

One Minute Guide: Multi-Agency Risk Assessment

Co-ordination (MARAC)

What is MARAC?

MARAC is Norfolk's process for sharing information about people experiencing **high-risk domestic abuse**.

It aims to increase safety, reduce the risk of serious harm or homicide, coordinate safeguarding action and improve outcomes through partnership working.

MARAC is based on the principle that **no single agency has the full picture**, but together agencies can make better decisions to protect victims and children.

Who is involved?

Agencies may include Police, Probation, health, housing, Children's Services, Adult Social Care, education settings, domestic abuse support services, IDVAs and other professionals working with the family.

Victims and perpetrators do not attend the process. The victim's views are represented through professional partners and specialist support services.

When should a referral be considered?

A MARAC referral should be considered when a victim is assessed as being at **high risk of serious harm** from domestic abuse.

Professionals should complete a MARAC Referral Form and DASH Risk Assessment. The Severity of Abuse Grid (SOAG) can also support professional judgement.

What happens after a referral?

1. Referral received and reviewed.
2. Relevant safeguarding information gathered.
3. Risk assessed and actions coordinated.
4. Support services identified.
5. Actions monitored to reduce risk and improve safety.

Norfolk operates a **MARAC Co-ordination model**, where information sharing and action planning take place through a coordinated process rather than routine multi-agency meetings. Complex cases may still require a professionals' meeting.

Key principles

- ✓ Victim safety is the priority
 - ✓ Information sharing must be relevant, proportionate and lawful
 - ✓ Agencies share responsibility for safeguarding adults and children
 - ✓ Action plans focus on reducing risk and preventing future harm
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Remember

Domestic abuse is not limited to physical violence. It can include controlling or coercive behaviour, emotional or psychological abuse, threats, intimidation, economic abuse, harassment, stalking and sexual abuse.

Domestic abuse can affect adults, children and whole families.

Further information

- Norfolk MARAC information for professionals: [Norfolk MARAC Guidance](#)
- Norfolk Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment guidance: [Risk Assessment and DASH Guidance](#)

Need advice? Speak to your safeguarding lead, designated safeguarding professional or domestic abuse lead if you are concerned about a high-risk domestic abuse situation.