



QUICK GUIDE

Multi-Agency Risk Management (MARM) – Frequently Asked Questions

What does MARM mean?

MARM is an acronym for 'Multi-Agency Risk Management'. For more details, [review the 4LSAB MARM Framework on our website](#).

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 have been assessed as not meeting the 3 statutory criteria Section 42 (1) Care Act 2014.

If in doubt, please contact the Adult Safeguarding Team on 01983 823340.

To report a safeguarding concern, [see our web page on Making a Safeguarding Referral](#).

What is the purpose of the MARM framework?

The MARM framework is a method used by the 4 Local Safeguarding Adult Boards (4LSAB) to bring together senior professionals from health, social care, the police, housing, and other agencies. It also involves the adult in question, their family, and friends who have a legitimate relationship with them. This framework is helpful for any professional working with adults who are at high risk of significant harm due to their circumstances.

Is the MARM Framework statutory?

No. The MARM framework is not a law but was created and agreed upon by the 4 Local Safeguarding Adult Boards (4LSAB). It fits within the broader safeguarding context where people might be harmed or are at risk. The six principles of adult safeguarding—empowerment, prevention, proportionality, protection, partnership, and accountability—should always be considered when using the MARM framework. Usually, a MARM meeting aims to create an agreed risk assessment and management plan, while also identifying any other needs or wishes the individual has. Everyone involved in the MARM meetings should aim to find solutions that the individual agrees with and that work for them. A key outcome of a successful MARM meeting is to clarify what each agency can and cannot do. Each agency is expected to clearly state how they will meet their responsibilities and accountabilities as outlined in the risk management plan.

Are there legal considerations within the MARM framework?

Yes. All organisations have a duty to uphold the law and the MARM framework is not a substitute, and agencies should follow existing legislation and their internal processes, including the Human Rights Act 1998¹, Mental Health Act 2007², Mental Capacity Act 2005³, Care Act 2014⁴, Data Protection 2018 Act⁵,

¹ [Human Rights Act 1998](#)

² [Mental Health Act 2007](#)

³ [Mental Capacity Act 2005](#)

⁴ [Care Act 2014](#)

⁵ [Data Protection 2018 Act](#)

Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)¹, Multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC)² and Channel³ etc. These processes will be seen as having primacy.

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 does not want any action to be taken, this does not preclude the sharing of information with relevant professional colleagues. This allows 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.

Is the MARM framework a risk assessment?

No. MARM is a multi-agency risk management framework only for adults who are at risk of significant harm and where the risks are unmanageable. It is not a risk assessment tool and does not replace any other risk assessment tools used in your agency/organisation. Partner organisations should ensure that they have mechanisms in place to enable early identification and assessment of risk through timely information sharing and targeted multi-agency support.

Who should a professional discuss their concerns with?

All case discussions should be explored with the professionals' line manager in the first instance. The line manager will decide whether 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.

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

Yes. It's important that other approaches or frameworks are considered that support the adult and that information sharing is person centred and has a focus on risk management. For example: Family Group Conferencing⁴, Care Reviews, Care Programme Approach⁵, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference⁶, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements⁷, etc.

Who can lead the MARM meetings?

MARM meetings should be led by a manager or senior member of staff from any agency, referred to as the Lead Agency. The manager/senior will be responsible for co-ordinating and chairing the MARM meeting, ensuring that Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is applied and that 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, whenever possible. Any decision not to seek consent, or to override the adult consent, should be clearly recorded, including the legal basis for making this decision.

¹ [Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements \(MAPPA\)](#)

² [Multi-agency risk assessment conference \(MARAC\)](#)

³ [Channel](#)

⁴ [Family Group Conferencing](#)

⁵ [Care Programme Approach](#)

⁶ [Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference](#)

⁷ [Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements](#)

Is there a role for Advocacy?

There are many different types of advocacy, including:

- Self-advocacy
- Group advocacy
- Peer advocacy
- Citizen advocacy
- Professional advocacy
- Non-instructed advocacy.

Discussions should be had with the adult about advocacy, what it is and whether the adult wishes for someone to represent them e.g. a family member or friend. The adult may be legally entitled to get the support of an independent advocate if they do not know anyone who 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.

Why have I been asked to attend a MARM meeting?

You have been invited to come to the meeting because you play a key role in providing advice/information/support/services to the adult. The meeting is to talk about the unmanageable high risks and decide what can be done to manage the risks and support and protect the adult. Your knowledge and expertise may be crucial to the adult and to joint working.

Does the MARM framework replace existing safeguarding policies and procedures?

The MARM framework does not replace any current policies and procedures. The MARM is a framework that sits within the Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Procedures and should only be applied if the criteria are met. The MARM Framework is for concerns that sit outside of the Care Act 2014 Section 42 enquiry decision.

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

Yes. Understanding a person's capacity to make decisions is a vital element in planning with the adult. Where it has been assessed that a person does not have capacity to make decisions about their safety, a Best Interests Decision meeting will be more appropriate which will be led by the lead agency. In assessing a person's capacity to make decisions, the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 should be followed. A person lacks capacity if at a specific time; they are unable to make a specific decision because of a temporary or permanent impairment of, or disturbance in, the functioning of the mind or brain. A person is deemed unable to make decisions 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.

How often can a MARM meeting be called?

MARM meetings can be called when there is a 'legitimate need' to do so. This is judged on a case-by-case basis by the professional, line manager or their agency/organisation.

Who should be the Lead Agency?

The lead agency should be the agency responsible for calling the meeting. During the meeting the lead agency may change; this needs to be clearly recorded. This agency/organisation then becomes the lead agency for any future MARM meetings.

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 the main contact point for the adult/their family/representatives.

Who is responsible for reviewing the MARM review meeting?

The lead agency who called the MARM is responsible for arranging the date, time and venue and inviting all parties that have a legitimate 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 on the Isle of Wight will sit with the Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) and the SAB will receive regular reports from the Quality Assurance and Performance Subgroup who that will provide a summary of how the framework is working and provide data to quality assure the framework.

Data collection might include:

- Number of adults going through the MARM and review process
- Agencies holding MARMs
- Outcomes for adults
- Making Safeguarding Personal
- Escalation processes.

How and where is the MARM meeting information stored?

Current agency/organisation policies will apply.

Who are the key partners signed up to the MARM framework?

The SAB is made up of numerous agencies and organisations who are key partners in holding and or contributing to the MARM framework. See the [Isle of Wight SAB Website](#) for more information about SAB partners.