

# Experts Together Safeguarding Together

Safeguarding Adults  
A Partnership Approach to Managing Risk  
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#NLSAB23



# Safeguarding adults - a partnership approach to managing risk

## What is VARM?

- VARM stands for 'Vulnerable Adults Risk Management.'
- The VARM process provides a framework for professionals to facilitate effective multi - agency working with adults at risk, who are over 18, and deemed to have capacity to make decisions.
- The VARM is attended by local agencies so they can work together to help keep people safe - these agencies have a legal responsibility to protect people (or groups of people) from harm.
- The agencies include North Lincolnshire Council, Humberside Police, Humberside Fire and Rescue Service, housing, and other relevant agencies.
- VARM helps agencies to identify people who may be a risk to themselves or the public - the agencies then work together with the person, to minimise the risk going forward.



- VARM places an emphasis on partnership working.
- It is important to involve the person wherever possible, and every effort should be made to engage them in the process.

**Coming together is a beginning,  
staying together is progress, and  
working together is success.**



Henry Ford



# What happens during the VARM meeting?

- Whether or not the person is present, their views must be sought and considered.
- Agencies share information, evaluate concerns, and outline each agency's responsibility.
- The VARM meeting may identify the need to make other referrals about the person, other adults at risk, or children.
- A partnership action plan is developed to manage the risks together.

# Examples of what has been discussed at VARM meetings

Self - harm or  
suicide attempts

Drug / alcohol  
misuse

Risk taking due to  
poor mental health

Self - neglect /  
hoarding

County lines /  
cuckooing

Not taking medication  
or not accessing  
medical attention

Risk to animals

Exploitation

No recourse to  
public funds (NRPF)

Homelessness

Antisocial behaviour

Fire risk at home -  
to self or  
neighbours



# Examples of good outcomes

- Accommodation - a person living with disabilities was offered an adapted property, and support to live independently.
- Accommodation - a person was helped to live an alternative lifestyle.
- Professional support with substance use - a person was linked into support services with We Are With You.
- No recourse to public funds (NRPF) - a person was offered support to make an application for immigration status, and access to benefits and accommodation.
- Antisocial behaviour and mental health - a person was linked into mental health support.

# How to make a referral

- North Lincolnshire VARM Policy and Guidance, and the referral form can be found on the NLSAB website:

[North-Lincolnshire-VARM-policy-FINAL-22.2.2022.pdf](#)

[\(northlincssab.co.uk\)](#)

- Completed VARM referrals must be sent to:

[SafeguardingAdultsBoard@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:SafeguardingAdultsBoard@northlincs.gov.uk)



# Who is considered a carer?

‘A carer is anyone, including children and adults, who looks after a family member, partner or friend who needs help because of their illness, frailty, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction, and cannot cope without their support. The care they give is unpaid.’

[NHS commissioning » Who is considered a carer? \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

# How many carers are there?

- On Census Day 2021 (21<sup>st</sup> March 2021) there were approximately 4.7 million unpaid carers in England (over the age of 5), 8.9% of the population (1).
- There are 15,430 unpaid carers in North Lincolnshire, or 9.6% of the total population (2).
- 5186 of these carers provide 50 or more hours of care a week (2).

<sup>1</sup> [Unpaid care by age, sex and deprivation, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

<sup>2</sup> [2021 Census - Census of Population - Data Sources - home - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

