



West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board

Multi Agency Risk Management (MARM) Subgroup Protocol

With thanks to West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board, from whose Protocol this document was developed.

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Contents

1. Background.....	3
2. Purpose of the MARM subgroup	3
3. Criteria for MARM	4
4. Quick Guide to considering referral for MARM	4
5. How to make a referral	4
6. Review	5

1. Background

- 1.1. This protocol has been devised to support the West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board to support successful outcomes when working with adults who remain at high risk of harm despite previous intervention efforts.
- 1.2. The Multi Agency Risk Management (MARM) group is a subgroup of the West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and includes representation from the SAB members including, the statutory and voluntary sector.
- 1.3. The purpose of the MARM subgroup is to support multi-agency communication and information sharing for managing the most challenging and concerning cases.
- 1.4. MARM acknowledges the interface with the Hoarding Forums and the Community Safety work streams.

2. Purpose of the MARM subgroup

- 2.1. The role of the MARM subgroup is to discuss and consider all available options for increasing the safety of the adult at risk and to advise and agree on co-ordinated actions to reduce or remove risk.
- 2.2. This supports the [Prevention Agenda](#) and the independence, well-being, health and dignity for adults at risk.
- 2.3. The MARM subgroup will consider and advise on individual cases where:
 - An individual is putting themselves or others at significant risk by refusing services;
 - Efforts have been made to reduce risk, and work with others to do this and the level of risk to the adult remains high;
 - There is disagreement between services/agencies on managing the level of risk.
- 2.4. The MARM subgroup will:
 - Support staff to reach agreement and adopt strategies in relation to adults at risk around risk decision and the management of those risks where they are possible;
 - Consider high risk, complex cases where the initial Safeguarding Adult Procedure, and its associated policies, have been unable to reduce or alleviate the risk(s);
 - Provide a clear and comprehensive review of multi-agency risk assessment and management plans; the MARM will discuss the referrals and agree a risk mitigation plan.

3. Criteria for MARM

3.1. The criteria for MARM is as follows:

- The adult appears to have care and support needs;
- Efforts have been made to reduce risk, and work with others to do this and there continues to be a significant concern about the well-being and safety of the adult;
- The adult must have a service or, agency currently involved;
- An agency's Risk Assessment must have been completed and submitted with each referral.

4. Quick guide to considering referral for MARM

4.1. If there is a risk of abuse or neglect, follow the [safeguarding adult procedures](#) and complete a [safeguarding concern referral](#). If there is an issue regarding mental capacity, please follow the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and best interests procedures.

Process to be followed prior to considering a referral to MARM:

- 1) Ensure there is a fully completed risk assessment in place identifying all risks and attempts to mitigate these.
- 2) If a single agency response has not mitigated risk, consider if a multi-agency response is necessary. Refer to the [Multi-Agency Working](#) section of the Pan Sussex Policy and Procedures, and if possible convene a planning/professional/risk management meeting or, contact other agencies to work together on sharing information and managing risk. Agree an action plan to reduce the level of risk to the adult and keep under review.
- 3) Once efforts have been made to reduce risk including work with others to do this, if the risk remains high, consider referral for MARM.

5. How to make a referral

- 5.1. Any agency can make a referral to the MARM subgroup.
- 5.2. Agencies making a referral must not delay intervention whilst awaiting a MARM subgroup meeting discussion.
- 5.3. The [Thresholds Guidance Document](#) must have been reviewed and a safeguarding adult concern considered prior to making a MARM subgroup referral.
- 5.4. All reasonable attempts should be made to gain consent from the adult for the referral.
- 5.5. If the adult is not willing to give consent or refuses to engage and the worker remains concerned for the adult's safety and or welfare, or the safety or welfare of others including carers, this should be recorded on the referral form.
- 5.6. An adult who has the mental capacity to make a decision and chooses voluntarily to live with a level of risk, is entitled to do so. Where the level of risk is very high,

staff and managers must consider whether MARM subgroup or, the Inherent Jurisdiction of the Court may apply.

- 5.7. All referrals should be made on the referral form. To make a referral to the MARM subgroup, a referral form must therefore, be downloaded and completed.
- 5.8. Senior oversight of the referral must be sought from your supervisor/manager and recorded on the referral form.
- 5.9. The referral form, along with a completed Risk Assessment should be emailed to: SafeguardingAdultsBoard@westsussex.gov.uk.
- 5.10. Referrals will need to be received at least one week before the subgroup meets.
- 5.11. The referring person or agency will be expected to attend the meeting to present their referral and contribute to the case discussion.
- 5.12. For more detailed information on how to submit a MARM referral, please look at our MARM Guidance for Referrers.

6. Review

- 6.1. The MARM Protocol will be reviewed 3-yearly, or sooner if warranted.