

Note: For situations concerning domestic abuse refer to MARAC risk indicator checklist in the first instance.

Introduction

- This is an optional tool for Safeguarding Coordinators / Safeguarding Enquiry Officers / practitioners involved in safeguarding adult work (based on Bradford Adult & Community services Positive Risk Management Tool).
- For use with the adult at risk, their advocate/carer & other organisations and supports Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP).
- Focus is on assessing the likelihood of future harm prior to devising or reviewing a safeguarding plan.
- Encourages the benefits of an abusive situation to be considered.
- Supports a balanced approach to managing risk.
- Separate tools may need to be completed when there are a number of types of potential abuse as the harm & probability may be different for each type.
- Consider the use of advocates where appropriate.

Using the tool

It can be used:

- When concerns are first raised by the practitioner, to aid the discussion with the adult at risk about the concerns, their options & wishes. It may help identify issues relating to mental capacity & help the Safeguarding Coordinator decide whether a safeguarding adult process is needed.
- During a safeguarding adult process: it can be completed by the Enquiry Officer / another practitioner as part of the enquiry, and then brought to the case conference for multi agency discussion prior to agreeing the safeguarding plan.
- When a safeguarding review is being carried out

Terminology

'Hazards' (complete one form for each hazard identified)

Any action, event or situation with potential for harm

E.g. allowing strangers into their home, handing money / property over to a relative, living with an abusive partner

Reasons / Benefits

Service user / carer perspective – why this is happening

E.g. for company, for assistance with daily living, to maintain a valued relationship, concern for/ a feeling of duty towards the person alleged to be causing harm

Protective measures already in place

Depending upon the stage that the tool is being used this could mean:

- The safeguarding action taken immediately after the concern raised known as the Immediate Safeguarding Plan (ISP)
- An interim safeguarding plan - additional measures put in place as more has been learned about the situation aiming to protect the person until the enquires are completed.
- The safeguarding plan agreed at the end of a safeguarding adult process - if the tool is being used for review purposes

Foreseeable harm / probability

1. Description

Useful to think about the categories of abuse: physical, emotional, sexual, financial, neglect, organisational & discriminatory.

And the definition of harm-

including but not limited to:

- Ill treatment (including sexual abuse, exploitation and forms of ill treatment which are not physical);
- the impairment health (physical or mental) or development (physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural);
- self harm and neglect;
- unlawful conduct which adversely affects property, rights or interests (for example, financial abuse)

Law Commission (2011)

Assessment should consider whether anyone else is at risk of harm

2. Grading of seriousness/probability

- Grading is a matter of professional judgement
- It needs to be based on information about current circumstances, environment, past behaviour/incidents (nature, frequency, duration) vulnerability of adult at risk and dangerousness of the person alleged to have caused harm
- Relevant information should be obtained from other organisations / people e.g. police, GP, health & social care bodies, housing, family, carers etc
- It should take into account the protective measures already in place.
- More than one grading may be needed e.g. person may be at greater risk of harm emotionally than physically
- A safeguarding adult meeting is the ideal forum to make a multi agency risk assessment

Action agreed

Consider whether further action is needed to protect the person & whether this is best done through safeguarding /another process or by a referral to another service.

Ensure there is a conversation with the adult at risk in order to establish his/her views.

Safeguarding plans must be clearly recorded. There is the option of doing this here, on the minutes if there has been a safeguarding meeting or on the adult protection portal.

References

Bradford Adult & Community Services Positive Risk Taking Guidance
Jacki Pritchard (2008) Good Practice in Safeguarding Adults
Law Commission (2011) Adult Social Care Report