



Promoting Good Practice Dilemma 1

You are the care manager of a registered care home for elderly people, some of whom lack capacity to make some decisions due to dementia. Mr Malone lives in the home you manage.

Mr Malone loves to walk the fells and has always done so. Mr Malone's link worker and his sister are concerned that Mr Malone may fall or get disorientated and you want to do the right thing. You don't want to limit his freedom but you are scared he may hurt himself. The link worker and Mr Malone's sister have met and done a risk assessment which has concluded that Mr Malone needs to be supervised by staff when he goes walking. Mr Brown who was Mr Malone's former neighbour of 37 years is very annoyed about this decision and feels that it is affecting Mr Malone's mental health. Mr Brown says: "My friend is low, withdrawn and has been trying to 'sneak out' when staff are not looking which is a ridiculous state of affairs for a grown man!"

What would you have done with this before the act came in on learning of this decision and its affect on Mr Malone?

What would you do now that the act is law?

What difference did the act made to your action plan?

What would help you come to a decision which balances Mr Malone's rights and risks? What do staff need to be in place to support you/them to implement this act within a rights based framework using a risk management approach?