

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

MARACs are a multi-agency approach to high risk cases of domestic abuse. Victims who have been assessed and meet the criteria of 'High Risk' are referred to the next meeting. To meet the threshold victims will have either scored **72+ on MeRIT**, or there has been an **escalation in frequency or severity** or on **professional judgement**. By referring someone to MARAC there is an automatic referral to the IDSVA Service (Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy). All victims are contacted and offered practical and emotional support, advocacy through the criminal justice system and family courts and advice on all their options.

Each case is discussed, **risks identified**, a **safety plan is agreed** and **actions are taken by various agencies** to minimise risk to the victim and any children involved. The concerns and actions are recorded by the MARAC Co-ordinator. The referring agency, or IDSVA, report back to the victim and let them know the outcome.

Male and female victims aged 16 and over can be referred to MARAC

Why: MARACs are held nationally to reduce domestic homicides, serious assaults and repeat incidents. MARACs are an opportunity for agencies to share information, assess risk and plan for increased safety. The conference meetings also serve to share information and improve agency accountability.

When: Knowsley has two meetings a month; they are chaired by the VPU Detective Inspector. All MARAC partner agencies have a MARAC representative who attends the meetings. Relevant and **appropriate information is shared on the victim, perpetrator or any children**. This is underpinned by an Information Sharing Agreement.

Who: The following agencies/organisations attend and feed into the Knowsley MARAC:

Police, A&E (Whiston and Aintree), Probation, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, IDSVA, Family First, Primary Care Mental Health, CRI, Stronger Families, 5 Boroughs Partnership, Youth Offending Service, School Attendance (Education), MerseyCare, Mental Health, Children's Social Care, Housing (KHT and Villages), Liverpool Women's Hospital, Adult Social Care.

Any professional can refer to MARAC after assessing the risk. Complete the MARAC referral and email to the MARAC Coordinator via secure email.

Where: All Knowsley MARAC meetings are held at **The First Step** (formerly known as Knowsley Domestic Violence Support Services), The First Step Centre, Peatwood Avenue, Kirkby.