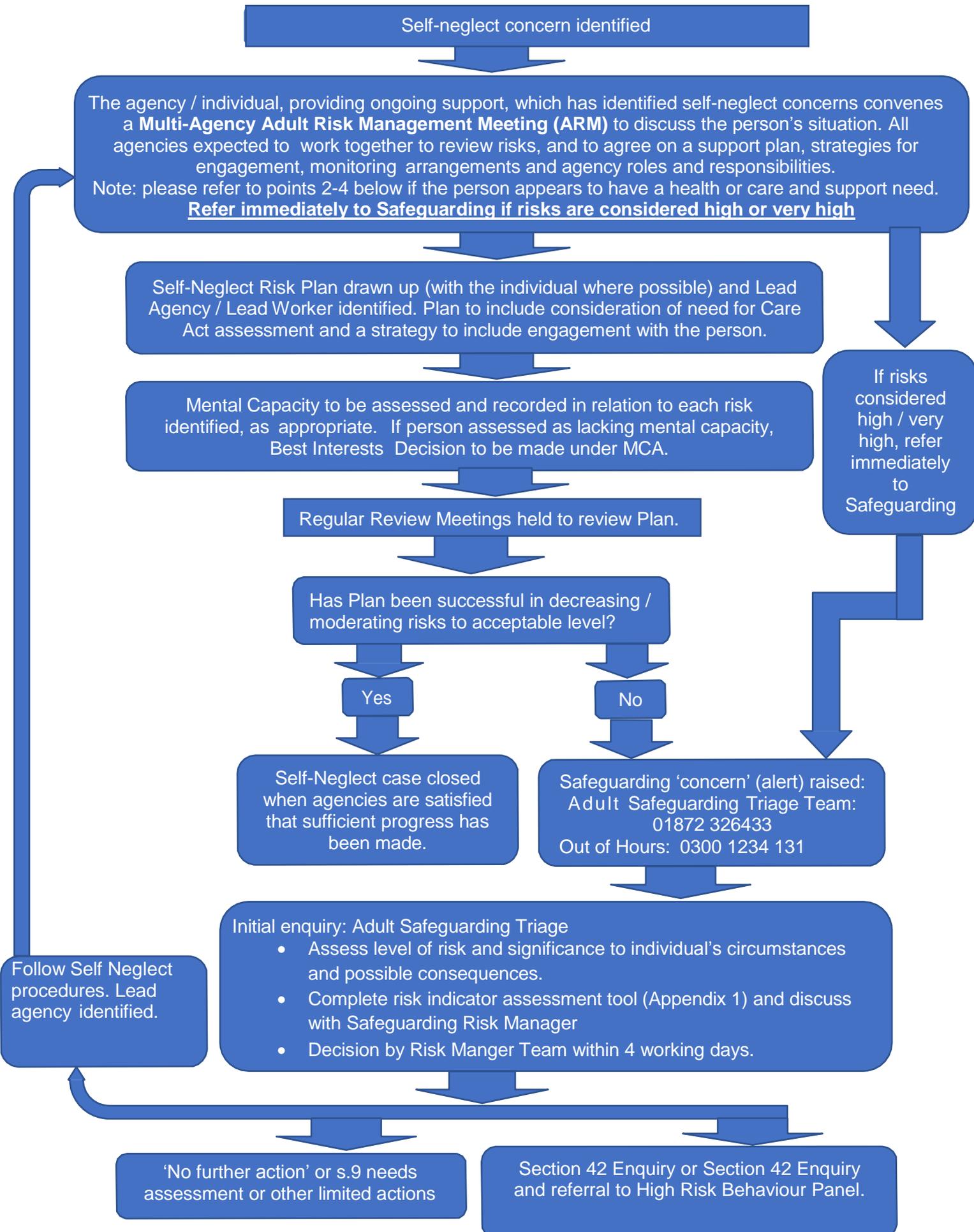


## 'QUICK GUIDE' TO THE SELF-NEGLECT PROCEDURES (1)



## ‘QUICK GUIDE’ TO THE SELF-NEGLECT PROCEDURES (2)

1. It will normally be the responsibility of any agency/individual providing ongoing support, which first identifies an issue of Self-Neglect, to arrange an initial Multi-Agency Adult Risk Management (ARM) meeting.
2. **However, where the person appears to have a need for care and support, a referral for an assessment either under section 9 or 11 of the Care Act 2014 should be made and this should be undertaken by the Locality Social Work Team within 28 days. Section 19 of the Care Act gives power to meet urgent needs without having completed a needs assessment.** The agency/individual identifying self-neglect must consider whether an ARM meeting needs to be convened before the assessment has been completed.
3. **Similarly, where the person appears to have specific health needs, a referral should be made to the appropriate Health professional(s) for relevant assessments to be undertaken.**
4. The agency/individual identifying the self-neglect concern should, wherever possible, make the person aware that they are referring them for the Health or social care assessment.
5. **An immediate Safeguarding Adults referral must be made if the risks are considered high or very high or where there appear to have been acts of neglect or abuse by a third party.** However, where this is not the case, these Self Neglect procedures should be followed.
6. A ‘Lead Agency’ should be agreed at an early stage – this should be the most appropriate agency involved with the person, e.g. Social Care, a GP, CFT, the Police, a Housing agency or any other organisation involved with the person, either statutory or voluntary.
7. Where an assessment is being undertaken or there is a safeguarding enquiry the Local Authority will be the lead agency unless the person is being managed by Mental Health Services.
8. The self-neglecting person should always be informed of the meeting and invited to attend. The person should be referred to independent advocacy if there is a view that they would have substantial difficulty in participating in the process and there is no other appropriate person to support the..
9. It will be the responsibility of all agencies to prioritise ARM meetings and discussions and to fully co-operate with the process, giving cases of Self-Neglect the same weight as those under the Multi Agency Safeguarding Adults Procedures. Any disputes regarding non-co-operation by a relevant agency which cannot be resolved should be escalated to the Councils Head of Service for Safeguarding Quality Assurance and Improvement.
10. The ARM will consider any risk assessments which have been undertaken and decide what actions are required to engage and communicate with the person, by whom and by when. It will also agree a ‘Lead Worker’ to co-ordinate actions, and will set a date for a review meeting. A record of the meeting will be made and distributed as soon as possible after the meeting takes place (an agenda template is attached at Appendix 2).

11. While the Lead Worker will be responsible for co-ordinating and leading the work to engage the person, it remains the responsibility of all other agencies to work in partnership with the Lead Worker with the aim of improving the wellbeing of the person who is self-neglecting, and minimising risk to the person and others. The Lead Agency / Lead Worker role may change at any time if there are strong reasons to do so, but this decision should be clearly recorded and communicated to all those involved.
12. Following initial attempts to engage the person / minimise risks, including (where relevant) assessments of the person's mental capacity, a Review Meeting will be held to review progress, and further reviews will be arranged as required.
13. Creative approaches may well be needed to engage the person – and a Care Act (s.9 or s11) assessment of support needs and/or carer's assessment may lead to services being provided.
14. A Safeguarding Adults referral can be made at any time if the risks have increased or cannot be adequately addressed.
15. The Self-Neglect Multi-Agency process will only be closed when a clear reduction in risk can be demonstrated or when the case is escalated to the Safeguarding Adults procedures.
16. At the point of closure, a plan should be drawn up to establish ongoing arrangements for monitoring the situation (as appropriate) and this should include arrangements to ensure that the person themselves and / or people in the person's network know how to raise any further concerns in the future.