

BROMLEY MARAC

Multi Agency Risk Assessment
Conference

saferbromley
partnership



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working together for a safer London

Definition of Domestic Abuse:

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- **psychological**
- **physical**
- **sexual**
- **financial**
- **emotional**

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

Aims of MARAC

- To share information to increase the safety, health and well being of victims – adults and their children;
 - To determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant threat to any particular individual or the general community;
 - To construct jointly and implement a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and reduces the risk of harm;
 - To reduce repeat victimisation;
 - To improve agency accountability;
 - To improve support for staff involved in high risk DV cases
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- MARAC deals with the most high risk victims of domestic violence in Bromley, where there is a risk of serious harm or death.
 - In a single meeting the MARAC combines up to date risk information with a timely assessment of victim's needs and links those directly to the provision of appropriate services for all those involved in a domestic violence cases; victim, children, perpetrator.

Referring to MARAC

- The referrals must be current High Risk and as per Safelives Guidance, a current risk is identified as being an identified risk within the past 3 months.
- We want to ensure that we are capturing all high risk victims in Bromley, therefore we want to ensure as many agencies as possible are trained to screen for MARAC cases.
- Currently the majority of MARAC referrals in Bromley come from the police or specialist DV services in the borough, therefore we know we are missing victims.
- This presentation can provide the basic training to front line staff in your agencies on how to refer cases to MARAC.

Reasons for Referral

- **Visible High Risk** – 14 or more ticks on Risk Indicator Checklist.
A current risk is identified as a tick for something that has happened within the past 3 months.
- **Potential Escalation** – 4 or more DV crimes in 12 months.
(Not verbal arguments)
- **Professional Judgement** – with a full explanation of why it is deemed as High Risk
- **Repeat Referral** – further incidents involving violence or threats of violence, stalking, rape or harassment within the last 12 months with the same 2 people.

Prompt Referrals

- Once a MARAC referral is received it will be logged, assessed to see if it meets the MARAC current **High Risk** criteria and added to the next available MARAC agenda.
- This means that the referral can be assessed and any necessary safeguarding actions can be organised straight away if relevant.
- DO NOT wait until the MARAC deadline to make the referral – as with all safeguarding the sooner this is done the better, and you have a duty of care to do so.
- The deadline to receive new referrals is 7 days before the next MARAC meeting so the new information can be added onto the agenda which is sent out 7 days prior to the meeting.

What you need to do

- Before the MARAC meeting, it is imperative that each agency has researched the cases and informs the MARAC of the research.
- It is ideal to have this information already on the referral form and ready to discuss at the meeting. So please send all relevant research to the MARAC coordinator before the meeting so it can be added.
- Your information should be presented at the MARAC by the representative from your agency (if there is a representative present). Any agreed actions, along with realistic timescales will be fed back to you by your MARAC lead.
- Any actions must be completed within agreed timescales and your MARAC lead will notify the MARAC Coordinator once your actions are complete.

Safelives (used to be CAADA) & Risk Assessments

The Safelives web site offer a huge range of advice and support for all agencies. There are helpful toolkits and they can even provide training if required. Contact info@safelives.org.uk or 0117 4033220.

A current Risk Assessment can be obtained from the Safelives website or from the MARAC coordinator.

It explains that the RIC (Risk assessment) can be used by any professional for identifying and documenting. This can be used for intimate partners (present or past), LGBT relationships and honour-based concerns. If the questions are historic, then this should be marked as a NO but expand on the answer.

If the answer is from a **recent** incident (approx. last 3 months) then mark as a YES and tick the box. If there are 14 or more ticks, then this would indicate a current high risk victim and consider onward referrals and safeguarding.

<http://www.safelives.org.uk/practice-support/resources-marac-meetings/marac-videos>

Can the referral be discussed with the client?

- If you are the referring agency it is good practice to discuss the referral with the victim if it is safe to do so.
- The MARAC must **NEVER** be discussed with perpetrators as this will increase the risk to the victim.
- If you are not the referring agency you should check with the referring agency before you contact your client – your MARAC lead will have the name and contact details of the referring agency.

Legalities for sharing Information

- Disclosures to the MARAC are made under the Crime and Disorder Act, the Human Rights Act and the Caldicott Guidelines. Information can be shared when it is necessary to prevent a crime, protect the health and/or safety of the victim and/or the rights and freedoms of those who are victims of violence and/or their children. It must be proportionate to the level of risk of harm to a named individual or known household.
- You must record that a decision has been made to share / disclose information without consent.
- Information Sharing Agreements will be signed by all agencies.

Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)

- A DHR is a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person has resulted from Domestic Violence.
- This is to identify any lessons to be learnt – such as a look at how information was shared and risks managed by the agencies involved.
- MARAC is a way of sharing information and so aim to put appropriate interventions in place to reduce risk.

Safeguarding of Information

- All information should be physically and electronically secured.
- All information is sent via secure email – such as Criminal Justice **Secure e mail** (CJSM), GCSX, gsi or pnn.
- Support is given to all MARAC agencies on how information can be stored securely.
- Any information that is printed off is stored in locked cabinets
- All information stored electronically is password-protected or in restricted access folders or stored within the PNN Police account.
- Confidentiality Declaration is read out at the start of every MARAC meeting and all delegates sign their agreement to abide by the principles.

Agencies Represented at Bromley MARAC

- MET Police - CSU
- London Probation – NPS and CRC
- LBB Children's Social Care
- Education
- Independent Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocate's (IDSVAs)
- Victim Support – Community IDVA
- Bromley & Croydon Women's Aid
- Affinity Sutton Housing
- LBB Housing Needs
- Oxleas Mental Health Services
- NHS Trust A & E and Midwife Services
- Bromley Healthcare
- LBB Adult Social Care & Safeguarding
- BDAS – Bromley Drug and Alcohol Service
- Vulnerable Adults Support
- Bromley Children's Project

Main Bromley DA/DV contact's

- **All MARAC referrals** to be sent to Hazel.L.Jordan@met.pnn.police.uk - 0208 284 8760, PY CSU, Bromley Police Station, High Street, Bromley BR1 1ER and this is where the MARAC meetings are held. Meetings will begin at 1300 hours. Please be mindful that we are a secure building and you are not permitted to walk around unescorted. You are required to stay for the duration of the meeting as sometimes questions can arise from discussions which may involve your agency, but that you were not initially aware of. Also, so that the meetings do not get disrupted with people walking in and out.
- **IDSVA's** are Independent Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocate's and they support High Risk victims, sexual assault victims and cases where the perpetrator has been charged by Police:

Contacts cont....

- **IDVA' s** are Independent Domestic Violence Advocate's who support victims of crimes and lower level DA cases. Victim Support – www.victimsupport.org.uk – 0208 7767071
- BCWA - Bromley Women's Aid – www.bromleywa.org.uk - 0208 3139303
- One Stop Shop – DA/DV advice drop in Centre of Domestic Abuse victims. Open from 1.30 pm to 4pm every Thursday at Community House, South Street, Bromley, BR1 1RH.
- NCDV (National Centre for Domestic Violence) – 0844 8044999, 0800 9702070. They can assist with obtaining a non molestation Order, Occupation Order or Residency Order. **Any agency** can make a direct referral and takes 1 minute. Incident usually has to be within 10 days.
- DVIP – Domestic Violence Intervention Project – for perpetrators who want help – www.dvip.org
- Bromley Housing Needs – housing@bromley.gov.uk – 0208 3134098
- Affinity Sutton – www.affinitysutton.com – 0300 1000303
- Bromley Citizen's Advice – www.bromleycab.org.uk – 0208 3151940
- Emergency Refuge – 0808 2000247
- Paladin – Stalking Agency – 0207 8408960