

## Discussing Staff Behaviour Residential Settings- What is OK?

As part of Safeguarding Adults Week, we hope to initiate conversations about safeguarding adults within residential settings.

We have developed the prompts below to encourage people to discuss whether they think the examples represent behaviour that is, 'OK' or 'Not OK'.

Recent research has highlighted that there is often a lack of agreement between staff in residential settings regarding what constitutes good or poor practice (Fyson and Patterson, 2019). The aim of the case studies below is to facilitate a conversation about what good and poor practice might look like in residential settings.

You can use the hashtag #SafeguardingAdultsWeek to discuss these case studies with the safeguarding community on social media or discuss with colleagues in your organisation.

The examples are informed by the 2019 research by [Rachel Fyson and Anne Patterson](#) '*Staff understandings of abuse and poor practice in residential settings for adults with intellectual disabilities*'.

### OK or Not OK?

1. A resident repeatedly expresses his unhappiness with where he is living - support staff respond to this by telling him to cheer up and that everything will be okay.
2. A member of staff is leaving. All residents are expected to contribute £10 towards a leaving present.
3. It's a resident's birthday and she has expressed a wish to go out to celebrate in the local pub. On the actual day she is told that there are not enough staff on duty, so she stays in and has cake with other residents.
4. On a Saturday evening shift a member of staff brings in horror film on DVD. A resident who is scared of horror films is told to watch TV in her own room.

5. A resident is cajoled into doing her share of the cleaning before she goes out shopping for the afternoon.
6. The laundry often gets muddled up so that residents end up wearing each other's clothes.
7. A resident only has a limited amount of money each week to spend as they choose, whilst they are saving for a holiday.
8. A resident has a suspected ear infection and needs to see the doctor but when their behaviour becomes challenging the appointment is cancelled.
9. A resident who has been told she is obese lives on a diet of McDonalds, pizza and fizzy pop. Staff do not try to change his diet because it is his choice.

**For further advice and support please get in touch!**

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