

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment & Management Plan

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Guiding Principles
3. Risk Assessment
4. Assessing the Risk
5. Multi-Agency Risk Assessments & Management Plans (MARAMP)
6. Quality Assurance & Performance Management

1. Introduction

Managing and supporting the needs of our children, young people and families is at the heart of what we do across Oxfordshire's Safeguarding Children Partnership. Unmet need can be a risk. Risk management is everyone's responsibility. When we are working with children, young people, care leavers and families who are at risk it is important that the responsibility for managing the risk is shared between us all, including all relevant multi-agency partners, the children, young people, care leavers and families involved.

This protocol for risk management outlines the procedures in Oxfordshire for children and young people where there are concerns about risk of harm to self and from and to others.

2. Guiding Principles

The guiding practice principles that sit behind everything we do are that we “work together to help children, young people and families to thrive.” Including:

- ✓ Relationship based – working with
- ✓ Restorative
- ✓ Motivational
- ✓ Trauma informed
- ✓ Use language that cares

Working together to help children, young people and families to thrive

3. Risk Assessment

Risk assessment is the careful examination of what could cause harm to people, and the process of identifying safety measures that will help prevent accidents and incidents from occurring.

It is not expected that all risks will be eliminated but it does require us to protect people “so far as reasonably practicable” by assessing situations/tasks, ensuring the risk assessment is both suitable and sufficient and by putting in place measures to manage risks and reducing them to an acceptable level.

The level of detail required in a risk assessment should be proportionate to the risk. Those carrying out the risk assessment should refer to the relevant sources of information, such as legislation, appropriate guidance, the professional network supporting the family as well as the child, young person, and family themselves to ensure that the assessment is both “suitable and sufficient.”

4. Assessing the Risk

By following the five basic steps you will be able to successfully carry out a risk assessment:

1. Identify the concern/hazards
2. Decide who might be harmed and how
3. Evaluate the risks and decide on the precautions
4. Record your findings and implement them
5. Review your assessment and update if necessary

You should review all risk assessments regularly. If a significant change occurs, don't wait, review, and update your risk assessment at that time.

A risk assessment is not just a paper exercise, it should be a working document that must be communicated and shared with all relevant people including the child, young people, care leaver and their family.

5. Multi-Agency Risk Assessments & Management Plans (MARAMP)

What is a MARAMP

A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Plan (MARAMP) is a tool which can be used by any partner agency, the child/young person, care leaver and their family. A MARAMP can be used with any child, young person, or care leaver if there is a need i.e. alongside a Strengths and Needs Form [Strengths & Needs Form and Early Help Tools](#), regardless of whether they are open to Children's Social Care or not. However, if Children's Social Care are involved, then they would be expected to be part of a MARAMP.

Working together to help children, young people and families to thrive

A MARAMP should set out the risks and concerns for a child/young person/family and detail the measures needed to manage risks and reduce them to an acceptable level.

The MARAMP can sit alongside any other assessment and planning process where required and appropriate if there is a significant risk which is not covered in any other assessment or plan.

A MARAMP is a useful way of sharing information, analysing, and taking collective responsibility across agencies, the child/young person, care leaver and family to help assess and reduce risk.

A MARAMP should be completed with the multi-agency group, the child/young person, their family or directly with an adult care leaver.

The MARAMP should consider current and known risks as well as predicted or future risks. Once the risks are identified this should inform the development of the risk management plan, which will list the actions that are required to reduce or manage the risk.

When to use a MARAMP

The need for a risk assessment should be considered where there are concerns about a child, young person or care leaver which indicate that the plan arising from the assessment or planning process to date may not be sufficiently detailed or robust enough to identify and manage the risks.

Children/young people in the following situations (but not limited to) may require a MARAMP in addition to a routine assessment or plan: children at risk of extra familiar harm, children in youth justice, children who go missing, children who are at risk of exploitation, children where there are mental health concerns and in particular a risk of suicide or self-harm, children who are emotionally dysregulated, children with complex needs and children where there is deprivation of liberty consideration, and placement planning. This also applies to young adults who are in risky situations who have left our care.

A risk assessment should always take place where there are contextual safeguarding concerns/risk of external harm (for example in school, community, neighbourhoods, with peers) or where there are concerns for public protection in localities. An exploitation screening tool should have been completed to identify contextual risks and inform the MARAMP.

In circumstances where children/young people talk about suicide then CAMHS/AMHS/GP will be able to support and offer advice and guidance. For further information please see: [Suicide & Self-harm - Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board \(oscb.org.uk\)](https://www.oscb.org.uk)

A MARAMP should include the strategies and plan to manage or mitigate the risks. The plan should be outcome focused and must be developed with multi-agency partners, the child/young person and family. The plan must clearly articulate what needs to happen, by who and by when. It must also include a clear contingency plan for each risk which involves the family.

As part of or following the meeting to produce or review the MARAMP, consideration should be given to writing a child/young person/family accessible safety plan so that they are clear about what people are worried about and what needs to happen.

Working together to help children, young people and families to thrive

A MARAMP can also be used to inform and support a family network meeting or Family Group Conference (if open to Children's Social Care) which may help the family come up with their own safety and contingency plans.

Where other agency risk assessments already exist, these should be considered. They should inform the development of the MARAMP or may be suitable in their own right; in which case they should be attached to the MARAMP form and cross referenced.

When using the MARAMP as a tool, consider the legal framework practice is operating in and adapt how you use the tool as necessary i.e., when a care leaver is over 18, they may not have a multi-agency network around them, in which case complete the tool with the young person or alone if completely necessary.

The decision about who chairs a MARAMP should be agreed by the multi-agency group and should have a good understanding of the needs of the child/young person. Depending on the level of risk it may be appropriate for the MARAMP to be chaired by a manager or safeguarding lead.

It is good practice to involve the child, young person, and family wherever possible but there may be circumstances where they can't be involved. Where necessary and appropriate interpreters should be used at any point of the process to ensure that a child, young persons, and family are able to participate fully.

When chairing a MARAMP it is important to focus on the strengths of the child, young person, family, or situation and what is working well at the start of the meeting and then build on these.

If an agency other than Children's Social Care leads a MARAMP, the [Oxfordshire MARAMP Template](#) should be used.

If a MARAMP is completed for a child/young person where Children's Social Care is involved the keyworker should record this on the LiquidLogic MARAMP Form, please see [Multi-Agency Risk Assessment & Management Plan \(Children's Social Care\)](#).

A MARAMP must be written up within 48 hours of the meeting being completed, signed off by a manager within 48 hours and shared with all attendees.

Each agency should store and escalate a copy of the MARAMP on their own records system in accordance with their own information governance and internal escalation guidance.

Reviews

A MARAMP is a dynamic document and should be reviewed and updated every 6 weeks at least to remove or add risks or agree if a MARAMP is no longer required as risks have reduced.

The MARAMPs can be reviewed within the appropriate multi-agency forum which already exists for example a team around the family meeting, child in need meeting, child protection conference, core groups, children we care for review or pathway plan review avoid repetition for families and practitioners and as everyone is already together in these spaces. It should include the child/young person and family.

[Working together to help children, young people and families to thrive](#)

Where the risks are high and persistent and the MARAMP does not appear to have had the anticipated impact, then a discussion should be had with the relevant senior manager for the agency to agree next steps or request a multi-agency escalation on the issue(s) and agree timeframes.

Management Oversight

Managers should be aware of the MARAMPs in their areas and should track and monitor their progress and the impact they are having within supervision.

If it is deemed a MARAMP is no longer needed across the multi-agency group, this should be agreed by the manager of the lead agency.

If a child/young person is on a child protection or is a child we care for plan then the Child Protection Chair or Independent Reviewing Officer must be informed when a MARAMP is started and each time it is reviewed.

6. Quality Assurance & Performance Management

Each quarter a performance report will be produced to capture the number of MARAMPs completed, reviewed, closed, length of time open, demographic information and presenting need. An annual audit of the quality and impact of MARAMPs will be conducted.

Each agency will be asked to provide a report on the number of MARAMPs conducted in their area and the outcomes which will contribute to a quarterly report for the OSCB PAQA.