# One-minute guide to the MARM Framework

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB) has produced a shared multi-agency framework to assist in managing cases relating to adults where there is a high level of risk, the circumstances sit outside the statutory adult safeguarding framework and for which a multi-agency approach would be beneficial.

The guidance recognises that complex cases involving people with long term and entrenched behaviours requires a relationship-based approach focusing on building trust and rapport to reduce harm.

The guidance does not replace single agency risk management arrangements or pre-existing multi-agency case discussion processes (such as Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting meetings, MARAC, MAPPA etc) and instead seeks to support case discussion where no multi-agency case discussion and risk management process exists.

An adult is believed to be ‘at risk’ when they are unable or unwilling to provide adequate care for themselves and:

1. Is unable to obtain necessary care to meet their needs; and/or
2. Is unable to make reasonable or informed decisions because of their state of mental health or because they have a learning disability or an acquired brain injury; and/or
3. Is unable to protect themselves adequately against potential exploitation or abuse; and/or
4. Has refused essential services without which their health and safety needs cannot be met but lack insight to recognise this.

MARM is likely to be useful for working with adults experiencing an unmanageable level of risk as a result of circumstances which create the risk of harm, but not relating to abuse or neglect by a third party such as:

1. Vulnerability factors placing them at a higher risk of abuse or neglect e.g. mate crime;
2. Self-neglect including hoarding and fire safety;
3. Refusal or disengagement from care and support services when they have mental capacity;
4. Complex or diverse needs which either fall between a number of agencies’ statutory responsibilities or eligibility criteria;
5. On-going needs or behaviour which are placing them at significant risk;
6. Complex needs and behaviours leading the adult to cause harm to others;

The process:

* Any agency can refer a case to the process. The lead coordinating role sits with the OSAB MARM Officer (who also Chairs each meeting).
* The purpose of the meeting is to gain a holistic overview of current risks and to agree a multi-agency risk management/action plan.
* If the collaborative assessment highlights circumstances which are more appropriately dealt with elsewhere, a referral will be made to the appropriate service(s).
* The risk management plan will identify risks and how they can either be resolved or managed to an acceptable level.
* Agreement is reached during MARM meetings with the referred person and agencies as to when closure will take place, and how the person’s wellbeing and safety will continue to be monitored (if required).

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the Oxfordshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Policy and Guidance.