Review of the **Multi-Agency Risk Management (MARM)** Group

**What is the MARM?**

The purpose of the MARM group is to provide guidance for practitioners supporting adults with multiple and compound needs who remain at high risk of harm where all options have been explored and existing multi-agency functions are unable to reduce risks, such as:

* Safeguarding adults
* Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
* Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

The MARM group meets on a monthly basis and includes representatives from East Sussex SAB partners and the voluntary and statutory sector. The group has the authority to use resources available and make decisions to support adults and mitigate risks.

**The MARM review**

The review of the MARM was undertaken by multi-agency SAB partners in East Sussex.

Proposals from the review were ratified by the Safeguarding Adult Board in April to further build on the success of the MARM pilot. Recommendations from the review included:

SAB partners chairing on a rotating six-monthly basis to reflect a multi-agency risk sharing approach.

Development of a standardised multi-agency risk assessment incorporated within the MARM referral form to improve consistency in referrals.

Ensuring MARM attendees include both key operational leads and those who have an ability to make resource decisions.

**Trauma Informed Approach**

The review identified that the MARM has been adopting a trauma informed approach. Trauma-informed practice seeks to avoid re-traumatisation by using the principles of safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration and empowerment.

To cement this approach, at future MARM group meetings, the MARM chair will open by outlining the importance of representatives considering the impact of trauma and language that can be used. An updated MARM referral form has been adapted to support discussions and help tailor interventions and support appropriately.

**Making a MARM referral**

The criteria for referral to the MARM are:

The adult has multiple and compound needs. Multiple and compound needs is defined as experiencing a combination of three or more of:

* + - * Domestic Abuse
			* Mental health problems
			* Homelessness
			* Substance misuse
			* Current or historical offending
* All options have been explored within current threshold criteria and existing multi-agency functions, such as safeguarding adults, MARAC, MATAC, MAPPA, and / or completion of a mental capacity assessment, and these have not reduced the level of risk and there is significant concern for the wellbeing of an individual.
* The adult must be known to a service or agency even if the individual is struggling or unable to engage with them. **The adult does not need to be open to Adult Social Care & Health.**
* An agency’s risk assessment must be completed and submitted to the MARM with each referral and/or the risk assessment included within the referral form should have been completed.

The review has introduced a **professional judgement** section within the referral criteria to allow for the consideration of complex cases that do not meet the MARM threshold but significant risk(s) remain.

* To make a referral to the MARM group, the MARM referral form must be completed by the referring agency following the guidance set out in the MARM protocol.
* Clearly outline the desired outcome.
* Re-referrals must include an update on previous actions set at the MARM.

Send completed referral forms via email with a current risk assessment to MARM@eastsussex.gov.uk

Further information and guidance can be found on the East Sussex SAB [Guidance and Resources](https://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/publications/guidance-and-resources/) page.