

MARAC

A leaflet for professionals

Protecting high-risk survivors/victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse



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

MARAC is a partnership approach and its core objective is to share information about victims of domestic violence (DV) and the perpetrators.

Different agencies such as mental health services, safeguarding children services, A&E, victim support, probation, CYPD, education welfare, housing and DFRS, meet to identify and reduce risks with the Police acting as the lead agency.

There are 5 MARAC areas in Derbyshire, these are Alfreton, Buxton, Chesterfield, South Derbyshire and Derby City.

MARAC concentrates on information which is directly relevant to the safety of the victim.

Why MARAC?

It is estimated that 10% of all Domestic Violence (DV) cases can be described as high risk. Where MARACs have been independently evaluated they have been shown to reduce murders and serious risks from DV in a significant number of cases.

How does someone get referred to MARAC?

- MARAC cases can be referred from any agency. A person would have to disclose they were a victim of domestic violence. The perpetrator(s) would never be told of the MARAC process.
- A CAADA-DASH Risk Identification Checklist (RIC) would be completed for the victim by the practitioner. Only high risk victims can be referred, those who total 16 points or more. But you can use professional judgement and speak directly to the Police and they will consider the referral if a lower score is reached.
- A MARAC referral form would then be completed and sent to the Police along with the RIC. This must only be sent via secure email as indicated on the forms.
- The Police collect referral details and send out an agenda prior to a meeting.
- The Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) would contact the victim.
- The agenda is researched and gathered by all agencies for the meeting.
- The MARAC takes place and information is shared.
- IDVA brings the views of the victim and safety concerns.
- Once the meeting is over the minutes are sent out to all agencies.

Does the victim have to give consent to this sharing of information?

No, but safety planning will be more effective if s/he agrees to work with the IDVA. The referring agency should inform the survivor/victim in advance that information will be shared, to check this does not put them at greater risk, and encourage them to engage with the IDVA involved.

What happens at a MARAC meeting?

A nominated person from each agency attends to share information relating to DV and to make a note of anything new to help them to safety plan within their agency.

The Police start each case by sharing their intelligence and information on the victim, perpetrator and any children involved. Information could include names, dates of birth, summary of events and/or injuries, including emotional/psychological abuse or intimidation and impact, and what relevant services have been accessed. This results in a much broader picture of what is going on for those victims.

A safety action plan is developed for each victim during this meeting by all agencies.

Is the victim invited to the MARAC meeting?

No. It would not be possible for victims to be present without breaching their confidentiality.

What if the case does not meet the MARAC criteria (16 points)?

If a victim does not meet the criteria they should continue receiving understanding and support whilst they are a service user.

Speak to the Police directly about the victim and they may proceed to MARAC using your professional judgement.

If the case still doesn't go to MARAC then the victim should be monitored and the RIC updated at a later date.

What happens after a MARAC?

The IDVA will let the victim know about the safety plan, safety measures and the support each agency offers. The safety plan will be about actions to support the survivor/victim and any children and to reduce the risk from the perpetrator.

Derbyshire Healthcare reps, MARAC reps or researchers will add an alert to the Carenotes and Bomic Systems for the victim, perpetrator and possibly children.

If a victim/perpetrator known to our services was a victim or perpetrator of domestic violence this will appear as a MARAC Alert.

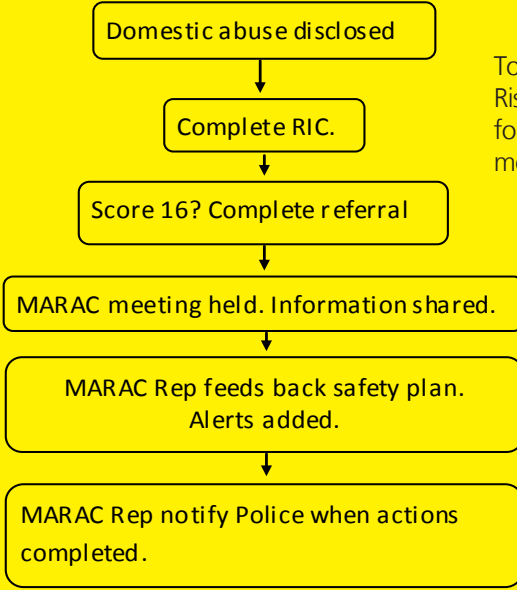
If a victim/perpetrator is not known to our services then this will be added as a new EPR, with no NHS number. A MARAC Alert will be present, stating "not known to mental health".

There may be a 'harm to others' alert with regards to the victim/perpetrator due to weapons they carry or hold at home. Or a possible caution for staff to not visit alone.

What if the domestic violence or abuse continues?

If a victim whose case has already been considered at a MARAC later reports an incident to any agency, that agency must refer the case back to the MARAC as a repeat case. This allows the MARAC to re-design the safety plan, taking the new information into account.

MARAC process Flowchart



To download a MARACCAADA-DASH Risk Identification Checklist and Referral form visit the DHCFT Connect Site for more information.

Available in other languages and other formats. Please ask for a translation.

Dostupno u drugim jezicima i formatima. Molimo, zatražite prevod.

可翻譯為其他語言或用其他格式顯示。請要求獲得翻譯本。

Disponible dans d'autres langues et dans d'autres formats. Veuillez demander une traduction.

अन्य भाषाओं और अन्य प्रारूपों में उपलब्ध, कृपया अनुवाद के लिए पूछें।

可翻译为其他语言或用其他格式显示。请要求获得翻译本。

Informacje dostępne w innych językach i formatach. Prosimy zapytać o tłumaczenie.

ਦੁਜੀਆਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਦੂਜੇ ਫਾਰਮੈਟਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ। ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਲਈ ਕਹੋ।

Dostupno na drugim jezicima i u drugim formatima. Molimo pitajte za prevod.

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