



VULNERABLE ADULTS RISK MANAGEMENT MODEL (VARMM)

Guidance for Sheffield GPs

The Vulnerable Adults Risk Management Model (VARMM) is a multi-agency process, managed in most cases by Sheffield City Council (SCC), which helps manage high risk safeguarding adults' cases where the person makes informed choices (in accordance with the Mental Capacity legislation) that may put them at significant risk of harm.

When it is felt that the decision is unwise, the VARMM is used to show the reasons why, and to demonstrate that SCC has clearly explained these to the person and stated why other solutions are being advised. By doing this, SCC accepts that the person can make unwise decisions, but SCC can fulfil their responsibilities in maintaining their duty of care to the person and offering protection to SCC representatives.

The same process is also operated within health via the safeguarding leads in Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) in cases when only health concerns exist.

The VARMM:

- is a useful aid to GPs dealing with difficult circumstances, such as adult patients who are self-harming or refusing services to the point of serious harm or risk of death, where existing health and social care involvement has failed to resolve the issue, the individual has capacity to make the decision and there is no perpetrator.
- can provide the GP with useful evidence of adequacy of planning and the process, should a tragedy, such as a coroner's inquest, occur.

Cases can be referred or advice sought on whether a case is likely to reach the threshold for intervention from the Safeguarding Adults office on Tel: (0114) 273 6870.