



One-minute guide on the 4LSAB Multi-Agency Risk Management Framework

The four Local Safeguarding Adult Boards in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton have produced shared multi-agency guidance on managing cases relating to adults where there is a high level of risk, but the circumstances may sit outside the statutory adult safeguarding framework but for which a multi-agency approach would be beneficial. Developed in response to learning gained from serious cases, the [4LSAB Multi-Agency Risk Management Framework](#) enables a multi-agency, proactive approach which helps to identify and respond to risks before crisis point reached. It enables a collaborative, coordinated and multi-agency response to risks ensuring timely information sharing of risk, a holistic assessment of risk and the development of multi-agency risk plans.

The guidance is based on a number of key principles including the duty to protect to protect from foreseeable harm even when the adult has the mental capacity to make the decision to not engage in care and support. It recognises that complex cases involving people with long term and entrenched behaviours requires a relationship based approach focusing on building trust and rapport in order to reduce harm.

The guidance does not replace single agency risk management arrangements and instead seeks to build on and complement these by providing a multi-agency dimension. Professionals must also refer to relevant statutory frameworks and operational policies which they are required to follow.

An adult is considered to be 'at risk' when s/he is unable or unwilling to provide adequate care for him/herself and:

- Is unable to obtain necessary care to meet their needs; and/or
- Is unable to make reasonable or informed decisions because of their state of mental health or because they have a learning disability or an acquired brain injury; and/or
- Is unable to protect themselves adequately against potential exploitation or abuse; and/or
- Has refused essential services without which their health and safety needs cannot be met but a lack of insight to recognise this.

The Multi-Agency Risk Management Framework is likely to be useful to any professional who is working with adults experiencing an unmanageable level of risk as

a result of circumstances which create the risk of harm but not relating to abuse or neglect by a third party such as:

- a) Vulnerability factors placing them at a higher risk of abuse or neglect including mate crime and network abuse;
- b) Self neglect including hoarding and fire safety;
- c) Refusal or disengagement from care and support services when the adult has the mental capacity to make decisions about their care and support;
- d) Complex or diverse needs which either fall between, or span a number of agencies' statutory responsibilities or eligibility criteria;
- e) On-going needs or behaviour leading to lifestyle choices placing the adult and/or others at significant risk;
- f) Complex needs and behaviours leading the adult to cause harm to others;
- g) A 'toxic trio' of domestic violence, mental health and substance misuse and
- h) Risks previously addressed via a section 42 enquiry but for which the need for on-going risk management and monitoring has been identified.

The process:

- No one agency 'owns' the process. Any agency can initiate the process however, in doing so the agency assumes the lead coordinating role with responsibility for convening and chairing the initial meeting.
- The purpose of the meeting is to gain a holistic overview of current risks and to agree a multi-agency risk management plan.
- As far as possible, the adult should be included and involved in the process and in developing the risk management plan.
- If the collaborative assessment highlights circumstances which are more appropriately dealt with elsewhere, a referral should be made
- The process continues until the identified risks are either resolved or managed to an acceptable level. Any on-going support necessary to maintain well-being and safety should be agreed before the case is transferred back into the 'business as usual' case work.

The guidance should be read in conjunction with the Hampshire 4LSAB Multi -Agency Safeguarding Policy and Guidance (www.hampshiresab.org.uk).