

What happens after a MARAC?

After a MARAC your IDVA or another agency supporting you will feedback. They will let you know about the help and support that agencies are offering to you.

Quotes from peoples who have had their case discussed at MARAC

"I found it very hard to accept that my relationship was abusive and was very scared of my partner, because of the MARAC meeting I engaged with a worker who helped and supported me. My worker worked jointly with other agencies and helped me address my issues around alcohol. I now feel a much stronger person".

"I found that my case going to MARAC helped agencies work better with me as they knew I had been to MARAC and the situation was serious".

Who can I talk to about Domestic Violence/Abuse?

National Domestic Violence Helpline

www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk

Free 24hr confidential women's helpline
0808 2000 247

Honour Network Helpline

www.karmanirvana.org.uk

Free confidential helpline that supports victims and survivors of forced marriage and honour based abuse
0800 5999 247

Men's Advice Line

www.mensadvice.org.uk

National free confidential helpline for men who experience violence from partners /ex-partners
0808 801 0327

Broken Rainbow

www.broken-rainbow.org.uk

Support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people
0300 9995428

Childline

www.childline.org.uk

Free 24 hour helpline
0800 1111

Respect Phonenumber

www.respectphonenumber.org.uk

Information and advice for people concerned about their abusive and/or violent behaviour towards their partners
0845 122 8609

There are a number of Bristol based agencies who can support you. For more information please go to

www.bava.org.uk

Bristol Domestic Violence and Abuse MARAC

(Multi Agency Risk Assessment
Conference)

Information for people at
risk from domestic abuse



What is a domestic abuse
MARAC?

MARAC stands for **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference**.

It is a meeting held twice a month in Bristol where workers from a number of agencies discuss the health and wellbeing of individuals and family members experiencing the impact of domestic violence and abuse and make safety plans to support those at risk.

The aim is to increase the safety of those involved and reduce the risk of them becoming repeat victims.

Who is referred to MARAC?

People who are identified as being at 'high risk' of serious current or future harm from domestic abuse. Normally this is because of what the abuser is doing or threatening to do.

The agency referring you to MARAC will speak to you about it and ask you if you are in agreement with it. Sometimes someone may be referred to MARAC without their agreement. This only happens where there is an urgent need to protect that person or their children.

If you have been referred to MARAC once agencies will continue to review your case if there are any other incidents within 12 months of the last time you were referred.

Do I need to go to the MARAC?

No, it is just the workers from the different agencies who attend. Everyone is offered support from a specialist domestic violence

and abuse support worker known as an IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor). The IDVA service is independent of the police, council, or any other agencies. If you would like to let the MARAC know anything which affects your safety, or things you need help with please let your IDVA or another support agency who is attending know.

How will the MARAC help me?

By referring you to the MARAC, agencies are trying to make you safer by working with other agencies to help and support you.

The MARAC can help people access more resources locally.

Some of the actions that a MARAC might take include:-

- Making sure any agencies that you approach are aware of your situation so they can support you better.
- Writing a support letter on your behalf if you need additional help (e.g. for housing issues)
- Arranging joint meetings between agencies to help coordinate any support you may need.

Who attends MARAC?

A number of different agencies attend. These include:-

- Police

- Probation
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)
- Housing
- Children and Young People's Services
- Schools
- National Health Service (NHS)
- Mental Health Services
- Drug and Alcohol Services.

If you are involved with any agencies and think they should be invited, please let your IDVA know.

How do I know the information shared about me at MARAC is safe?

The MARAC will respect your right to privacy and confidentiality. Any information resulting from the meeting will be kept secure and not shared with anyone who is not involved in your case. Everybody at the MARAC has to sign a confidentiality agreement before the meeting begins.

The abuser is not aware that the MARAC is taking place and information will not be passed on to them.

If you have any queries about confidentiality issues please speak to your IDVA.