

## **7 Minute Learning Multi-agency Risk Management (MARM)**

### **Introduction**

The multi-agency risk management (MARM) meeting is a tool which enables all agencies to work together to share information where there are concerns about a person who is experiencing high or unmanageable levels of risk and needs support to manage the risks. MARM meetings have no statutory basis, however they provide a framework for agencies to meet and explore solutions and formulate a response in a timely manner. MARM meetings may be called by any organisation. MARM meetings may also be called as an early preventative safeguarding intervention.

### **When can a MARM be called?**

When a person is at increasing risk of abuse or neglect, including physical, domestic or sexual abuse or other factors leading to harm or exploitation, where agencies wish to explore what actions are needed.

It would also include: self neglect and hoarding, refusal or disengagement from care and support services, complex or diverse needs which fall below or span several agencies when the concern raised does not meet the criteria for a Care Act Sect. 42 Safeguarding Enquiry but needs intervention.

### **Working with the Individual**

The individual should be genuinely placed at the heart of the MARM process in order to make the risk management plan personal to them.

The individual should be invited to participate in the meeting; if there are concerns about their capacity or if they decline to attend, consider whether they need to be represented by an advocate. The outcome of the meeting should be shared with the individual or advocate, preferably by a professional who has developed a relationship with them.

### **Who can call a MARM**

Calling a MARM is not limited to the local authority. Any agency can arrange a MARM, but it is usually the agency working most closely with the person will usually convene the meeting, lead the process and take responsibility for hosting/organising the meeting. This agency will appoint a key contact and negotiate the actions for the Action Plan.

Consideration should be given to using any legal frameworks including the Mental Capacity Act 2005, Mental Health Act 1983. The Data Protection Act 2018 gives guidance on information sharing.

### **The MARM Process**

Be clear about specific reasons for calling the meeting and what are the risks that are concerning. Appoint a Chair and note-taker. Concise notes should be shared in a timely manner.

A Risk Management Plan should be completed to ensure 'ownership' by agencies and knowledge of what other agencies are responsible for. This should be regularly updated, with updates shared with all recipients of the original action plan.

### **Outcomes of the MARM**

At the end of the meeting it should be agreed how the individual will be supported and who will take actions forward. This may include:

Appointing a coordinator to be a conduit for all communications, undertaking outstanding risk assessments, escalation to safeguarding if risk is increasing and individual is not engaging, monitoring and reviewing arrangements, providing feedback to the person concerned.

### **Conclusion**

This is a locally developed and agreed protocol which is seen as 'best practice' across the whole of Dorset. MARM Guidance 2021 and MARM Summary Guidance provide an overview of the process and templates to use. Click "[here](#)" to access guidance.