



Northamptonshire
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ADOLESCENT RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Version 4
January 2018

Scope

To provide practice guidance and advice in respect of children and young people who have been identified as vulnerable and potentially at high risk of significant harm as a result of their behaviour or others; or are considered to pose a high risk of harm to others. Particularly but not exclusively in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation, serious mental health difficulties, gang membership, radicalisation and/or absconding

This procedure applies to all staff working within Specialist Children's Services and staff from any other agencies who are working directly or indirectly with children, young people and their families.

The process seeks to deliver a flexible and holistic, multi-agency response for young people who have identified multiple needs, whose planned outcomes are not being achieved despite the best efforts of the inter-agency core group and for whom risks are increasing to such an extent that they are likely to suffer significant harm or are likely to cause serious harm to others.

Governance arrangements for initial implementation

SQAS will oversee these arrangements by agreeing to

- Implement and develop the Adolescent Risk Management and process;
- Regularly review whether the ARM meetings are achieving the intended impact;
- Update guidance as required;
- Identify gaps in commissioning; and
- Identify best practice.

Introduction

There are a small, but significant number of young people in Northamptonshire at any given time, who are imminent risk of significant harm to themselves or others without interventions from one, or a number of agencies and do not always naturally fall within Child Protection Procedures.

This procedure provides a framework that should be used when individual or multi-agency risk assessments indicate that the risk posed to or by a young person is assessed to be high or very high using the checklist developed as part of these procedures (see Appendix 1, Adolescent Risk Management (Referral) Form). The procedure is not intended to replace individual agency procedures nor replace other actions that workers may take to safeguard young people.

The purpose of the procedure is to ensure that a coordinated approach is taken to working with individual young people who are deemed to be at high or very high risk and a multi-agency plan developed.

The responsibility to take appropriate actions rests with individual agencies; it is not transferred to the Adolescent Risk Management (ARM) meeting. The role of the ARM meeting is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase individual and public safety.

These procedures gives guidance regarding which young people are eligible for the intervention

- Provide clear definitions of the type of risk and the level of vulnerability for individual young people and those that would benefit from this process;
- Identify the nature and level of risk and the interventions necessary to moderate the risk;
- Provide guidance for managing the different levels of risk;
- Identify roles and responsibilities amongst the key agencies; and
- Promote the sharing of information where children and young people are deemed to be at high or very high risk.

Adolescent Risk Management Meeting Membership

Core members of the meeting should be of sufficient experience and seniority to be able to effectively contribute to managing the risks and meeting the needs of the young people referred for discussion or professionals involved in the case under discussion and those with specialist knowledge and expertise that will aid planning.

Core memberships of these groups will include representatives from:

- Young person
- Parents
- Other Family members or connected persons (where appropriate)
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Missing Persons Team
- RISE
- Education
- Health
- Early Help (including Troubled Families and YOS)
- Police
- Specialist Children's Services (SCS)
- Drug and Alcohol Services

The Chair of the ARM meeting may invite representatives from agencies not listed above to join the group as core members if this is considered beneficial to the young person and family.

Core members will be expected to attend all scheduled meetings and will be asked to nominate a named deputy to attend on their behalf if this is not possible.

The meeting will be chaired by a Child Protection Chairperson during the implementation phase and thereafter by a fieldwork Team or Service Manager .

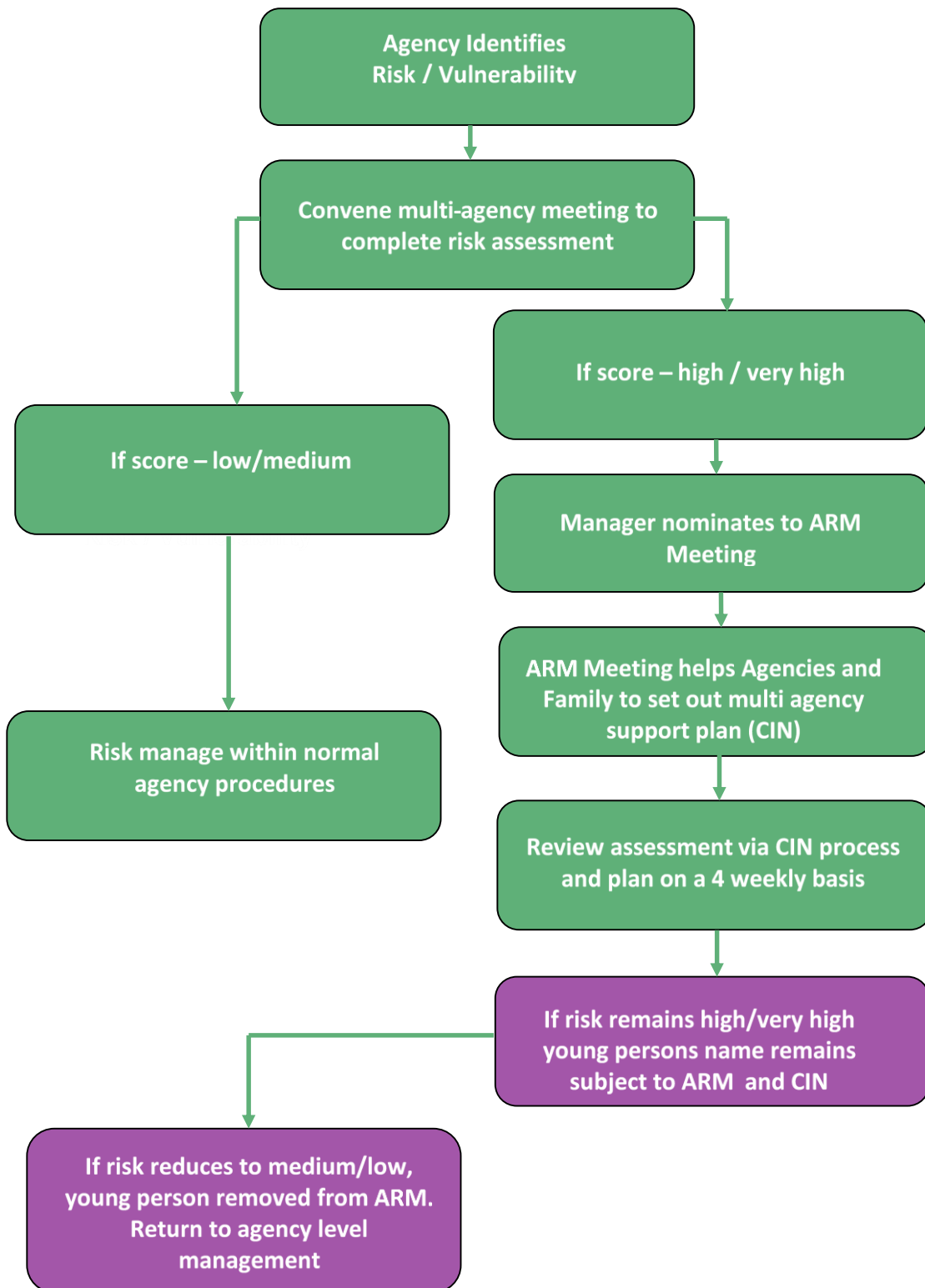
Every effort should be made to fully involve parents and carers and other interested family members, in the risk assessment and planning for the young person and they should be offered help in making their contribution.

Criteria for Risk Assessment Meeting

The eligibility criteria for referral for an Adolescent Risk Assessment meeting is that

- The young person is within the specific age range of 11 – 17 years and is normally resident in Northamptonshire
- That the risks posed to and by the young person have been measured against the risk matrix (Appendix 1) and have produced a score of 60 or above; and
- That there is an agreement from within the agencies working with the young person that this is the appropriate route.

The Process



Request for case to be discussed in an Adolescent Risk Management Meeting

Individual workers, following discussion with their supervisor and senior manager, who are concerned about the safety and welfare of or the risks posed by a child or young person should undertake a risk assessment using their individual agency's risk assessment processes.

Where an assessment indicates a high or very high level of risk, consideration should be given to making a referral to SQAS for an ARM meeting . A referral for an ARM meeting must be signed off by a Manager within the agency.

Professionals from any agency can propose that a young person should be discussed at an ARM meeting with reference to the agreed criteria, and completion of the Adolescent Risk Management Referral Form with a score of 60 or more, where the normal case planning, conferencing or dispute resolution processes have been tried and have failed to improve outcomes. The case for undertaking the planning process must be presented to a senior manager and authorised within existing agency line management structures.

Professionals from different agencies can also submit joint proposals if the combined assessment based on knowledge and intelligence from those agencies reaches the score of 60 or more on completion of the Adolescent Risk Management Referral Form.

Once agreement has been obtained, the Adolescent Risk Management Referral Form should be passed to the SQAS Convening team to arrange a date.

Adolescent Risk Management Referral Form



ARM Referral Form
and Risk Assessment

This document is to be used to identify the level of vulnerability of a young person referred for a Adolescent Risk Management Meeting. The purpose of the checklist is to identify strengths and risks in relation to a young person and to ensure that a coordinated plan is developed to meet their identified needs.

The checklist contained in the document is not exhaustive and should be used to summarise the information held by different agencies involved with a young person. It is intended to assist with decision making and does not remove the need for professional judgement which should take account of factors such as the age and maturity of the young person.

Intended Outcomes of the Process

Discussion leads to:

- A single risk management plan adopted by all agencies involved with young person. This should include contingencies to deal with unexpected or short-term crises, increased risks;
- Actions agreed by individual agencies to 'unblock' progress, to reduce risk and improve outcomes within specific timescales;
- In-principle agreements about contributions of resources/shared funding (some of which may be subject to confirmation by agencies);
- Communication and monitoring arrangements;
- Progress reporting requirements, including timescale.
- The risk management plan will be recorded and circulated to all attending agencies following the meeting.

Written information

The practitioner should ensure that the following information should be prepared in advance for circulation to relevant professionals and family:

- Adolescent Risk Management Referral Form;
- Up to date - Single Assessment

Conducting the ARM meeting

- In the implementation stages, this will be chaired by an SQAS Child Protection Chair utilising the Strengthening Families Framework with Signs of Safety model, as appropriate. Following which a field work Team Manager will chair
- The family, including the young person will be facilitated by the Chair to develop a requested plan of support separately from the professionals based on the Risk and Resilience factors identified in the risk assessment
- If assessment by the multi-agency ARM meeting agrees that the case is high risk, a SMART plan will be developed which will identify the support services that will be or are being provided to manage the identified risks and support areas of resilience. The plan will also identify the agencies responsible for providing the support and the timescales;
- Case discussions will be minuted by the administrator; and

Following the ARM meeting

- The administrator will ensure the plan is provided in 5 working days and minutes are provided to the lead worker for the young person within 15 working days;
- The lead worker who presented the case at the ARM meeting is responsible for ensuring that the actions approved at the meeting are shared with other agencies in order to reflect in other plans for the child (Care Plan, YOS Intervention Plan etc) and are acted on promptly.
- Progress should be reported via an updated multi agency risk and resilience assessment to the Social work manager until the young person is no longer considered to be at high or very high risk;

The responsible social work manager will provide this progress report to the Chairperson every three months

The risk management plan is not intended to replace any action which an individual agency may consider necessary to safeguard and protect the welfare of a child or young person. Rather, the plan is intended to enhance the planning process in respect of individual children and ensure coordinated multi-agency planning is in place.