

LPT Vulnerable Adult Risk Management (VARM)

What is Vulnerable Adult Risk Management (VARM)

A VARM is a process where multi-agency working is used to support the management of serious cases of self-neglect **where there is a risk of significant harm or death**. A VARM is arranged when the **adult (anyone 18 or over)** does not engage with services or engagement is not reducing the level of risk and the person remains at **risk of significant harm or death**. **It is essential to note that as well as self-neglecting, the adult must be considered to have a potential need for care and support even if those needs are not being currently met by any agency.**

VARM offers a way of bringing people together to address difficult situations rather than simply bringing together those already involved in a complex case.

For a VARM to be an appropriate and effective approach to risk management, the risk of serious harm must be present. **Serious harm means death or injury (either physical or psychological) which is life threatening and / or traumatic and which is viewed to be imminent or very likely to occur.**

VARM CRITERIA

In order to consider a person for a VARM meeting **all** the following criteria should apply:

- The person is 18 or over.
- A person **must have capacity** to make decisions and choices regarding their life.
- The adult must be considered to have a need for **care and support*** even if those needs are not being currently met by any agency.
- There is a **risk of serious harm or death** by self-neglect (fire, deteriorating health condition, non-engagement with services or where an Adult is targeted by local community, is the victim of Hate Crime or Anti-Social Behaviour or the victim of sexual violence) and they do not meet the criteria for Safeguarding.
- There is a **public safety** interest.
- There is a high level of **concern from partner agencies**.

*'Care and support' is the term used to describe the help some adults need to live as well as possible with any illness or disability they may have for any activities of daily living. It might also include emotional support. Care and support includes the help given by family and friends, as well as any provided by the council or other organisations.

VARM AT LPT

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) follow the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) VARM Guidance.

If an LPT staff member has identified that a VARM could be indicated in line with the LLR VARM Guidance please contact the LPT Safeguarding Team: LPTSafeguardingDuty@leics.nhs.uk. This enables a preliminary discussion to take place with the practitioner and an LPT Senior Safeguarding Practitioner to ensure the VARM criteria is met. The LPT Practitioner should provide the Safeguarding Team the following information:-

- The person's capacity to make choices and decisions related to their life and the identified risks.*
- The level of risk to the person.
- Whole Family: are there any other identified risks to any adults at risk or children in the household?
- Are there any other agencies involved and do they have a high level of concern?

* It is **crucial that decision specific capacity assessments are completed** in relation to the decisions that are a cause for concern.

LPT SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Using the records, information gathered and the [LLR VARM Guidance](#) a joint decision will be taken as to whether a VARM is indicated. It may be that the risks should or could be managed through an alternative process. The outcome of the discussion should be recorded in the records by the Safeguarding Team. If there is disagreement the LPT Safeguarding Practitioner should escalate the case to the LPT Lead Practitioner for Safeguarding Adults and MCA for a decision. If a VARM is agreed the LPT Safeguarding Team will:-




- Offer consultation and support throughout the VARM process.
- Can attend the VARM Meeting with prior agreement.
- Record the outcome of the decision.

When a LPT led VARM is agreed with the LPT Safeguarding Team the LPT Clinical Team will:-

- Book a date and venue for the initial meeting.
- Wherever possible, the adult should be invited to attend the meeting, with an advocate or interpreter, friend or family.
- Discuss the VARM with the adult and ensure that they are invited to meetings.
- Ask the adult who they would like to attend the meeting (friend, family, advocate or other professional).
- Invite all relevant agencies who are either involved or who could offer the adult support. Ideally statutory agencies should always be invited due to the high risks involved in VARM cases.
- Arrange for minutes and actions to be taken on the LLR VARM template.
- Ensure actions and minutes are recorded and shared with the meeting attendees.
- Ensure the actions and minutes are recorded on the patient records.
- Identify the VARM meeting chair.

LPT Safeguarding Team Advice Line

LPT Safeguarding Advice Service is open **Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm.**

<p>RED</p> 	<p>Without intervention an adult or child is at risk of significant harm OR significant harm has occurred.</p>	<p>Red advice requests can be made via telephone on ☎ 0116 295 8977 and will be responded to within one working day.</p>
<p>AMBER</p> 	<p>Without intervention an adult or child is at risk of harm OR harm has occurred.</p>	<p>Amber advice requests can be made by emailing ✉ LPTSafeguardingDuty@leics.nhs.uk An Amber advice request will be responded to within 48 hours.</p>
<p>GREEN</p> 	<p>For information sharing or advice where there is no risk of harm.</p>	<p>Green advice requests can be made by emailing ✉ LPTSafeguardingDuty@leics.nhs.uk An Amber advice request will be responded to within 72 hours.</p>