

### **What does MARM mean?**

MARM is an abbreviation for Multi-Agency Risk Management. MARM is a simple acronym to describe the framework [here](#).

### **Is the MARM framework an alternative framework for Section 42 Care Act enquiries?**

No, the MARM Framework is for unmanageable high risk in relation to concerns that do not meet the 3 statutory criteria Section 42 (1) Care Act 2014. If in doubt, please contact:

Southampton Adult Services

- **Telephone:** 023 8083 3003 during business hours 0830-1700 Monday-Thursday, 0830-1630 on Fridays, excluding weekends and Bank holidays.
- Make an referral using this link [Adult safeguarding professional referral here](#)  
Website link address- [scc-staging.southampton.gov.uk/Adult-social-care/care-info-professionals/southampton-safeguarding-Adults-board/members-of-the-public/help-for-vulnerable-Adults](http://scc-staging.southampton.gov.uk/Adult-social-care/care-info-professionals/southampton-safeguarding-Adults-board/members-of-the-public/help-for-vulnerable-Adults)

### **What is the purpose of the MARM framework?**

The MARM framework is a Southampton Safeguarding Adults Board approach that brings together professionals from health, social care, the police, housing and other agencies/organisations. This also includes the Adult, family members and friends who have a legitimate relationship with the Adult. This framework will be useful to professionals working with Adults who are experiencing a high level of risk from events and circumstances that result in risk of harm to them. [ADD SSAB Local version](#)

### **Is the MARM Framework statutory?**

No, the MARM framework is not in statute. It has been developed and agreed by SSAB. It needs to be placed in a context of the broad safeguarding umbrella where people may have come to harm or are at risk of doing so.

The six principles of Adult safeguarding –empowerment, prevention, proportionality, protection, partnership and accountability should be considered in all cases where the MARM framework is utilised.

The outcome of a MARM meeting will be the formulation of an agreed risk assessment and management plan It should also identify any other needs or wishes the Adults has. The intention of all involved in the MARM meetings is to find solutions that are agreed and accepted and work for the Adult. One essential outcome of a successful MARM meeting will be the clarification of the expectations about what each agency can, or cannot, do. In each MARM meeting it is expected that agencies/organisations will be clear about how they are going to fulfil their responsibilities and accountabilities as recorded within the risk management plan.

### **Are there legal considerations within the MARM framework?**

Yes, all agencies/organisations have a duty to uphold the law. The MARM framework should not be seen as a substitute to legislation and existing processes. Agencies should follow existing legislation and their internal processes, including the Human Rights Act 1998, Mental Health Act 2007, Mental Capacity Act 2005, Care Act 2014, Data Protection 2018 Act, Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) etc. These processes will be seen as having primacy.

### **Who should a professional discuss their concerns with?**

Partner organisations should ensure that they have the mechanisms in

place to enable early identification and assessment of risk through timely information sharing and targeted multi-agency support.

All case discussions should be explored with the professionals' line manager in the first instance. It can then be decided whether or not the MARM framework should be applied, prior to calling a MARM meeting. Advice can be sought from Adult Social Care and Adult safeguarding professionals to determine if the concerns should be reported as a safeguarding concern.

### **Can we share information?**

Yes, information sharing is key to promoting an Adult's rights and protecting from significant harm. The Care Act Guidance explains that if the Adult has the mental capacity to make informed decisions about their safety and they do not want any action to be taken, this does not preclude the sharing of information with relevant professional colleagues. This is to enable professionals to assess the risk of harm and to be confident that the Adult is not being unduly influenced, coerced or intimidated and is aware of all the options. This will also enable professionals to check the safety and validity of decisions made. It is good practice to inform the Adult that this action is being taken unless doing so would increase the risk of harm.

### **Are there other more proportionate multi-agency responses to risk?**

Yes, it is important that other approaches and frameworks are also considered, that support the Adult and that information sharing is person centred and has a focus on risk management, for example, Care Reviews, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements etc.

### **Who can lead the MARM meetings?**

The MARM meeting should be led by a professional from any agency/organisation, referred to as the Lead Agency. The professional will be responsible for co-ordinating and chairing the MARM meeting, ensuring that the Adult remains at the centre of the process and the action plan has been agreed and circulated.

### **Do you need consent from the Adult?**

The Adult and their representatives should be invited to the meeting, where possible. This needs to be demonstrated clearly and any decision not to seek consent, or to override the Adult's consent there should have a lawful basis to this decision making and it should be clearly recorded.

### **Is there a role for Advocacy?**

Discussions should be had with the Adult about advocacy, what it is and whether the Adult wishes for someone to represent them, this could for example be a family member, friend or paid advocate. In some situations, the Adult may be legally entitled to get the support of an independent advocate, if they have no family or friend that can undertake this role. The Care Act 2014 provides a right to advocacy in relation to decisions about social care if the criteria are met. If you think the Adult has a need for advocacy discuss this with the local authority.

### **Is a MARM meeting only for Adults who have capacity to make decisions about the risks?**

Primarily the MARM process is considered to be for those who have mental capacity around the key areas of risk and support needs in their lives. However, this consideration of mental capacity should not prevent use of the MARM. If there are mental capacity concerns and the MARM process would be beneficial and Mental Capacity Act or Safeguarding process would not apply (Safeguarding and Mental Capacity Act policy should be given primacy). In assessing a person's capacity to make a decision, the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (including Best Interest Decision making) should be followed. A person is deemed as unable to make a decision if they are unable to understand information relating to the

decision, or unable to retain the information or use the information as part of the process of making the decision, or unable to communicate the decision. For further guidance see the [One Minute Guide to The Mental Capacity Act 2005](#)

**Who should be the Lead Keyworker?**

The lead keyworker should be the professional responsible in managing the case and who has the main contact with the Adult and would be the person who is best placed to manage the risks presented.

**Who is responsible for organising any MARM review meeting?**

The lead agency who called the MARM is responsible for arranging the date, time, venue and inviting all parties that have a relationship with the Adult. The lead agency could change, but this must be clearly recorded and communicated to all parties.

**How is the MARM governed?**

Quality and practice assurance play a significant role in ensuring that the MARM framework is governed effectively whilst identifying trends and training needs. The Governance of the MARM framework will sit with the Southampton Safeguarding Adult Boards (SSAB) and the SSAB will receive reports from the Quality Assurance and Performance Subgroups.

Data collection might include:

- Number of Adults going through the MARM and review process
- Agencies holding MARMs
- Outcomes for Adults
- Escalation processes

**How and where is the MARM meeting information stored?**

Current agency/organisation policies will apply and in line with current data protection law.