

What is MARAC?

MARAC refers to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference which is a bi-weekly meeting held to share information on the highest risk domestic abuse cases. Attendees of MARAC meetings including Threshold-DAS, IDVA services, Police, NHS representatives, Social Services, Probation Services and Housing. These meetings are confidential and their sole aim is to ensure those referred to MARAC meetings are protected and supported as much as possible.

In order to be put forward as a MARAC case a RIC (Risk Identification Checklist) assessment is completed with individuals (see below for an example). This is a series of "yes" or "no" questions with those scoring over the threshold of 14 being presented at MARAC (adjustments are made based on professional judgment as well).

9. Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within the last 18 months)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Is the abuse happening more often?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Is the abuse getting worse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Does [name of abuser(s)] try to control everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous? For example: In terms of relationships; who you see; being 'policed' at home; telling you what to wear. Consider 'honour-based violence' (HBV) and specify behaviour.				
13. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them? If yes, tick who: You <input type="checkbox"/> Children <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

For more information on MARAC, RIC and any related topics visit:
<http://www.safelives.org.uk/practice-support/resources-marac-meetings>

Threshold

Domestic Abuse Awareness and MARAC



What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic Abuse is defined as:

"...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. This abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: **psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional.**"

Controlling behaviour: any act designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them, exploiting their resources, depriving them and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour: any act or pattern of acts of assaults, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse to harm, punish or frighten.

Domestic abuse effects an estimated 1.3 million women each year with two women being killed by their current or ex-partner every week across England and Wales. On average, the police receive over 100 calls relating to domestic abuse each hour which equates to 10% of all crime occurring each year.

Domestic abuse is the ongoing pattern of behaviour adopted by one person in order to exert power and control over another with both men and women being effected.

Impact of Abuse

Domestic abuse impacts everyone in the household not just the victims. Often children are impacted the most in domestic abuse relationships. Effects to children include:

- Behavioural difficulties
- 17x higher likelihood for boys and 10x higher for girls
- Shame and stigma of coming from an abusive family
- Increased mental health disorders including PTSD, depression and anxiety.
- Blaming them self for the domestic abuse

Due to the nature of domestic abuse it is often described as a "hidden" crime in that often victims and children are fearful to talk about the situation and they will often lie about the situation, minimise the events and protect the alleged offender. Research suggests 25% of pregnant women experience domestic abuse with some of the abuse aimed directly at the unborn child.

For children experiencing domestic abuse almost all of them experience emotional abuse and witness their parent be abused. 26% of these children are physically abused and 7% are sexually abused. Thus it is clear the impact abuse has is not solely on the victim but on every member of the household, therefore it is essential that we, as an organisation, tackle domestic abuse and support the victims.