

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Understanding the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference



Domestic violence isn't always easy to see

Information for victims and survivors



**WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE**



What is Domestic Violence/ Abuse?

Domestic Violence/Abuse (DVA) can be any incident or behaviour that may be threatening, violent, or abusive. Examples can be psychological (playing with your mind), physical (hurting you) sexual (making you do things and have sex when you don't want to), financial (keeping your money and or not letting you have any money) or emotional (hurting your feelings by always putting you down).

DVA is about someone you know, a past or current partner, or a member of your family trying to have power and control over you. It can happen to anyone by anyone.

What is MARAC?

MARAC stands for Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference. MARAC meets regularly in Kirklees where workers from a number of agencies discuss your safety, health and well being and that of your family members who are experiencing what we call 'high risk' domestic abuse. The aim of the MARAC is to increase your and your family's safety.

Who is referred to MARAC?

You get referred to MARAC if you are identified as being at 'high risk'. That means if you are at risk of serious current or future harm. Normally that is because of what the abuser is doing or threatening to do. The worker from the agency referring you to MARAC should speak to you about it and ask if you are in agreement with it. Sometimes someone may be referred to MARAC without their agreement this happens when their or their children's safety is at real risk.

Why have a MARAC?

The aim of the MARAC is to get a clearer picture of the situation in order to better understand your needs.

Do I need to go to the MARAC?

No, it is just the workers from the different agencies who attend.

How will the MARAC help me?

Remember if you are referred into the MARAC it is because you are believed to be at 'high risk' of current or future harm. Agencies will be trying to make you safer by working together and with you to help and support you. Some of the actions a MARAC might take include:-

- making sure any agencies you approach are aware of your situation so they can support you better
- getting you specialist domestic abuse advice and support
- making your home more secure
- assisting with housing issues
- arranging joint meetings to coordinate any support you need

Who attends MARAC?

A number of different agencies attend these include:-

- Police
- Probation
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)
- Housing
- Children and Young People's Services
- Adult Services
- Mental Health Services
- Health Services
- Drug and Alcohol Services
- Specialist Domestic Violence Services

How do I know the information shared about me is safe?

Everybody at the MARAC has to sign a confidentiality agreement. Any information resulting from the meeting will be kept secure and not shared with anyone who is not involved in your case. The abuser is not made aware the MARAC is taking place and information will not be passed on to them.

What happens after MARAC?

After a MARAC you will be told of the help and support the agencies are offering you.

National Domestic Violence Helpline:

Free phone 0808 2000 247

Alternatively contact:

Domestic Violence Team

01484 223221