



VULNERABLE ADULT RISK MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

VARM Newsletter Edition 14 - March 2024



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to the 14th edition of the VARM Newsletter. All VARM resources are available on the SSAB website. <https://sandwellsab.org.uk/safeguarding-policy-and-procedures/vulnerable-adults-risk-management-varm/>

Currently, there are 28 live VARM meetings, being supported by monthly VARM awareness training and a weekly VARM referrals discussion.

VARM CHAMPION INTERVIEW

Esther (Social Care Team Manager Learning Disabilities/Autism & YAT) has highlighted the positive outcomes she has witnessed from a social care perspective. She believes; "When a VARM closes you know you've explored all avenues... safeguarding concerns are minimised", "The voice of individuals is heard, even if they choose to be supported through an advocate", "VARM is preventing the revolving door. We are seeing chances which prevent the individuals being referred to social care".

Going forward, Esther feels training Community Champions, awareness raising and training of the VARM process will need to continue to ensure professionals in Sandwell are aware and confident in the process. "All new social workers need to be trained as soon as possible", "We need to get the word out!" "IT'S WORKING!"

For the full interview look out for our April's Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Newsletter!

AT A GLANCE VARM CRITERIA

- The adult, who professionals may have concerns about, must have capacity.
- Must be at high risk of harm or death.
- A range of professionals must have concerns about the risks.
- Or there is a public safety risk.
- Other processes are deemed not to be appropriate.

VARM RESOURCES

- Posters to help promote the activity
- VARM Webinars
- VARM E-Learning can be booked by using the link training.sandwellscb.org.uk.
- VARM Champions
- What to Expect leaflet (to be shared with people who professionals are worried about).
- [VARM Toolkit](#)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

UPCOMING EVENTS

VARM Awareness sessions

03/04/24	3pm - 4pm
07/05/24	3pm - 4pm
11/06/24	3pm - 4pm
09/07/24	3pm - 4pm

Chairing Multi-agency meetings

21/05/24	2pm - 4pm
18/06/24	2pm - 4pm
23/07/24	2pm - 4pm
20/08/24	2pm - 4pm

To book onto any of the above sessions visit: <https://training.sandwellscb.org.uk/>

NOTICE

To be clear, there is no VARM team. If you want to organise a VARM, you need to contact safeguarding_SSAB@sandwell.gov.uk and organise your own chair and minute taker. Deb Ward (Deb_ward@sandwell.gov.uk), as a VARM Champion, is always available for advice and meets with Safeguarding on a weekly basis to discuss current VARM referrals.

TRAINING IMPACT

There have been 21 VARM awareness sessions with a total of 197 attendees,

There have now been 9 Chairing Multi-agency meeting training sessions to date with a range of attendees. Feedback has continued to be positive and the training is now mandatory in Adult Social Care. Dates for 2024 are shown and I would encourage you to book a place if you haven't already attended.