

Adult Carers and Safeguarding – Risk Assessment Tool

Guidance Notes

The majority of carers strive to act in the best interests of the person they care for and support. However, there are times, when those carers experience harm from the person to whom they are offering care and support or from the communities in which they live. Risk of harm to the person being cared for may also arise because of carer stress, tiredness, lack of information, skills or support or a combination of these factors.

Recognition of the risk of harm or harmful behaviours, either intentional or unintentional is critical to the prevention and protection of individuals.

Risk of harm increases where the carer is isolated and not getting any practical and/or emotional support from family, friends, professionals or paid care workers

The Carers Risk Assessment Tool has been developed to help front line practitioners from ALL services* identify carers who are/may be at risk of harm from the person they care for, who are/may be at risk of harming the person they care for, or both.

The shaded boxes indicate key risk indicators which on their own are likely to suggest a higher level of concern. The scoring is intended to be a guide and is not a definitive assessment of risk. Please pay particular attention to professional judgement in all cases. The checklist provides a structure to inform your judgement and act as prompts for further questions, analysis and risk management.

The risk assessment tool **MUST** be used by social workers/social care assessment officers when it is identified that

- a carer is providing a significant amount of care and support
- caring is having a significant impact on the carer
- no services are to be provided because the carer/cared for person refuse

and at any other time where the worker would feel it beneficial for example at review stage or where they, using their professional judgement have identified potential risks.

In these circumstances a Carers Assessment should be completed followed by a Carers Risk Assessment. Ideally, the risk assessment should be completed with the carer and/or the cared for person but, if that is not possible, for example because the person refuses or there is a concern that risks may escalate, it can be completed solely by the practitioner(s) involved. This should be recorded as part of the assessment process on Eclipse.

If a Carers Assessment and/or Carers Risk Assessment are not undertaken, the reasons for this should also be recorded on Eclipse.

* Electronic copies of the risk assessment tool are available on request

Risk Status

No apparent risk

Where no apparent risk is identified, no further action needs to be taken

Low apparent risk

Where low apparent risk is identified, this should be addressed in the support/care and support plan

Significant Risk

Where significant risk is identified, a risk management plan should be drawn up and implemented with consideration given as to whether the circumstances fit the safeguarding adults criteria

Serious Risk

Where serious risk is identified, highest priority should be given to risk prevention including the management of any immediate risk. It is likely that the concerns will meet the criteria for safeguarding adults procedures and these should be followed. Consideration should also be given to the completion of the Risk Identification Checklist for MARAC (high risk domestic violence)

As with any risk assessment tool, professional judgement should always be used and advice sought where required.

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