DA MARAC Referral Criteria & Referral Guidance December 2021

Always refer to this guidance to ensure MARAC referral is appropriate

CRITERIA:

For a referral to be accepted into the MARAC process one of the four criteria must be met and evidenced. Referrals not accepted into MARAC will be returned with a request that this guidance be revisited.

Your choice of criteria must reflect the risk of serious harm being inflicted in the immediate future. The MARAC process serves those at **high risk of murder, death or significant harm,** and from which recovery, whether physical or psychological, can be expected to be difficult or impossible.

Criteria to be evidenced on the referral form

DASH Risk Assessment
Dash score 14+

There are identifiable indicators on the DASH of a risk of serious harm being inflicted in the immediate future.

An imminent event which is life-threatening, traumatic or changing injuries and/or sexual harm, whether physical or psychological, is highly likely. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.

14 or more ticks on a DASH form

Professional Judgement
Where DASH Score is below 14

As a professional you have a serious concern about a victim's situation. This could reflect extreme levels of fear, cultural barriers to disclosure, immigration issues or language barriers particularly in cases of 'honour'-based violence.

Evidence your judgement that an imminent serious event which is life-threatening and/or traumatic could happen at any time based on your professional experience and/or the victim's perception.

Line management sign off required

Potential Escalation

Where DASH Score is below 14 but there is an increase in reported incidents.

Please evidence escalation of abuse or escalating controlling and coercive behaviour, over the past year. If this cannot be evidenced please refer to other criteria.

Abuse appears to be escalating as number of police callouts to the victim as a result of domestic violence in the past 12 months. It is common practice to start with 3 or more police callouts in a 12 month period

Repeat case to MARAC

Repeat incidents

Refer if you have become aware that a further incident of DA has been reported between a couple **previously discussed** at MARAC within the last **12 months.**

Any of the following types of behaviour may have taken place:

- Violence or threats of violence to the victim
- A pattern of stalking or harassment
- Where rape, sexual assault or sexual abuse is disclosed

If none of the above criteria has been reached, please refer the person for support from a local specialist domestic violence agency

Children's Social Care

Please consider if you need to refer to MARAC

If any children are identified as belonging to or residing at the same address as a victim or perpetrator, or as having contact with the victim or perpetrator, please ensure that you have referred this information to First Response.

If the Children are already involved with Children's Social Care, please communicate your concerns to the relevant Social Worker or Social Work Unit. To avoid duplication please discuss the information sharing and safety planning already conducted by Social Worker and **consider if you need to refer to MARAC.**

Children's social care provide family services to safeguard children and often implement DA safeguarding measures similar to those which may be decided at MARAC.

If there are children associated with either the victim or perpetrator but you have made the decision NOT to make safeguarding referrals for these children to Social Services, **please provide a clear rationale for this decision on your referral form.**

SAFETY MEASURES

Please consider if you need to refer to MARAC

The MARAC process does not change the expectations of all agencies in relation to safeguarding children and adults. The MARAC process serves those at **risk of murder, death or serious harm** and from which recovery, whether physical or psychological, can be expected to be difficult or impossible.

MARAC is a process, and compliments the work of all agencies involved. Information sharing and action planning at a MARAC meeting reflects that some safety measures have been completed, but the risk remains high.

Agencies can work dynamically together to achieve safeguarding, and should not wait for a MARAC meeting.

The below actions can be arranged without information sharing or discussion at a MARAC meeting. Please ensure that you have considered / completed all appropriate safeguarding measures before considering MARAC referral

Referring agencies have a responsibility to support the victim to engage with IDVA support, and they should always do this unless a) The victim refuses, or b) it could raise the risk to the victim / children if they were to engage in IDVA support.

EXAMPLE SAFEGUARDING MEASURES that can be completed without going to MARAC

Safety Measure
Victim engagement with IDVA
Emotional support
Liaise with agencies to gather information and discuss safety plan
Advise in social media privacy/Holly guard app
Letter for Legal Aid
Referral to children safeguarding, family support
Referral to Adult Social Care
Housing issues
School informed of DA
Police aware
Welfare check

Neighbours alerted
Home safety addressed/'target hardening'
Victim updated on prosecution
Flag/marker on agencies system
Victim refuge/Safe house option explored

DASH must be included with the referral form unless, for safeguarding reasons only, DASH cannot be completed.

Please ensure that the completed Referral Form and DASH are attached and sent on the same email, and ensure that the victim's full name is in the subject line of the email.

Answer ALL questions on the referral form – do not leave any fields empty, ALL must be completed (use N/A as appropriate)

Please only refer to MARAC if there is a need for further information sharing and multi-agency action planning, and the above safety measures have been completed and have not mitigated the risk sufficiently.

Referrals that are not completed and submitted in line with this guidance will not be accepted by MARAC, they will be returned to the referrer with instruction to consult the guidance and resubmit the referral only, we will not be able to provide feedback for every rejected referral.

We can only accept Referral Forms and DASH completed and submitted electronically – we cannot accept handwritten referrals or DASHs or PDF files.

Referrals must be sent from secure email addresses ONLY (email addresses with secure classification i.e. pnn, gsi, gcsx, secure, nhs.net, cjsm)