.com)

Website: [www.practicebasedevidence.com](http://www.practicebasedevidence.com)

Mobile: 07733 105264