

7-Minute Briefing – FRAME / CARM

CARM Meetings (continued)

A date for a review CARM meeting should be set within the following three months.

A CARM Core Group should form and a date for the first meeting should also be set.

CARM Core Groups will implement, monitor and review the agreed risk management strategies on an ongoing basis and report progress or otherwise to the CARM Chair.

Children and young people should not remain subject to CARM processes for any longer than is necessary.

What is FRAME?

The [Framework for Risk Assessment Management and Evaluation \(FRAME\) with children aged 12-17: Standards, Guidance and Operational Requirements for risk practice](#) (www.gov.scot) sets out standards, guidance and operational requirements for risk practice where children and young people display behaviour which may pose an imminent risk of serious harm to others, or has caused serious harm to others.

Serious Harm

FRAME defines risk of serious harm as 'there is a likelihood of harmful behavior, of a violent or sexual nature, which is life threatening and/or traumatic and from which recovery, whether physical or psychological, may reasonably be expected to be difficult or impossible'. In addition, consideration must also be given to the level of intent, any use of force or coercion, potential as well as actual harm caused irrespective as to whether the harm was realised (RMA, 2011).

CARM Meeting

A CARM meeting allows sharing of information and joint assessment to determine whether the threshold for CARM is met. Where it is met, the CARM Chair will identify an appropriately trained practitioner to complete the necessary risk assessments.

The Lead Professional is responsible for updating any existing Child's Plan to reflect the agreed risk management strategies and for updating the child and parent/carer on the same day of key decisions.

What is CARM?

Care and Risk Management (CARM) is the formal risk management process to be used locally in respect of children and young people aged 12 – 17 years old whose behaviour presents a risk of serious harm to others. CARM does not replace all existing risk management processes, and is relevant only to the small number of children and young people where there is a likelihood of **serious** harm occurring. Fife local protocol for CARM contains further information.

Decision to convene CARM meeting

If the decision at IRD is to convene a CARM meeting, this must take place as soon as possible and no later than 21 calendar days from the decision. CARM meetings will be convened and chaired by the appropriate Social Work Team Manager. The Chair takes responsibility for the management of the meeting, including considering appropriate attendance of all relevant services, the child or young person, parents/carers and/or support for the child.

Referral Process

From 11th December 2023 referral to CARM may be requested by a range of professionals and agencies. The principles of GIRFEC must be followed so where there is a lead professional concerns must be highlighted to them. The referral mechanism will be via an Inter-agency Referral Discussion (IRD). An IRD should be initiated within one working day of the behavior coming to the attention of any professional.

