

MARU



Every Moment Matters

Seven Minute Safeguarding

WB 29th November 2021

What is MARU?

MARU stands for Multi-Agency Referral Unit and is a department within the Council. The MARU provides a multi-disciplinary response to concerns about the welfare or safety of a child or young person in line with statutory guidance. They are also able to offer advice to professionals, parents and members of the public regarding the safeguarding of children.

We use the acronym MARU regularly in Safeguarding but what does it stand for and what do they do?

Are you worried about a child or young person?

If you think a child or young person might be suffering neglect or abuse contact the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU)

If you see something, say something

0300 1231 116

multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk

Whilst you may be concerned about involving our services, we do more than check up on children and young people's welfare. If a family is struggling, we can organise early help and support for them, before any problems become harder to solve.

What information do I need to give?
The more detail you are able to provide, the better we will be able to help. If you have noticed that something wrong, other people might have too. A teacher, health visitor or other person that knows the family might have already alerted us, and your knowledge might fill in some missing information that can help.



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In the first instance of any safeguarding concerns in school, you must speak to the DSL or DDSL.

Who can contact MARU any why?

Anyone who has a concern relating to the wellbeing of a child can call MARU and speak to one of the duty Social Workers. They will offer advice to professionals about how to best deal with a case in the setting or may decide that it requires further investigation and support from a Social Worker. Members of the public may anonymously report concerns pertaining to the well-being of a child. These are then followed up by a social worker.

Do MARU only refer families to Social Workers?

No. The MARU will try to help by signposting professionals and families to the service that can best help meet the child's needs. Sometimes they will recommend a referral to the Early Help Hub (EHH) and they will complete an Early Help assessment. The EHH provide support for a whole range of things including, but not limited to: CAHMS, Parenting support, Family Conferencing, SALT, School Nurse and Health Visitors.

MARU can be contacted via email:

multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk

or phone: 0300 1231 116