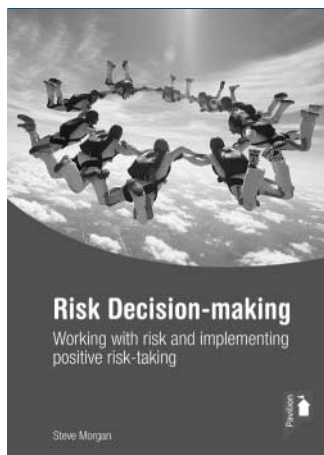


of re-institutionalisation (in the light of risk fears and the denial of normalisation) continues to be with us.

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**Risk Decision-Making:
Working with Risk
and Implementing
Positive Risk-Taking
(manual with CD-ROM)**

By Steve Morgan.
Pavilion Publishing. 2014.
£115 (pb). 185 pp.
ISBN: 9781908993397

Concern for risk and safety are pivotal psychiatric preoccupations, but neither patients nor practitioners are happy with current practice. Morgan has previously observed that our unrewarding focus on risk aversion appears to be driven more by anxiety over organisational, political and public reactions than patient outcomes.

Although it is recognised that the most effective organisations are those with good systems in place to support positive approaches to risk rather than defensive ones, we have described in successive Royal College of Psychiatrists' reports the emphasis

on risk-averse practice dominant in National Health Service settings. Despite this, the current Department of Health guidelines on best practice in risk management recommend positive risk management, conducted in a spirit of collaboration and trust, recognising service users' strengths and emphasising recovery. So what is needed? Clearly, more than governmental policy and professional consensus. If we are to emerge from practices which stifle creativity and innovation, we will need the kind of local organisational endorsement that may come through adopting positive risk and safety policies underpinned by detailed, well-thought-out guidance on practice, as described in Morgan's training manual.

Drawing on many years' experience of working in senior advisory roles and running training workshops with practitioners, Morgan has produced a well-conceived, conversationally written, clear and practical support with which to put these long-agreed principles into day-to-day practice. This educational resource, supported by a CD with printable forms and teaching materials, is best regarded as a trainers' manual. It may be a little too extensive and expensive for the general reader, but it is well designed for its intended use as a support for practitioners, teams and organisations developing their own packages of training and support for implementing good practice in working with risk. Conceptually, it refocuses practitioners from professionally oriented risk assessment towards collaborative personal safety planning.

In one of his last commentaries in this *Journal's* From the Editor's Desk column, Peter Tyrer offered, with characteristic verve, 'three . . . cheers for the risk takers, you have nothing to lose but your chains'. However, to succeed, 'positive risk-taking' will need thoughtful, careful, systematic and mature guidance. Morgan's manual may be a means to those ends. Recommended.

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