

How will the MARAC help me (and my children)?

If you have been referred to MARAC it is because the person who is referring you believes you could be at high risk of current or future harm. The MARAC can help high risk victims and survivors access more resources locally.

The MARAC can help you and some of these actions might be:

- Drawing up a safety plan to protect you
- Making sure any agencies that you approach are aware of your situation so they can support you better
- Ensuring schools do not allow your children to leave with anyone but you
- Arranging joint meetings between agencies to help coordinate any support you may need
- Assisting in emergency housing transfers if require
- Supporting you to help you move on from the abusive relationship

What happens after a MARAC?

After a MARAC your IDVA or another agency supporting you will feedback to you. They will let you know about the help and support that agencies are offering to you.

Things that people who have had their case discussed at MARAC have said:

“I found it very hard to accept that my relationship was abusive and was very scared of my partner, because of the MARAC meeting I engaged with a worker who helped and supported me. My worker worked jointly with other agencies and helped me address my issues around alcohol. I now feel a much stronger person.”

“I found that my case going to MARAC helped agencies work better with me as they knew I had been to MARAC and the situation was serious.”

Who can I talk to?

National Domestic Violence Helpline

Free 24hr confidential women's helpline

T: 0808 2000 247

W: www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk

Torbay Domestic Abuse Service (TDAS)

Supports victims of abuse

T: 01803 698869

W: www.sanctuary-supported-living.co.uk/tdas

Honour Network Helpline

Free confidential helpline that supports victims and survivors of forced marriage and honour based abuse

T: 0800 5999 247

W: www.karmanirvana.org.uk

Men's Advice Line

National free confidential helpline for men who experience violence from partners/ex-partners

T: 0808 801 0327

W: www.mensadviceline.org.uk

Galop (LGBT National DASV Helpline)

T: 0800 999 5428 or 0300 999 5428

ChildLine

Free 24 hour helpline

T: 0800 1111

W: www.childline.org.uk

Respect Phone line

Information and advice for people concerned about their abusive and/or violent behaviour towards their partners

T: 0845 122 8609

W: www.respectphonenumber.org.uk

Devon Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Service

01392 204174

There are a number of Torbay based agencies who can support you. For more information please go to www.areyouok.co.uk

are
you
OK?

ask the question
make a difference

Information if you have been referred into MARAC

Torbay Domestic Abuse MARAC

(Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

www.areyouok.co.uk

What is Domestic Violence & Abuse?

In the United Kingdom domestic violence and abuse is defined as: "threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on one person by another where they are or have been intimate partners or family members, irrespective of gender or sexual orientation." in relation to individuals aged 16 or over

As well as physical violence, examples of abuse can involve:

- undermining your self-confidence,
- threats to others including children,
- controlling behaviour such as isolation from friends and family,
- restricting access to money, personal items, food, transportation or the telephone
- destruction of personal property
- stalking and harassment

Domestic violence and abuse is about a past or current partner, or a member of your family trying to have power and control over you. It can happen to anyone.

Domestic abuse includes unlawful activities such as forced marriage, 'honour' based crimes and female genital mutilation.

Extended family members may condone or even share in the pattern of violence.

What is a MARAC?

MARAC stands for Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference. The aim of a MARAC is to increase the safety and well-being of the adults and children who have been exposed to domestic abuse and who have been assessed as High Risk

It is a meeting where agencies discuss the risk of serious harm to people experiencing domestic abuse in their local area, and make safety plans to support those at most risk.

Actions will be agreed and taken by those agencies present to reduce the risk of further violence and reduce the risk of it happening again.

Why have a MARAC?

Only those who have been identified as being at "high" risk of harm from domestic abuse are discussed at a MARAC. The MARAC provides a way of sharing information between agencies. Sharing information means agencies can get a clearer picture of the situation and can better understand the needs of the people experiencing domestic abuse. Agencies at the MARAC then try and provide the right help to make someone safer and reduce the risk to them.

Who is referred to MARAC?

People are referred to MARAC because they have been identified as being at 'high' risk of current or future harm from domestic abuse. Normally this is because of the things an abuser is doing or the things they are saying they will do. A referral to MARAC is made to keep you safer by working with other agencies to get help and support you.

In most cases, people give their consent to be discussed at the MARAC. In a small number of cases, someone may be referred to the MARAC without their consent. This only happens where there is an urgent need to protect that person and/or their children. Individual agencies make a decision to refer someone to MARAC and they will have clear policies and procedures about how and when they do this.

Who attends the MARAC?

- Police
- Health & Social Care Services
- Education
- Housing
- Probation
- Children and Young people Services
- Drug and Alcohol Services
- Specialist Domestic Abuse Services

Designated agencies will attend to speak on behalf of those they are supporting. For example, this could include someone from a Housing Association or voluntary or community organisation.

Do I need to attend the MARAC?

No, you do not attend the meeting itself. Workers from the agencies above attend the MARAC. The agency referring you to MARAC will voice your concerns about safety and your wishes regarding the outcome to the meeting on your behalf.

This agency will contact you after the meeting to inform you of the safety plan and the support that agencies are offering.

What about confidentiality?

The MARAC will respect your right to privacy and confidentiality. Any information resulting from the meeting will be kept secure and only shared to ensure you and your children are protected. The abuser is not aware that the MARAC is taking place and they will not be told about the safety plan.

Everybody at the MARAC meeting has to sign a confidentiality agreement before the meeting begins.