

Guidance Notes for the Bradford District MARACs

What is MARAC? – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference

The MARAC is a process which enables a group of representatives from a number of agencies to meet on a regular basis to share information on those victims of Domestic Violence who are at the highest risk of homicide or serious harm. An action plan will be formulated in order to effectively reduce the level of risk posed to them and their children.

Bradford District currently has two MARACs which mirror the two police divisions; Airedale & Bradford North and Bradford South; they each meet once a month.

Aims of the MARAC

- To share information to increase the safety, health and wellbeing of victims and their children.
- To determine the risk posed by a perpetrator to an individual or community.
- To implement an integrated risk management plan.
- To reduce repeat victimisation.
- To improve agency accountability.

Who leads the MARAC?

The central point for MARAC is the MARAC Team based within the Adult Protection Unit, CBMDC. This includes the MARAC Co-ordinator and MARAC Administrator.

The MARAC is chaired by the Detective Inspector from the Safeguarding Unit who has responsibility for domestic violence within the police.

Who is the information shared with?

The MARAC is made up of statutory and voluntary sector organisations that have a duty or provide a service to work with victims of domestic violence, children or vulnerable adults affected by domestic violence or the perpetrators of domestic violence.

Each agency has signed up to the Information Sharing Protocol which allows the sharing of such confidential information.

Who attends the meetings?

Each organisation that has signed-up to MARAC has a nominated lead person called a Designated Officer. Only the Designated Officers (or their nominated deputies) have access to confidential information. The DO attends each MARAC and they are your point of contact representing your organisation.

What is the process?

1. The MARAC requires agencies working with victims of Domestic Abuse to complete a **Risk Indicator Checklist**. If the score on the **RIC** has reached 14 or more 'YES' responses (out of 25 questions) then it has reached the threshold for MARAC. However, referrals are not based solely on this risk assessment score; a professional can still make a referral to MARAC based on their professional opinion if they believe the risk is such that it warrants a referral to MARAC, or there has been notable escalation in the frequency or severity of incidents. A **Referral Form** is then completed and submitted to the MARAC Co-ordinator via a secure email account. It is also advisable to discuss the referral with the 'Designated Officer' within your organisation.

Each agency must continue their usual risk management throughout the process.

2. The MARAC Co-ordinator will compile a list of all the cases referred to MARAC and will send out an agenda and copies of the referral forms (accessible by DOs only) to agencies at least 8 working days prior to the next MARAC via the secure email account.
3. Each agency will have an appointed 'Designated Officer' who will research their systems for information that they hold on the victim, child or perpetrator which is relevant to the risk management. This information will be shared verbally at the MARAC.
4. The MARAC meeting will discuss each case individually and an action plan formulated in order to ensure the most appropriate support and risk reduction strategies are undertaken.

How do you complete the Risk Indicator Checklist?

It is asked that all agencies when working with a victim of domestic violence complete a Risk Indicator Checklist.

It will require you to ask the victim a set of sensitive questions to identify the risk that is posed to them. Should the RIC indicate high risk then a referral form should be completed and submitted as above.

If a victim declines to consent to share their information at MARAC, then it does not prevent a professional sharing the information with MARAC but this needs to be indicated on the referral form.

A signed copy of the 'Information Sharing without Consent' form should be held with the organisation sending the referral and a signed copy submitted to MARAC and retained on file.

What is the role of the IDVA?

Bradford District has two IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor/Advocate). The IDVAs are responsible for working with the victims of domestic violence in order to reduce the risk that is posed to them. The IDVAs are greatly involved in the MARAC process and they have a large part to play in the support and advocacy for the cases which are brought to MARAC. The IDVAs attend MARAC to represent the views and wishes of victims.

Who can we contact if we have any queries?

Please speak with your DO first for any queries you may have. Otherwise, the MARAC Co-ordinator can be contacted on 01274 437604.

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Safer and Stronger Communities