

Principle 1: Identification – finding the right cases to refer to MARAC

What is the principle?

All agencies have protocols and systems for identifying and referring high risk cases to MARAC in a timely way.

Why is this principle important?

The aim of MARAC is to provide a proportionate response to all high risk victims who meet the local threshold. We know from the British Crime Survey¹ that less than 50% of people with a severe injury caused by domestic abuse report to the police. This makes it vital that all agencies involved in MARAC have systems in place for identifying victims of domestic abuse. In some cases, you will be trained to differentiate between those who are high risk from those who are lower risk. In other cases, you may refer on to other specialists who will identify the risk level. However, all attending agencies need to have a system in place which makes it possible for them to identify all high risk cases and not just those who report to the police. The ability to correctly identify high risk cases relates both to initial referrals and repeat referrals. Ensuring that all agencies are identifying new and repeat cases will help you to report on National Indicator 32 by reviewing a volume that reflects your local population.

How will the evidence be assessed?

The assessment criteria are looking for evidence of best practice and your MARAC will be awarded a RAG rating (Red, Amber or Green) based on the evidence you submitted relating to policies, procedures and implementation. We will also use evidence provided in the responses to the Multi-Agency Questionnaires to assess this principle. We will also speak to your IDVA service to assess this principle.

Best practice: Agencies at your MARAC systematically screen for domestic violence at the appropriate times, and where abuse is disclosed by an adult they either complete a risk identification checklist, or refer to a specialist who can do this on their behalf.

¹ Home Office Research Study 276, Domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking: findings from the British Crime Survey, Walby and Allen p 99.

Guidance on principle 1

(figures below relate to the QA resource pack, June 09 - Feb 10 edition)		Why is this important?
1.1	Agencies identify high risk victims and/or have implemented procedures for referring to MARAC	The aim of MARAC is to be accessible to all high risk victims of domestic abuse whether or not they report the abuse to the police. Thus, it is important that all partner agencies have systems in place to identify victims and make appropriate referrals.
1.2	Police and IDVA consistently risk assess in a timely fashion	While more and more agencies are becoming familiar with the CAADA DASH Risk Identification Checklist, we acknowledge that not all practitioners will feel confident in establishing the level of risk without input from a domestic abuse expert. However, we feel that both the IDVA and the police should systematically risk assess and do so in a timely fashion.
1.3	Cases are heard at MARAC within six weeks of incident or referral for monthly MARACs or four weeks for fortnightly MARACs	The speed with which a case is dealt with is important. With monthly MARACs, there should be no more than a six week delay between the report and the conference. In fortnightly MARACs this time can be shortened further. The impact of the action plan will be considerably reduced if there is a further delay.



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Principle 1 evidence grid

Sub-principle		What are we looking for?	Evidence for this sub-principle	Evidence submitted? Yes or No.	Where is the sub-principle illustrated within the evidence submitted?
1.1	Agencies identify high risk and/or have implemented procedures for referring to MARAC	Five completed risk identification checklists (RIC) <u>or</u> five completed referral forms if these show the use of a RIC for cases referred to the MARAC. This evidence must include referrals from at least four of the six 'key agencies'.	Five RICs or referral forms indicating the use of a RIC. These must be from at least four of the six key agencies		
			Other:		
1.2	Police and IDVA services consistently risk assess in a timely fashion	Five completed risk identification checklists (RIC) from the police and five from the IDVA service relating to cases referred to the MARAC. You will need to ensure that this evidence includes both the date of the incident and the date of completion of the RIC. If these dates are not routinely included on a completed RIC, you can submit a covering note providing this information. We will also require evidence showing how risk identification is undertaken by the police and IDVA service, for example a protocol or procedure for each agency.	Five RICs completed by the police, including the date of the incident and completion of the checklist		
			Five RICs completed by the IDVA service, including the date of the incident and completion of the checklist		
			Protocols and procedures from the IDVA and police		
			Other:		

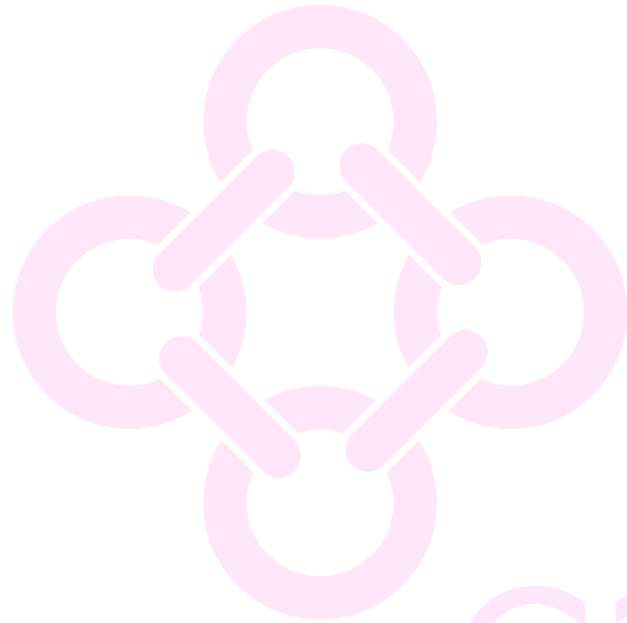
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1.3	Cases are heard at MARAC within 6 weeks of incident or referral for monthly MARACs or 4 weeks for fortnightly MARACs	<p>We are looking for the date of referral to the MARAC and when the case was heard at the meeting. If the date of the incident prompting the referral to the MARAC, or the date of the referral itself, can be found in your MARAC minutes, we will use your five most recent meetings.</p> <p>If this evidence cannot be found in your minutes, you will need to provide copies of the referral forms for 25% of the cases from each of the five most recent meetings.</p>	Minutes from the five most recent meetings		
			MARAC referral forms for 25% of the cases from each of the five most recent meetings		
			Other:		





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