# HARCOURT PRIMARY SCHOOL

**MARAC PROCEDURE**



**Key Details**

**Designated Safeguarding Lead (s): Anthony Silk**

**Named Governor with lead responsibility: Wendy Settle**

**Date written: January 2020**

**Date of next review: September 2020**

**This procedure will be reviewed at least annually. It will also be revised following any concerns and/or updates to national and local guidance or procedure**

**Harcourt Primary School**



**MARAC Procedure**

**Rationale**

Harcourt Primary School follow the guidance set down by the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership in relation to procedure and processes related to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences.

**What is MARAC?**

The [MARAC](http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/marac.html) is a multi-agency response to tackling Domestic Violence and Abuse. The role of the conference is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate action to be taken in respect of Domestic Violence and Abuse. This means that risks are assessed and quantified and subsequently managed with an overall view to protect victims, their children and the general public. [CAADA (Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse)](http://www.caada.org.uk/) who are a national organisation, have taken a lead on assisting local authorities to develop MARAC. This includes providing training, consultation and inspection of MARAC ‘active’ areas.

Risk management is generally completed through a process of obtaining a complete and as accurate-as-possible picture of the victims, perpetrator and their associated histories. In meeting this objective, defensible decision making is key to ensuring that those people at highest risk and those people presenting risk are dealt with appropriately.

In Kent and Medway MARACs are held monthly. There are 7 MARAC meetings held monthly across the County encompassing 13 districts. All MARACs are hosted by the police and facilitated by a police employed MARAC Coordinator. The optimum number of cases discussed at MARAC per month/fortnight, as defined by CAADA is based upon the population in each area.

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

**The Aims of MARAC**

The aims of MARAC are to:

* To provide and share intelligence and information on individuals subject to MARAC to increase safety, health and well being of victim (adult and children);
* To determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual or to the general community;
* Jointly construct and implement a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and that reduces the risk of [**Harm**](http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/a_harm.html);
* To reduce repeat victimisation;
* Improve agency accountability;
* Improve support and safety for staff in high risk DA cases.

The police host [MARAC](http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/marac.html) meetings in Kent and Medway. The meetings are chaired by the  Combined Safeguarding Team (CST) and are facilitated by the local MARAC Coordinator.

Meetings are attended by a variety of statutory and non-statutory agencies this may include:

* Police;
* Local Authority Children’s Services and Adult Services;
* Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs);
* Specialist Domestic Violence and Abuse services including local women’s aid, refuge providers and victim support services;
* Health representatives (midwifery, health visitors, Child Protection nurses and other staff as appropriate;
* Housing;
* Probation;
* Education;
* Mental Health;
* Homelessness team;
* Connexions;
* Local drug and alcohol services;
* Children and Family Court Advisory Service (CAFCASS);
* Youth Offending Services.

It is expected that those who attend are proactive in sharing information and offering actions.

The victim or perpetrator or their children do not attend MARAC. However the victim will be asked for their consent to share information unless it poses a significant risk, to those concerned, to do so.

**MARAC Process**

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|  | Initial identification by participating agencies of high risk Domestic Violence and Abuse cases using appropriate risk assessment tools. (DASH - Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour based violence) or from the agency concerned using their professional judgement to decide a case requires referral to MARAC or an escalation in incidents of domestic abuse. |
|  | Referral to MARAC Coordinator. There is an expectation that referral of cases will be a multi-agency process and that the referring agency will present their case at MARAC. The MARAC Coordinator incorporates all high risk cases into the agenda for next MARAC meeting. |
|  | Cases to be discussed at the next MARAC are circulated in the form of an agenda 8-10 days before the MARAC to all appropriate agencies. It is the duty of those agencies to research information on cases included in the agenda, to share at MARAC. |
|  | The chair of the meeting (CST Detective Inspector) introduces participants and ensures that everyone has signed a standard confidentiality agreement that all participants must agree to during the course of the meeting. Details of this document are described in the Domestic Violence and Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for Kent and Medway Information Sharing Agreement. |
|  | All information discussed during the MARAC is confidential and **must** not be discussed with anyone else outside of the meeting unless agreed by all MARAC members. For example if an action has been agreed, then in order to discharge that action fully the participating agency may need to discuss some aspects of the case with colleagues and other professionals. This will be agreed at the time of the action offered. |
|  | Agreed actions are circulated to all participating agencies in the form of an action plan within 24 hours of the MARAC taking place, and minutes are circulated within 10 working days. |
|  | It is expected that actions agreed at one MARAC will either be discharged appropriately or designated as ongoing at the time of the next MARAC. Any outstanding actions **must** be reported to the MARAC Coordinator before the next MARAC. |

**Safeguarding Processes**

When it has been identified through MARAC that a child is suffering or likely to suffer [Significant Harm](http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/significant_harm.html) then appropriate actions to safeguard that child, such as convening a strategy discussion or child protection conference, should be agreed at MARAC as a matter of urgency.

Generally when a ‘high risk’ DA victim is identified by any organisation, a referral must be made to Local Authority Children’s Services, where appropriate, as soon as possible, for children who are present or ordinarily resident at the premises. Agencies should not wait until MARAC for this to happen.

**Children Children Social Work Services (Kent)/Children’s Social Care Services (Medway) Responsibilities**

Following notification of Domestic Violence and Abuse and consultation of agency history, Local Authority Children’s Services must decide how to respond to each communication of Domestic Violence and Abuse.