

Care and Risk Management (CARM) in Practice

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1. The Purpose of CARM

- To provide a consistent national framework for the assessment, management and evaluation of young people aged 12-18 years ,who pose a serious risk of harm to others.
- Referrals to CARM will likely be young people involved in violent or harmful sexual behaviour, although referrals for other concerning behaviours may also be appropriate
- The CARM process should run parallel and compliment the GIRFEC process and Childs Plan.
- Risk Management meetings should be multi-agency and local processes should be “signed off” by local child protection committees.

2. What should a CARM meeting consider?

- highlight to appropriate agencies those who present a risk of serious harm to others;
- ensure relevant risk assessments are undertaken;
- share information in a multi-agency forum about risk of harm;
- clarify the nature of the harm and to whom;
- undertake scenario planning;
- identify safety factors which can reduce risk;
- Ensure robust, but age and stage appropriate risk management plans are in place.

3. Referrals to CARM

- Referrals should be made to a central point of contact who has knowledge of legislative and policy frameworks and experience of relevant processes, such as child protection processes.
- Referrals may be made by a range of partners of agencies including; Police, receipt of the concern, lead professional or others aware of the concern e.g. EEI co-ordinator.

Referrals to CARM (cont)

- Where a child is thought to meet the criteria a referral discussion should take place within 24 hours and no **more than 72 hours** after the incident.
- A referral discussion should include information that allows the person co-ordinating referrals to make a decision on whether a CARM meeting should be convened and a summary of immediate actions required to ensure the safety of others.

4. Taking Immediate Action

- Immediate actions agreed to protect others should be noted on an outcome recording form and recorded in the local case management system (Frameworkki, Swift etc)
- Immediate actions could include; Review living or education arrangements, consider actions to protect the community or consider arrangements to address interest from the media.

5. Initial CARM meetings

- Initial meeting within **21** calendar days of referral and will likely include, Social Work, Police, Education, CAHMS colleagues.
- Referrer should follow up discussion with a written referral form and include any current assessments or supporting documents e.g. IAF, CAHMS assessments.
- Consideration should then be given to whether the young person and parents are informed of the meeting.

6. Making Decisions

- Decision making should be grounded with evidence base practice and where a risk assessment has been undertaken the meeting should scrutinise this in terms of the content and if further information is required.
- The meeting should consider risks associated with the young person, their family and the community
- Additionally, what levels of supervision or monitoring are required and whether community disclosure is required.

7. Managing Risk

- Where a Childs plan exists, the outcome and actions from the CARM meeting should be reflected in this by the lead professional
- Where a plan is required, the lead professional should include these points when drafting the plan.
- In terms of defensible decision making, the meeting should agree a risk classification of Aware, attentive or Active and Alert.

8. Reviewing the Risk

- The Chair will ask attendees to consider;
 - a. Further offences or relevant incidents
 - b. Are further assessments required?
 - c. Review progress within the Childs Plan
 - d. Evaluate progress or deterioration
 - e. Consider additional actions.
 - f. Re assess risk classification

9. Transition and Exit Planning

- In accordance with minimum intervention a young person should not be involved in the process unless necessary to manage risk
- Available systems, young person's engagement, evidence of risk reduction and goal achievement will evidence progress
- Interface with MAPPA is important in transition planning.

Case Example - Simon

- Offending History
- Age 14- Simon charged with 6 x lewd and libidinous practices against his younger brother and made subject to a Supervision Order including a condition that he engage in therapeutic work.
- Age 15, Simon charged with a sexual assault on a female neighbour, aged 12. Concerns reported that Simon would no longer leave the house due to harassment from peers and refusing to attend School.
- Simon's mother reported that local people had been verbally threatening to her in the shop where she worked.

The CARM process and Simon

- Referred to CARM by Social Worker following 2nd offence .
- Initial actions included Simon's step father working from home due to backlash in the local community.
- Initial CARM meeting would have considered concerns re Simon's sister age 11, given the nature of his second offence.

Questions?