



ChildProtection
Perth & Kinross

**Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee
(CPC)**

**Care and Risk Management (CARM) of Children
and Young People who Present a Risk of Serious
Harm to Themselves and / or to Others**



What to do if you are worried or concerned about a child or young person?

If you are worried or concerned about the welfare or protection of a child or young person, you should, in the first instance, share that worry or concern with your Line Manager / Supervisor / Designated Child Protection Officer.

Thereafter, child protection procedures should be followed without any unnecessary delay.

You should contact the [Perth and Kinross Child Protection Duty Team](#) or [Police Scotland](#):

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Perth and Kinross Child Protection Duty Team (24 hours) | 01738 476768 |
| Police Scotland Non - Emergency Number | 101 |
| In an Emergency | Call 999 |

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1. Introduction and Purpose of this Protocol

This ***Joint Protocol: Care and Risk Management (CARM) of Children and Young People who Present a Risk of Serious Harm to Themselves and / or to Others*** has been developed by Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee (CPC), in consultation with key partners.

This Joint Protocol is for all practitioners and managers, working in the public, private and third sectors across Perth and Kinross.

This Joint Protocol aims to provide all those who are working with children, young people and adults with clear inter-agency guidance on how to effectively manage and support Children and Young People who Present a Risk of Serious Harm to Themselves and / or to Others.

This Joint Protocol, effectively translates the national guidance – [Framework for Risk Assessment Management and Evaluation \(FRAME\) with Children Aged 12 – 17 \(Standards, Guidance and operational Requirements for Risk Practice](#) (Scottish Government: 2021), into our local inter-agency child protection working arrangements.

This Joint Protocol should complement, not replace, or replicate, any existing national guidance and / or any local service / agency guidance.

This Joint Protocol does not recommend, or seek to make, any organisational or structural changes to our existing inter-agency child protection arrangements. On the contrary, it aims to strengthen them.

2. Parties Involved

The following services and agencies are party to this Joint Protocol:

- Perth and Kinross Council
- NHS Tayside
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)
- Third Sector Partners

3. Policy Context

The following are considered to be the **key** child protection policy developments relating to CARM:

- [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#)
- [“It’s everyone’s job to make sure I’m alright”: Report of the Child Protection Audit and Review](#) (Scottish Executive: 2002)
- [National Risk Framework to Support the Assessment of Children and Young People](#) (Scottish Government: 2012)
- [Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committees and Chief Officer Responsibilities](#) (Scottish Government: 2019)

- [The Independent Care Review](#) (Scottish Government: 2020) and [The Promise: The Plan 2021 – 2024](#)
- [Framework for Risk Assessment Management and Evaluation \(FRAME\) with Children Aged 12 – 17 \(Standards, Guidance and operational Requirements for Risk Practice\)](#) (Scottish Government: 2021)
- [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 – updated 2023](#) (Scottish Government: 2023)
- [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\)](#) (Scottish Government: 2022)
- [Getting it right for everyone \(GIRFE\)](#) (Scottish Government: 2023 Under Development)
- [A Quality Framework for Children and Young People in need of Care and Protection](#) (Care Inspectorate: 2022)

4. Background to the Care and Risk Management (CARM) Approach

This Joint Protocol for Care and Risk Management (CARM) outlines our inter-agency child protection practice approach and local arrangements in Perth and Kinross for, what will be, ***a relatively small number*** of children and young people, ***where parts of their behaviour may pose an imminent risk of serious harm or has caused serious harm to themselves or others.***

Definition of a Child or Young Person

In general child protection terms, and for the purpose of this Joint Protocol, a child or young person is defined as a person up to the age of 18 years, and in some circumstances, up to the age of 25.

However, given the age of criminal responsibility in Scotland, no child under the age of 12 years should be subject to these practice arrangements; albeit where significant concerns do exist in relation to the behaviour of a child under the age of 12, existing [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\)](#) and / or local inter-agency child protection arrangements should be followed, without exception and / or delay.

Whilst this approach is in keeping with the national guidance – [Framework for Risk Assessment Management and Evaluation \(FRAME\) with Children Aged 12 – 17 \(Standards, Guidance and operational Requirements for Risk Practice\)](#) (Scottish Government: 2021), it may also be an appropriate approach, for young adults up to the age of 25 years; in particular those who may be in receipt of Throughcare Aftercare support.

In addition, given the wide nature of legislation in Scotland, the legal boundaries of childhood and adulthood are variously defined and it is important these differences are understood.

Further, more detailed information, advice and guidance on the *definition of a child and young person*, contained within the [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 – updated 2023](#) can be found [HERE](#).

Definition of Risk of Serious Harm

For the purposes of this Joint Protocol, this is defined as ***where there is a likelihood of harmful behaviour, 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.

The following is also considered to be relevant:

- ***Alleged Sexually Harmful Behaviour*** - Children and young people who engage in any form of sexual activity with another individual, that they have powers over by virtue of age, emotional maturity, gender, physical strength, intellect and where the victim in this relationship has suffered a sexual exploitation. According to this definition, the key elements of sexually harmful behaviour are sexual exploitation and power imbalance.
- ***Alleged Violent Behaviour*** - The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, or against a group or community that results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation. According to this definition, the key elements contributing to violence are: level of intent; use of coercion or force; and potential for harm to the person (whether this is realised or not).
- ***Other Risk*** - Children and young people's behaviours may present a risk of serious harm because of behaviours not categorised within the definitions above. This can include serious incidents of self-harm, suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, exploitation, fire-raising and stalking.

Often harmful behaviours occur between peers in shared social spaces such as schools, parks, or on the streets.

A [contextual safeguarding](#) approach recognises that sometimes within these social spaces, cultures can develop so that abusive attitudes become the social norm.

Assessments and interventions should therefore also consider peer groups, locations of harm and patterns of harmful behaviour within these. To simply focus on the individual and the family context could result in missed opportunities to prevent further harm.

When parts of a child or young person's behaviour poses a risk of serious harm to self or others, everyone in the system around the child or young person, has a duty to intervene and protect the child or young person from causing such harm and to reduce the risk or impact of further harm.

5. Applying the CARM Approach in Perth and Kinross

What is our CARM Approach?

Within Perth and Kinross, our response and approach will always be framed and applied within a [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\)](#) and a [child protection](#) context to prevent further harm.

CARM will build on, and be an integral part of, our well-established / existing child and young person inter-agency assessment, planning and decision-making processes and will not be seen as a separate or parallel approach and / or intervention; simply because there is a CARM perspective.

CARM will not become a parallel / separate process.

Our CARM approach must be understood through a child-centric lens of [child development](#), [child protection](#), [trauma informed](#) and must consider situational and [contextual safeguarding](#) factors.

However, it is important to stress this does not preclude the child or young person being considered or subject to other existing assessment and / or planning arrangements, including GIRFEC, GIRFE, Child Protection, Referral to SCRA and Children's Hearings, being Looked-After and Accommodated (Care-Experienced), Adult Protection, Criminal Investigations, MAPPA etc.

How will CARM work?

Where a child or young person, in terms of their age and behaviour, meets the criteria for a CARM intervention, the following CARM approach will be adopted:

- in the first instance, practitioners in all services and agencies should follow their own existing [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\)](#) guidance to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the child or young person or follow their own existing child protection procedures to protect the child or young person from further harm
- alternatively, the [CPC inter-agency child protection guidelines 2023](#) can be followed and a child concern report or a child protection report can be submitted, where appropriate
- Named Persons and / or Lead Professionals may also become aware of the need for a CARM intervention
- the Children's Reporter may also have received a referral and consider that a child or young person may need a CARM intervention
- Police, Criminal Justice and Courts may also be aware that a child or young person has been charged with a relevant crime or offence which may need a CARM intervention
- [Inter-Agency Referral Discussions \(IRDs\)](#) may also identify that a child or young person may need a CARM intervention

The following key considerations, influenced by [National Risk Framework to Support the Assessment of Children and Young People](#) (Scottish Government: 2012) may assist in indicating whether existing [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\)](#) or [child](#)

[protection](#) measures and oversight are appropriate, or if a CARM intervention is necessary:

- what is the nature of the actual / likely harm and who is at risk
- how likely is such harm to occur, in what circumstances and situations
- the impact on / potential consequences for the child or young person's health and development should the harm occur as well as that of the individual harmed
- the child or young person's development within the context of their family and / or care placement, as well as the wider environment and how can / does this minimise or reduce the harmful behaviours
- how attuned are supports and interventions to the individualised needs of each child or young person (such as a medical condition, speech language and communication difficulties or disability), in order to promote the child or young person's ability to meet their needs and realise their potential
- the capacity of the parents or carers to adequately meet the child or young person's needs, including their need to be safe
- the wider familial and environmental context
- the necessary skills, expertise and resources available and accessible and the benefit that the child or young person will gain from safely managing the identified risk

There are a range of additional factors which may impact upon a child or young person and their ability and capacity to engage with services. Although not exhaustive, these may include the following: disability; ill health; mental health and geographical issues, and must be fully considered and inform any risk management practice with them.

What are the Aims and Objectives of CARM?

- to manage the assessed risk of harm
- to highlight to appropriate services and agencies individual children and young people who present a risk of serious harm to others
- to ensure that a relevant risk assessment is undertaken in relation to a child or young person considered to present a risk of serious harm
- to share information in a multi-agency forum about the risk of serious harm presented by a child or young person's behaviours
- to identify risk scenarios which consider the nature of risk, how and when risk might present, and who may be at risk from the harm the child or young person's behaviour may present
- to identify strengths and protective factors which can support the delivery of individual and effective risk management strategies to reduce harmful behaviours and build capacity within the child or young person
- to implement risk management measures that are constructive and individualised, bearing in mind the principle of proportionality, the best interests of the individual as well as their physical and mental wellbeing, and development and circumstances of the case

- to ensure that the child or young person's social, developmental and psychological needs should be addressed within the context of decisions about risk management strategies
- to ensure that, through the completion of risk assessment (s) and the linked development of risk management strategies, there is an appropriate multi-agency response to the child or young person's behaviour to support effective public protection and victim safety planning

6. What is the CARM intervention process in Perth and Kinross?

Where existing [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\)](#), or [child protection](#) or other existing referral pathways have identified that a child or young person, **by reason of their age and their behaviour, meets the criteria for a CARM intervention**, then the following CARM approach will apply:

- following on from individual service or agency existing [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\)](#) guidance, [child protection](#) guidance or the [CPC inter-agency child protection guidelines 2023](#), potential CARM related concerns should be raised, without unnecessary or undue delay and discussed with Line Managers / Supervisors / Team Leaders
- for those children and young people still in education and for those children and young people who are care-experienced, discussions should take place with their Named Person and their Lead Professional
- a Child Concern Report (CCR) should be raised and submitted to the [Child Protection Duty Team](#) for further investigation

CARM Requirement 1

Where a CARM intervention is considered to be necessary, a CARM Referral Discussion will take place within 24 hours of the child or young person's behaviour being identified as concerning.

A **CARM Referral Discussion** is similar to, but different from an [Inter-Agency Referral Discussion \(IRD\)](#).

This **CARM Referral Discussion** will include the:

- practitioner raising the CCR / Concern
- their Line Manager / Supervisor / Team Leader
- **Designated Manager (Children, Families and Justice Service)**

and they will initially determine the need to instigate a CARM intervention, or not. This decision will be recorded.

If there is any disagreement about the need for a CARM intervention, this will be recorded and if this cannot be resolved quickly, between the practitioners and their relevant managers, then the [CPC's Practitioner's Guide: Resolution and Escalation Arrangements](#) should be followed without delay.

A written record of this **CARM Referral Discussion** will be taken and should include the following:

- whether child protection measures are required for either the child or young person, alleged to have caused harm or any other child or young person involved
- decision whether a CARM intervention is required, or not, and the reasons why
- brief summary of identified risk factors and strengths known at this point
- date of agreed CARM Meeting (where relevant)
- allocation of immediate tasks
- allocation of interim tasks pre-meeting

Immediate tasks may include:

- specific action (safety plans) carried out to protect the child or young person, alleged to have harmed and any others alleged to have been harmed
- review of living arrangements and education, employment or training placement (where necessary)
- establish legal position in relation to the harmful behaviour i.e. is there a criminal charge in process and the route this is following
- link with child or young person and their parents / carers as appropriate; this must include advising them of their legal rights
- measures in place to mediate community response (this may include a Community Impact Assessment by police if deemed appropriate)
- agreement of communications strategy to manage any media attention
- agreement of strategies to manage a child or young person's increased risk to self

Interim tasks may include:

- development of safety plans in relation to particular settings (e.g. home, school, residential unit) outlining interim risk management measures to be put in place
- identify and build on strengths and protective factors
- the need for a child or young person to be referred to the Children's Reporter
- the need for a referral to specialist services (e.g. for completion of relevant related assessments such as psychological / psychiatric / functional offending behaviour / risk)
- the allocation of a Lead Professional (if this has not already occurred)

If an **Initial CARM Meeting** is deemed necessary, the Lead Professional must have the following information to hand - detail of the concerns, potential harm or actual harm, including relevant supplementary information pertinent to the concerns where available.

Information for an **Initial CARM Meeting** should encompass:

- a copy of single / multi-agency assessments of wellbeing or equivalent and Child or Young Person's Plan for the relevant child or young person where this is available
- copies of any completed risk assessments
- copies of any specialist assessments or assessments from other practitioners / services / agencies e.g. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) or Education etc
- all available information which can be gathered within the timescale
- chronology of offending / harmful behaviour
- understanding of strengths or protective factors

CARM Requirement 2

An Initial CARM Meeting should take place as soon as possible and no later than 21 calendar days after the CARM Referral Discussion.

Chairing – In Perth and Kinross, all **Initial CARM Meetings** will be chaired by a **Designated Manager from Children, Families and Justice Service**.

Initial CARM Meetings will, in practice, be similar to, but different from, [Child Protection Planning Meetings \(CPPMs\)](#). On some occasions, it may be appropriate to combine an **Initial CARM Meeting** with a CPPM (to prevent duplication).

Initial CARM Meetings can take place in-person and / or online.

The **Designated Manager** will liaise with the Lead Professional and the Named Person for the subject child or young person, when arranging this **Initial CARM Meeting**.

A **Minute Taker** should be present to take a note of the **Initial CARM Meeting**. Alternatively, the **Initial CARM Meeting** can be recorded and transcribed later.

Attendees – Each **Initial CARM Meeting** will be unique / bespoke to meet the needs of the subject child or young person, so those attending will vary. As a minimum, the following individuals, services and agencies should be invited to attend:

- child, young person and their parents / carers (unless this would be considered to be detrimental)
- independent advocacy
- chair (Designated Manager from Children, Families and Justice Service) and a Minute Taker
- social work (including the Lead Professional)
- education (including the Named Person)
- health
- police

- others – including foster / kinship carers; third sector partners; housing services; mental health services, alcohol and drug services; psychological services; throughcare aftercare services; criminal justice services; MAPPA; etc

It is important that prior to an **Initial CARM Meeting** taking place, the child or young person and their parents / carers are made aware of the meeting; know who will be attending the meeting; understand the purpose and process of the meeting. It is important that children, young people and their parents / carers views are sought and if they are unable, or decline, to attend the meeting, these views are expressed on their behalf (preferably by independent advocacy).

Those attending the **Initial CARM Meeting** must consider whether the child or young person is subject to any form of statutory order (s). If they are, further liaisons and discussions will need to take place to agree the parameters of any CARM related interventions, so as not to prejudice other proceedings.

Initial CARM Meeting attendees will need to consider all the circumstances of the referred child or young person in order to be clear about current or potential protection issues. Specifically, the meeting should consider:

- what further action (if any) needs to be taken to keep the referred child or young person safe?
- what further action (if any) needs to be taken to keep the referred child's or young person's family member (s) /carer (s) safe?
- what further action (if any) needs to be taken to keep other members of the community safe?
- what existing strengths or protective factors can be built upon?

what would enhance the safe management of risk in that child or young person's environment?

CARM Requirement 3

The Chair of the Initial CARM Meeting must identify an appropriate practitioner to complete the necessary risk assessments.

Assessment (s) – The practitioner who first raised the concern, or their Line Manager, or a Lead Professional (where already appointed), will be responsible for completing a Risk Assessment, prior to the **Initial CARM Meeting**.

Other partner services and agencies may be asked to, and should be able to, contribute to this Risk Assessment.

Existing service / agency Risk Assessment Templates should be used and should reflect the following guidance:

- [Getting it right for every child – National Practice Model](#)
- [National Risk Framework to Support the Assessment of Children and Young People](#) (Scottish Government: 2012)

- [Framework for Risk Assessment Management and Evaluation \(FRAME\) with Children Aged 12 – 17 \(Standards, Guidance and operational Requirements for Risk Practice\)](#) (Scottish Government: 2021) – [Risk Assessment](#)
- [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 – updated 2023](#) (Scottish Government: 2023) – [Risk Assessment](#)

CARM Requirement 4

Where a Risk Assessment has been completed in advance of an Initial CARM Meeting this should be provided 5 working days in advance to the Chair of the Initial CARM Meeting.

Initial CARM Meetings must not be delayed simply because a full Risk Assessment has not been completed.

In the interim, the Child Concern Report, any Minute or Note from the **CARM Referral Discussion** and any Risk Assessment Reports from any service / agency should be provided to the Chair of the **Initial CARM Meeting**. These will in turn inform any CARM related Child or Young Person’s Plan.

Initial CARM Meeting attendees will scrutinise the content of any assessments, in particular any assessment completed by the practitioner who first raised the concern, or their Line Manager, or a Lead Professional (where already appointed).

The Chair of the **Initial CARM Meeting** must ensure that risk management strategies are fully considered; including the need for monitoring; supervision; intervention; victim safety planning and specifically contingency plans.

In keeping with the national [FRAME Guidance](#), CARM related Risk Assessments must include four key aspects of assessing risk – [Identification](#); [Analysis](#); [Evaluation](#) and [Communication](#).

There should be a clear plan as to what action should be taken, when and by who and this should include emergency contact numbers both within hours and outwith hours.

CARM Requirement 5

The Lead Professional is responsible for updating the Child or Young Person’s Plan to incorporate the risk management strategies.

Following an **Initial CARM Meeting**, where Risk Assessment Reports will have been shared and discussed, the child or young person may be the subject of a **CARM related Child or Young Person’s Plan**.

Ideally, this should complement, but not replace, our existing Child or Young Person’s Plan.

The **CARM related Child or Young Person’s Plan** must be informed by service / agency Risk Assessment Reports. The Plan should include both needs, risks and mitigations. The Plan should be SMART and include contingency planning.

In keeping with the national [FRAME Guidance](#), a **CARM related Child or Young Person's Plan** should reflect the [FRAME Planning Guidance](#).

The Plan should also reflect the following national guidance:

[Getting it right for every child – The Child's Plan](#)

[National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 – updated 2023](#) (Scottish Government: 2023) – [Planning](#)

CARM Requirement 6

The Initial CARM Meeting chair will establish the attendee's views as to whether the child or young person requires ongoing risk management through the CARM process or not and the reasons.

CARM Requirement 7

Decision at the Initial CARM Meeting should be reached by consensus, where this is not, this should be recorded and the chair will make the final decision whether a CARM process is required or not.

At the **Initial CARM Meeting**, the Chair should seek to establish the attendee's views as to whether the child or young person should be the subject of a CARM related intervention, or whether existing inter-agency child protection assessment and planning arrangements are sufficient to manage the level of risk.

If so, the chair should identify the participants of a **CARM Core Group**.

The **CARM Core Group** should be made up of the people who will take forward the **CARM related Child or Young Person's Plan** and therefore need to meet regularly in order to update, review and make recommendations to the next **CARM Review Group** meeting.

CARM Requirement 8

A full minute, approved by the chair of the Initial CARM Meeting, must be circulated to attendees within 15 calendar days.

In Perth and Kinross, the key decisions, actions and tasks agreed at the **Initial CARM Meeting**, will be communicated, by E-Mail, to those who were invited, to those who attended, and to those who did not attend the **Initial CARM Meeting**.

This information will be shared by the end of the same day the **Initial CARM Meeting** took place, or first thing the next day, without further delay. The Minute will follow as soon as possible.

CARM Requirement 9

The Lead Professional must communicate key decisions of the Initial CARM Meeting to the child, or young person and their parent / carer the same day.

CARM Core Group

In Perth and Kinross, **CARM Core Groups** will meet minimally every 6 weeks and will be chaired by the Lead Professional's Team Leader.

The functions of a **CARM Core Group** include:

- review the contingency plan and early warning signs / triggers
- ensure that the child, or young person and their parents / carers are active participants in the process of risk management and risk reduction
- ensure ongoing assessment of the needs of, and risks to, a child or young person subject to the CARM process
- implementing, monitoring and reviewing risk management strategies so that the focus remains on improving outcomes for the child or young person. This will include evaluating the impact of work done and / or changes within the family in order to decide whether risks have increased or decreased
- activating contingency plans promptly when progress is not made or circumstances deteriorate
- reporting to **CARM Review Meetings** on progress
- referring any significant changes to risk management strategies, including non-engagement of the family, to the chair of the CARM meetings
- to determine whether meeting more frequently is both necessary and proportionate
- ensuring appropriate representation and engagement of key partners
- ensuring the minute is recorded and circulated
- ensuring decisions are taken to address any obstacles to the delivery of **CARM related Child or Young Persons Plan**

CARM Review Meeting

Where it is agreed that a child or young person should be managed and supported by CARM, a **CARM Review Meeting** should be arranged within 3 months from the **Initial CARM Meeting**.

The chair of the **Initial CARM Meeting** and Lead Professional will be responsible for arranging the **CARM Review Meeting**.

The purpose of the **CARM Review Meeting** is to:

- review the **CARM related Child or Young Person's Plan** (risk management plan)
- consider any reported / referred further incidents of harm involving the child or young person since the previous CARM Meeting

- consider whether any form of further assessment is required to inform risk management strategies
- review the risk management elements of the **CARM related Child or Young Person's Plan** and to identify what progress has been made, if any, as regards the implementation of risk management strategies
- consider whether modifications or additions to the existing risk management strategies as encompassed in the **CARM related Child or Young Persons's Plan** are necessary and to ensure that the Lead Professional records any such changes
- evaluate progress in relation to risk reduction
- consider the views of the child, or young person and their parents /carers
- assess their level of co-operation with risk management strategies

The **CARM Review Meeting** will re-assess the need for the child or young person to remain subject to CARM.

CARM Links to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

When CARM arrangements are in place for a child or young person charged, but not yet convicted of a crime or offence of a serious nature, it is possible that during the course of the CARM process his / her legal status will change.

A child or young person under the age of 18 may become subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) as a result of conviction in the Adult Justice System. Due consideration should be given to local processes for management of individuals who present a risk to the community, but fall outwith the terms of the MAPPA.

It will be the responsibility of the CARM chair to liaise with the local MAPPA Co-ordinator to agree on the most appropriate local arrangements by which to manage safely the risks presented by the child or young person involved in offending of a serious nature. In particular, agreement should be sought in relation to:

- the process for managing a child or young person's transition from CARM to MAPPA
- the arrangements for CARM when a young person attains the age of 18 and continues to present significant concerns, although not subject to MAPPA

In preparation for a planned transition of a young person from CARM to MAPPA, it may be useful for the incoming MAPPA Chair to attend the last CARM meeting, prior to the change. Alternatively, there may be value in a CARM chair attending the first MAPPA meeting for the young person following transition.

CARM Exit Planning

In accordance with the principle of minimum intervention, every effort should be made to ensure that a child or young person is retained within the CARM process for no longer than is absolutely necessary.

CARM Disagreements or Dissent

Before CARM – If there is any practitioner, service or agency disagreement about the need for a CARM intervention, this will be recorded and if this cannot be resolved quickly, between the practitioners and their managers, then the [CPC's Practitioner's Guide: Resolution and Escalation Arrangements](#) should be followed without delay.

During CARM – It is important that all practitioners, services and agencies involved in these CARM arrangements feel comfortable in displaying professional curiosity. This is paramount to good CARM decision-making. It is acknowledged that there may be, on occasion, disagreement and / or dissent with CARM decision-making process.

In the event of any practitioner, service or agency disagreement within the CARM meeting and / or decision-making process, the CARM Chair will have the final decision.

Should any practitioner, service or agency remain dissatisfied with the outcome, they can request that the CARM Chair's decision needs to be subjected to independent scrutiny, by the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO).

The CARM chair will refer the matter to the CSWO, by including a written summary of the dissent from the appropriate practitioner, service or agency, the decision reached, all tabled reports and the draft minute, **no later than 24 hours after the decision** has been made at a CARM meeting.

The CSWO will review and reach a decision as soon as possible and in any case, **within 7 days** of the original CARM meeting decision.

This CSWO decision and rationale will be confirmed in writing to all present at the original or previous CARM meeting, including the child, young person and their family.

If the child, young person or their parent/caregiver is in disagreement with the CARM decision or plan, they should be advised to put their concerns in writing to the CSWO within 7 days of the meeting. The CSWO will respond as soon as possible; usually within 7 days of receipt of the concerns. Children and young people and their parents/caregivers should always be advised of their right to access legal advice and / or support from an Independent Advocate.

7. CARM Governance and Oversight

CARM arrangements are defined in this Joint Protocol and reflect the provisions contained within [Framework for Risk Assessment management and Evaluation \(FRAME\) with Children Aged 12 – 17 \(Standards, Guidance and operational Requirements for Risk Practice](#) (Scottish Government: 2021).

CARM arrangements are overseen by the CPC and subject to external scrutiny and inspection by the Care Inspectorate.

CARM Requirement 10

The CPC will provide oversight and scrutiny of the functioning of the CARM process, the decision making, views of children, young people and their parents / carers involved.

CARM Requirement 11

When a child or young person subject to the CARM process has been involved in an incident, where further harm has resulted from their behaviour, the CARM chair must submit a Learning Review Notification to the CSWO for consideration by the CPC.

CARM related referrals are also to be included in the revised Criteria for Learning Reviews which will state: *“where the child or young person is being managed under Care and Risk Management (CARM) processes and he / she causes harm to another person or to themselves”* they will be referred to the CPC for consideration as a Learning Review.

In the interim, the current [National Guidance for Child Protection Committees: Undertaking Learning Reviews](#) (Scottish Government: 2021) is still relevant to CARM.

The national [FRAME Guidance](#) also provides the CPC with a [CARM Quantitative Dataset](#) which the CPC will have an overview of.

In Perth and Kinross key CARM Data will be provided to the CPC on a 6 monthly basis.

Appendix 1 - Key Practice Points

- practice guidance to **effectively manage and support** children and young people in the need of CARM
- complementary guidance – **does not change any existing single or inter-agency child protection arrangements**
- **not a separate or parallel process**
- applies to what is anticipated to be a **relatively small number of children and young people**
- primarily for children and young people aged **between 12 years and 18 years**
- whose **behaviour may pose an imminent risk of serious harm, or has caused serious harm, to themselves or others**
- harm which is of a **violent or sexual nature**
- response and approach framed within a [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\)](#) and a [child protection](#) context
- CARM builds on **well-established / existing child and young person inter-agency assessment, planning and decision-making processes**
- identify and describe the concern with Line Manager – **do not delay**
- request and participate in a **CARM Referral Discussion within 24 hours** of the concern being identified as concerning
- implement and complete any **immediate or interim tasks – focus in safety, care and protection**
- prepare and participate in the **Initial CARM Meeting**, which should take place **no later than 21 calendar days** after the **CARM Referral Discussion**
- contribute to any assessment and to the **CARM related Child or Young Person's Plan**
- participate in the **CARM Core Group Meetings**, which will take place **every 6 weeks** after the **Initial CARM Meeting**
- implement and monitor the actions and tasks contained within **CARM related Child or Young Person's Plan**, aimed at managing, mitigating and reducing the risk of significant harm
- report back to and participate in the **CARM Review Group Meetings**, which will take place **every 3 months** after the **Initial CARM Meeting**
- ensure the child or young person is not retained in the CARM process unnecessarily – **plan for a CARM exit**

Appendix 2 - CPC Inter-Agency Supporting Guidance etc

- [P&K CPC Inter-Agency Child Protection Guidelines 2023](#)
- [P&K Code of Practice: Information Sharing, Confidentiality and Consent](#)
- [P&K CPC Practitioner's Guide: Working with Hostile and / or Non-Engaging Parents and Carers](#)
- [P&K CPC Practitioner's Guide: Professional Curiosity](#)
- [P&K CPC's Practitioner's Guide: Resolution and Escalation Arrangements](#)
- [Tayside Multi-Agency Practitioner's Guidance: Inter-Agency Referral Discussions \(IRDs\)](#)
- [P&K CPC & APC Joint Protocol: Guiding Principles for Safe Transition between, within and across Children's Services and Adult Services including Young People Aged 16 to 18 years](#)

Appendix 3 – CARM Flowchart

