

# Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)



**Domestic violence isn't always easy to see**

Information for agencies



**WEST YORKSHIRE  
POLICE**



## What is a MARAC?

MARAC stands for Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference. It is a tool for high risk victims of Domestic Violence and Abuse DVA. MARAC is a process which enables a group of representatives from a number of agencies to meet on a regular basis. Information is shared on those at 'high risk' of homicide or serious harm.

**An action plan will be devised to reduce the level of risk posed to them and their children**

## Why MARAC?

It is estimated that 10% of all Domestic Violence and Abuse DVA cases can be described as high risk. MARACS can reduce murders and serious risks if used effectively in a significant number of cases.

## The MARAC aims to:

- Share information to increase the safety, health and wellbeing of victims and their children
- Determine the risk posed by the perpetrator to an individual, their family and the wider community
- Implement an integrated risk management plan
- Reduce repeat victimisation
- Improve agency accountability
- Improve support for staff involved in high risk domestic abuse cases

## How do Practitioners determine if a case is high risk?

Practitioners are required to complete a CAADA DASH Risk Indicator Checklist (RIC). The checklist should be complete with the victim where possible to determine the level of risk. If the risk assessment score is 14 or more, the MARAC threshold for high risk as been met and a referral to the conference should be made.

**Guidelines on completing the CADA DASH RIC is available here:**

**[www.caada.org.uk/marac/RIC\\_without\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/RIC_without_guidance.pdf)**

## **How do Practitioners refer to the MARAC?**

Once a high risk case has been identified, the practitioner will need to complete a MARAC referral form.

**Guidance on completing the MARAC Referral Form is available by emailing: [MARAC@kirkless.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:MARAC@kirkless.gcsx.gov.uk).**

Any agency can make a referral, providing they have signed the Kirklees MARAC Information Exchange Protocol. Referrals should be submitted securely via secure email to the MARAC email account.

## **Professional Judgement**

Referrals are not solely based on the CAADA DASH indicator risk assessment score. A practitioner can still make a referral to MARAC based on their professional opinion if they believe the risk is such that it warrants a referral, or if there has been a notable escalation in the frequency or severity of incidents.

## **What happens when the referral has been made to the MARAC?**

Prior to the MARAC details are sent of all cases to be discussed by secure email to the agencies that have signed the MARAC Information Exchange Protocol and asks them to search their records for any relevant information to bring to the MARAC meeting.

## **Does the survivor/victim have to give consent to this sharing of information?**

No, but it is good practice and likely to be more effective if s/he is involved in the process. The referring agency should inform the survivor/victim in advance that information will be shared; however, discretion can be used when it is thought this could put them at greater risk by alerting the perpetrator of what is happening.

## **MARAC and safeguarding adults and children**

MARAC complements existing safeguarding procedures. It does not replace them. If you are concerned about a child or adult at risk you should follow your agency procedures.

## **What happens at the MARAC meeting?**

Information is shared enabling an up to date and relevant safety plan to be made by agencies for the survivor/victim.

## **Does the survivor/victim get invited to the MARAC meeting?**

No

## **What happens after the MARAC?**

Practitioners in regular contact with the survivor/victim will let them know about the safety plan, safety measures and support each agency is offering.

## **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 MARAC as a repeat case.

## **How does the MARAC operate?**

The MARAC is chaired by Kirklees Safeguarding Unit and is co-ordinated by Wellbeing and Integration, Kirklees Council.

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**For more information, please email [MARAC@kirkless.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:MARAC@kirkless.gcsx.gov.uk)**