Referrals and further information:

Referrals can be made, and are encouraged, by any agency who identifies a victim of domestic abuse as being high risk. The formal DASH risk assessment form should be completed by the referring agency and upon meeting the MARAC threshold for high risk, the risk identification form and referral form (both of which can be obtained from Police) should be sent to Police at:

MARAC Administrator, Aylesbury Police Station, Walton Street, Aylesbury HP21 7LA

Email: BucksPVPMARAC@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.cjsm.net

For more general information around MARAC, please visit the CAADA (Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse) website – www.caada.org.uk

CAADA is the national charity supporting a strong multi-agency response to domestic abuse. CAADA provides practical tools, training, guidance, quality assurance, policy and data insight to support professionals and organisations working with domestic abuse victims. The aim is to protect the highest risk victims and their children – those at risk of murder or serious harm.

Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)

The IDVA is there to increase the safety and reduce the risk to victims offering support victims and serving as the primary point of contact to discuss the range of suitable options and develop a safety plan.

IDVA's are proactive in implementing the plans, which address immediate safety, including practical steps to protect victims and their children from harm, as well as longer term solutions

MARAC

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference - A guide for professionals

For victims of domestic abuse identified as being at high risk



What is the MARAC?

The MARAC is a monthly multi agency meeting, chaired by Police, which focuses on the safety of victims of domestic abuse identified as being at high risk. The identification of high risk victims of domestic abuse has been made possible by the use of a risk identification tool.

In a single meeting, the MARAC combines up to date risk information with a timely assessment of a victim's needs and links those directly to the provision of appropriate services for all those involved in a domestic abuse case: victim, children and perpetrator.

The responsibility to take appropriate actions rests with individual agencies; it is not transferred to the MARAC.

In a typical meeting, there are a number of high risk cases are discussed each meeting with brief and focused information sharing taking place, followed by creation of a multi agency action plan.

Who should attend?

The MARAC is made up of a core group of people, representing both the statutory and voluntary sector. The meeting involves contribution and commitment from agencies including police, probation, Children's Services, Adult's Services, Health, education, housing, substance misuse services, and specialist domestic abuse services, namely the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA's). IDVA's receive accredited training and support high risk victims of domestic abuse.

Other agencies can attend on an ad hoc basis, when they have involvement in one of the cases being discussed.

The MARAC Process:

Disclosure of domestic abuse

DASH Risk Assessment form completed with the victim. Case meets MARAC threshold

MARAC referral form completed by agency representative and forwarded to MARAC Co-ordinator

Lead agency collects referral details

Some agencies take immediate safety actions e.g. IDVA, Police, Child Protection, PCT

Lead agency sends out agenda 8 days before MARAC meeting

IDVA contacts victim

Information is researched and gathered by nominated MARAC representative within each organisation

MARAC meeting takes place where all relevant information is shared

IDVA brings the victims views and safety concerns to the MARAC

Action plan developed

Nominated representative ensures that actions are carried out by their agency

Relevant actions reported to victim by IDVA or other appropriate professional where safe to do so