



Barnsley Multi-agency Procedure for Vulnerable Adults Risk Management Meetings

(Please note- this Procedure should be read alongside Barnsley
VARMM Guidance)

Author Kyra Ayre and Shirley Atkinson, BMBC

Owner Pathways and Partnerships Adult Safeguarding Subgroup

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Procedure for VARMM multi-agency process

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 Barnsley agencies are committed to the Safeguarding Adults and Making Safeguarding Personal principles and adhering to and promoting individual's human rights as outlined in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 1.2 To ensure a consistent, proportionate and multi-agency approach to the protection of individuals who may be at risk from 'unwise' decisions, or who may be placing other individuals at risk as a result of such 'unwise' decisions.
- 1.3 This procedure is designed for the management of situations in which an individual is either being put at risk or is putting themselves and/or others at risk as a result of certain kinds of behaviour, but has the mental capacity to understand the potential consequences and will not engage with Adult Safeguarding processes. Primarily this will be cases in which the individual is neglecting themselves/their property such as to pose a significant health and or safety risk. **N.B.** In all cases, a formal mental capacity assessment **MUST** be completed and documented, prior to commencing the VARMM process to establish that the service user genuinely does have capacity to decide whether or not to accept the support being offered or to understand any proposed enforcement actions.

2.0 Risk Factors

- 2.1 Significant harm to vulnerable adults.
- 2.2 Legal liability on organisations for acts of commission or omission.

3.0 Related Policies /Procedures

N.B. This procedure should be read alongside the Barnsley VARMM Guidance.

- 3.1 South Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Procedure

4.0 Personnel

- 4.1 All personnel in organisations with a duty of care towards potentially vulnerable adults.

5.0 Procedure

5.1 All personnel involved in working within the VARMM process will adhere to the principles of the Data Protection Act.

Decision-making

5.2 Upon receipt of any information that suggests that an adult may be vulnerable and at risk, a Safeguarding Concern Form must be completed and sent to the Adult Social Care Customer Access Team (CAT). The referrer may suggest that a VARMM is indicated on the referral if they have sufficient knowledge of the situation to believe this is appropriate, or, the organisation involved may commence the VARMM process at the same time.

5.3 The CAT will make and record a decision about whether the referral meets the 3-stage test for safeguarding adults.

5.4 Following S42 enquiries and a face-to-face meeting having taken place, the CAT may decide to recommend a VARM Meeting if it appears that the individual has mental capacity, does not wish the safeguarding process to be followed any further, and there is a high level of risk of self-neglect and/or risk to others.

5.5 Where an individual is already known to health or social care and being provided with support, has capacity, does not wish safeguarding processes to be continued and presents a high risk of self-neglect or risk to others, the team should log the concern as a safeguarding concern and initiate the VARMM Process.

VARM Meetings

5.6 VARM Meetings do not require an independent chair; social care team managers can chair VARM Meetings, alternatively it may be appropriate for other agencies to chair.

5.7 All relevant agencies should be invited and if unable to send a representative, should send the chair a report.

5.8 Every effort should be made by all of those involved with the individual to engage with them and promote their involvement in the process as far as possible. The individual should be informed and invited to any meetings about them.

5.9 The VARMM Proforma should be used for all VARM Meetings .(See Appendix 1)

Exit Points

5.10 Exiting the VARMM process should only occur in one of two situations;
i) The individual's situation has improved to such an extent that all of the agencies involved are in agreement that the potential risks are now so minimal that exiting is appropriate. This may however mean that some or all of the agencies continue to monitor the situation in line with their own policies.

ii) All actions have been carried out, but the risks remain and the individual is fully aware of the consequences associated with their choices and still does not wish to engage. If all agencies are in agreement that further VARM Meetings are unlikely to have an impact on the situation, the process can be ended via a formal VARM Review. In all cases which are removed from the VARMM, the individual must be provided with an appropriate contingency plan containing the contact points for services which could assist them in the future. (See Appendix 3, Vulnerable Adults Risk Management Plan proforma)

5.11 If however, there are still ongoing potential risks to other people posed by the actions of either the individual or another source of harm, following implementation of the VARMM process, all agencies have a responsibility to continue to work together to minimise or remove these risks.

6.0 Recording

6.1 There must be detailed recording throughout this process to ensure that all decisions are clear, transparent and explained to the individual concerned.

7.0 Documentation

7.1 Barnsley VARMM Guidance

7.2 VARMM Minutes Proforma

7.3 VARMM Vulnerable Adults Risk Management Plan Proforma