

MARAC Quick Summary – updated (Oct 2023)

The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is held on a weekly basis in all Northumbria areas where professionals meet to share information on high risk cases of domestic abuse. Information about the risks faced by those victims (16+) the actions needed to ensure safety, and the resources available locally, are discussed and used to create a risk management plan involving all agencies. The MARAC is part of a coordinated community response to domestic abuse, incorporating representatives from statutory, community and voluntary agencies working with victims, children and alleged perpetrators.

The MARAC aims to:

- Share information to increase the safety, health and well-being of victims/survivors – adults and their children
- Determine whether the alleged perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual or to the general community and attempt to mitigate this through action plan
- Jointly construct and implement a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and that reduces the risk of harm;
- Reduce repeat victimisation;
- Improve agency accountability; and
- Improve support for staff involved in high-risk domestic abuse cases.

The MASH MSO maintains a list of the nominated representatives for each agency represented at the MARAC, including a telephone number and secure email address.

How do Practitioners determine if a case is high risk?

Practitioners are required to complete a DASH Risk Indicator Checklist (RIC) with any victim that has disclosed domestic abuse. The checklist should be completed with the victim as soon as possible to determine the level of risk posed to them. If the risk assessment score is 14 + (or less in some cases for Young People) the MARAC threshold for high risk has been met and a referral to the conference should be made. There is additional guidance on SafeLives website re completing the DASH RICs for adults and young people (16+) where professional judgement will be considered in addition to score. There will be occasions where the particular context of a case gives rise to serious concerns even if the victim has been unable to disclose the information that might highlight their risk more clearly. See guidance attached to the DASH RIC. MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment

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. The DASH RIC **and** referral should be submitted to a specified spoc in every agency who will quality assure the document and then send it securely to the MASH Mailbox where the victim resides for consideration

Guidance on completing the MARAC Referral Form can be sought from the MSO, agency spoc and SafeLives Website.

What happens if the abuse continues?

The Government has said that all subsequent incidents of abuse, which occur within 12 months of the original MARAC hearing, should be re-referred to the MARAC. Therefore the same process is used in the initial referral should be followed. MARAC suggest that when any agency become aware of such behaviour, they should

refer the case back to MARAC for another review. MASH MSOs will consider all repeat incidents either from police or partner agency to determine that the risk is still current and high. Where they are assessed as meeting the threshold they will be re-referred into the MARAC process

Incidents that would constitute a re-referral include:

- Violence (to the person or property) or threats of violence;
- Where there is a pattern of stalking or harassment;
- Where rape or sexual abuse is disclosed.

How does the MARAC operate?

The MARAC is chaired by the MASH Supervisor in each MASH – under Safeguarding Dept

Who to Contact for further enquiries?

MASH Mailboxes for each geographical area

norhtyneside.mash@northumbria.police.uk

northumberland.mash@northumbria.police.uk

gateshead.mash@northumbria.police.uk

sunderland.mash@northumbria.police.uk

southtynesidemashmailbox@northumbria.police.uk

newcastle.mash@northumbria.police.uk