

## **Brighton and Hove Multi-Agency Risk Management Meeting (MARM)**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Purpose**

Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) has evidenced that even when adults with multiple and compound needs are receiving support from a range of professionals and agencies there can be an absence of effective multi-agency working. This negatively impacts the person's wellbeing and can result in their continued deterioration, an increase in the risks they face, serious harm and even death. Learning in this area has also included the need to consider risks related to transitional safeguarding.

Recommendations made by independent reviewers in both the Thematic Learning Review and SAR Craig was that a Multi-agency Risk Management (MARM) framework be established in Brighton & Hove to provide an effective, co-ordinated, and multi-agency response in these situations that promotes effective communication, planning and decision-making across the partnerships.

Whilst the Local Authority is responsible for carrying out our duties we are unable to discharge our duties without the support and input of our partners agencies. Our Care Act duties may be achieved through services that are commissioned in the city and it is vital that all partnerships work effectively. Effective partnership working is crucial for better outcomes for people with care and support needs.

**Section 6** of The Care Act requires partner agencies, including NHS commissioned services, to co-operate with the Local Authority when exercising any functions in relation to people with care and support needs or their carers.

#### **Multiple Compound Need**

Multiple and compound need, which is sometimes described as complex or intersectional need, is defined as a persistent, problematic, and interrelated combination of two or more of the following primary disadvantages.

- Homelessness
- Domestic violence or abuse
- Mental health, physical health, or psychological issues
- Substance misuse
- Risk of criminal, physical or sexual exploitation
- Current or historical offending behaviour

A significant proportion of people with multiple and compound needs are neurodivergent; including those with learning disabilities, acquired brain injury (ABI),



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alcohol related brain damage, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and Attention Deficit Hyper Disorder (ADHD).

These various needs interact or exacerbate each other, so that several needs are experienced simultaneously.

### **Transitional Safeguarding**

Transitional Safeguarding is an 'approach to safeguarding adolescents and young adults fluidly across developmental stages which builds on the best available evidence, learns from both children's and adult safeguarding practice and which prepares young people for their adult lives'.<sup>1</sup> Recognising that transition is a journey not an event, and that every young person will experience this journey differently.

Transitional Safeguarding emphasises a needs-led, personalised approach which requires practitioners, leaders and all involved in services for children and adults, to consider how they might work together and think beyond child/adult silos for the benefit of young people at a key life stage.<sup>2</sup>

Within the MARM process it is important to consider the specific risk of Transitions both at 18 and for Care Leavers at the transition from Local Authority Care Leavers support at either 21 or 25. There is an equivalent multi-agency panel called Adolescent Vulnerability & Risk Meeting (AVRM) within Children's Services that may propose a MARM referral as part of Transitions Planning.

### **Existing Single and Multi-Agency Pathways and Processes**

Where a person is causing a high level of concern or may be at risk of death or serious harm there are existing processes in place to work with the person, their networks and other agencies.

These include: -

- Partner involvement in assessments, reviews which explore different aspects of a person's wellbeing and includes how abuse and neglect impact on a person's wellbeing
- Ongoing Community Support
- [\*\*S.11 Care Act Duties\*\*](#) where there are challenges in engaging the person
- Core Care Act work - multi-agency involvement, meetings, and planning
- Reflective supervision and decision making
- Mental Capacity Act
- Mental Health Act

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<sup>1</sup> Holmes, D. and Smale, E. (2018) 'Mind the Gap: Transitional Safeguarding – Adolescence to Adulthood.' Dartington: Research in Practice.

<sup>2</sup> [Bridging the Gap: Transitional Safeguarding and the Role of Social Work with Adults](#)



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- Sussex Safeguarding Adults Policies and Procedures
- Safeguarding Escalation and Resolution Protocol

### **When to consider using the MARM Framework?**

A MARM Meeting will only be convened where the following Care Act duty applies:-

***Local Authorities must carry out an assessment of anyone who appears to have needs for care and support, regardless of whether those needs are likely to be eligible. ([s.9 Care Act 2014](#))***

**And, where there is a risk of death or serious harm and, despite work with the individual and multi-agency working, the risks remain high and work with the person, or attempts to work with the person have not reduced this risk.**

The referring agency should ensure that the following criteria are met,

- ✓ High level of concern and risk of death or serious harm
- ✓ Care Act Assessment is complete including a clear formulation of risk
- ✓ Or, where an assessment could not be completed but the Local Authority is enacting its duties under S11 Care Act
- ✓ The person has an allocated keyworker or professional
- ✓ All other practice support has been exhausted
- ✓ A multi-agency meeting has been convened or attempts have been made to convene
- ✓ A multi-agency plan has been formulated and tested

### **Who can refer to the MARM?**

If the criteria above are met the Local Authority (any team or Directorate) or their partner agencies can request that a person be considered for a MARM Meeting.

The Local Authority Partner Agencies include:

**Change, Grow, Live  
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service  
The Probation Service  
South East Coast Ambulance Service  
Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust  
Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust  
Sussex Police  
University Hospital Sussex NHS Foundation Trust**

This list is not exhaustive. Any partner agency can refer into the MARM. Referrals can also be considered from outside of Brighton and Hove.

## **Referral Process**

Once a person is identified as meeting the criteria for the MARM their allocated keyworker or professional completes the B&H MARM Referral Form [here](#)

This must have sign off by a Senior Manager within their organisation. In the case of referrals from staff within BHCC Health, Care and Wellbeing this should be an Operations Manager or equivalent.

The Manager then emails the referral form and any other relevant forms, care plans, risk assessments to the dedicated MARM inbox [MARM@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:MARM@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

The Local Authority will review and triage within 5 working days.

The Local Authority Triage process will involve a discussion with the referring agency and an exploration of next steps.

When a referral has been found to require a MARM Meeting the Local Authority are responsible for scheduling and overseeing the process.

## **What is a MARM Meeting?**

The MARM Meeting is a reflective professional's forum to discuss situations that are high risk, complex and, despite work with the individual, the risk remains high and engagement with the individual has not reduced this.

The MARM Meeting will adopt a person centred, strengths-based approach to its advice and consultation. It is essential that the views and wishes of the individual are presented to the MARM Meeting but the person themselves will not attend. The person or their representative will have been included, as far as practicable, at every stage of the processes leading up to the MARM Meeting. Evidence must be presented demonstrating how the person or their representative's views have been incorporated.

The MARM Framework will operate according to anti-discriminatory principles and be anti-racist.

## **The MARM is not...**

- A forum to discuss low level or emergency concerns
- A substitute for other processes including line management, supervision, safeguarding or mental capacity work
- A substitute for other multi-agency work under the Care Act
- A replacement for existing advice from other Panel arrangements such as MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference), MAPPA (Multi Agency Protection Panel Arrangements) or existing legal advice.



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## **MARM Quoracy**

The MARM Meeting is comprised of the MARM Chair (BHCC Senior Manager), the referring agency, the allocated BHCC Practitioner and their supervisor/manager.

The MARM Meeting requires a minimum of two agencies, including the Local Authority, to be quorate.

The Local Authority will invite the referring agency and any other relevant professionals from partner agencies.

Any partner agencies who are invited to a MARM Meeting but are unable to attend should provide a written summary of their involvement and how they can contribute to the multi-agency plan to the MARM Chair via the MARM inbox.

The person themselves will not attend the meeting but the practitioner should clearly represent their views and wishes.

## **Frequency**

The MARM will meet monthly via MS Teams. Once the referral criteria are met, the referral will be booked into the next available MARM Meeting and invitations distributed.

## **Preparation for MARM**

All MARM members will review the person's referral form and case record prior to the meeting.

## **Recording and Actions**

The MARM Chair is responsible for recording and communicating actions and/or recommendations. If there is new work for a Local Authority Team, the MARM Chair will directly contact the relevant BHCC manager to discuss.

Whilst the MARM Meeting will not seek to reverse decisions previously agreed by staff or seek to change assessments that have been made, it has the authority to make recommendations (including the allocation or additional resources) and reserves the right to instruct Local Authority practitioners based on the information provided. It will ensure that legal advice is sought where necessary.

Recommendations and any actions will be agreed by the MARM Chair, assigned to individuals at the MARM Meeting and recorded directly onto the Eclipse (BHCC) case management system. These recommendations and actions will also be communicated by email to the individuals who were invited to or attended the MARM Meeting.

Members are responsible for taking assigned actions away and ensuring they are carried out.



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### **Follow up and Review**

The discussion at a MARM Meeting may be a one-off event or the MARM Chair may wish to review after an agreed period. People can be brought to the MARM Meeting for discussion on more than one occasion if required.