

## Practitioner Guidance for Referring to MARAC

### What is a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)?

A MARAC meeting is where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, probation, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. After sharing all relevant information they have about a victim, perpetrator and children, the representatives discuss options for increasing the safety of all involved and turn these into a co-ordinated action plan. The primary focus of the MARAC is to safeguard the victim and their family. MARAC will also make links with other agencies to safeguard children and manage the behaviour of the perpetrator. At the heart of a MARAC is the working assumption that no single agency or individual can see the complete picture of the life of a victim, but all may have insights that are crucial to their safety.

### Making a MARAC referral – when, why and how?

#### Why would you refer a case to MARAC?

Disclosure of domestic abuse is made to you or there is some element of the client's behaviour that gives you a cause for concern. You must carry out any safeguarding actions in line with your agencies policies and procedures, eg; making appropriate referrals to Children's Services, etc



Complete a Risk Indication Checklist with the victim if possible or if not possible, complete this with as much information as you are aware of, in relation to the current risks. Checklists can be obtained from emailing [marac@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:marac@durham.pnn.police.uk) or by visiting <http://www.safelives.org.uk/practice-support/resources-identifying-risk-victims-face>



If the risk level meets MARAC threshold of **High Risk**, complete the MARAC referral form and email to [marac@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:marac@durham.pnn.police.uk)

You may also wish to refer the case to the appropriate Domestic Abuse Service.



If the Risk Level is not High, continue to complete all appropriate safeguarding actions and refer to appropriate Domestic Abuse Service.

If the Risk Indicator results in a low or medium grading, however in your professional opinion you believe the case to be high, contact the MARAC Coordinator to discuss.

MARAC Coordinator: Melanie Teggert 0191 375 2072



### Referral made to MARAC

Once your referral is made to MARAC, it is logged and considered for inclusion in the MARAC meeting. You are informed of the date of the meeting and invited to attend as the referring agency.



### MARAC Meeting

Meetings are held on a fortnightly basis. Agencies share relevant information regarding the individuals involved in the case and a safety plan is developed for the victim and their family, with the aim of reducing the risk posed by the perpetrator. You may have actions from the meeting, which you will be expected to complete and feed back to the MARAC team.

NB. Any further incidents that occur, which are classed as High Risk, **MUST** be referred back into MARAC. It cannot be assumed that MARAC will be aware of new incidents as we do not hold a running caseload. MARAC is a conferencing and coordination medium and responsibility to take appropriate actions is **NOT** transferred to MARAC

### Risk Classifications

#### High

There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.

#### Medium

There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The offender has the potential to cause serious harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances, for example, failure to take medication, loss of accommodation, relationship, breakdown, drug or alcohol misuse

#### Standard

Current evidence does not indicate likelihood of causing serious harm.

### What are the legal grounds for sharing information?

Disclosures to MARAC are made under the Data Protection Act and the Human Rights Act. Information can be shared with or without consent in the public interest, when it is necessary to prevent a crime, protect the health and/or safety of the victim and/or the rights and freedoms of those who are victims of violence and/or their children. It must be proportionate to the level of risk of harm to a named individual or known household. All information is shared under the proviso that it is non-disclosable to the perpetrator under any circumstance.

For further advice and guidance contact MARAC Coordinator Melanie Teggert 0191 375 2072 or the MARAC Team at [marac@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:marac@durham.pnn.police.uk) or visit <http://www.safelives.org.uk/practice-support/resources-marac-meetings>