

An Overview of Marac in Scotland



Ending
domestic
abuse

Welcome – About SafeLives



We are a national charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for good. We combine insight from services, survivors and statistics to support people to become safe, well and rebuild their lives.

No one should live in fear. It is not acceptable, not inevitable, and together – we can make it stop.

Key Areas of work:

DA Training

Safer Sooner
and Marac in
Scotland

Domestic Abuse
Court Advocacy

Authentic Voice
Panel



We want what you want for your best friend:

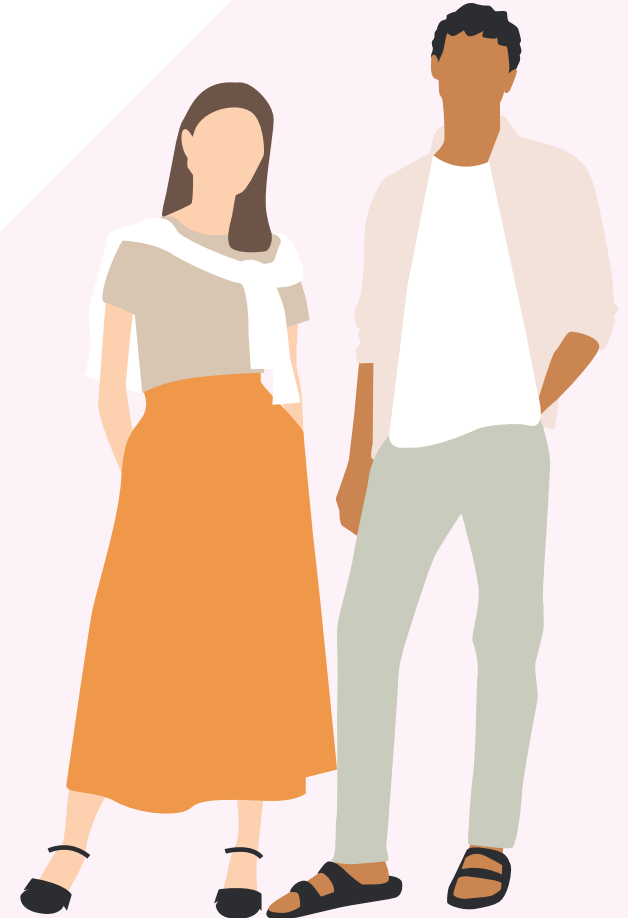


Action before
someone is harmed
or harms others.

Harmful behaviour
identified and
stopped.

Increased safety for
everyone at risk.

The ability for people
to live the life they
want after harm has
happened.



Presentation Aims

Companion to the SafeLives Marac Overview document

Explore the evaluated Marac model and how it operates in Scotland

Explore the roles and responsibilities of Marac professionals

The Evaluated Marac Model

The first Marac started in Cardiff in 2001.

The aim was to enable the sharing of information and development of an action plan to increase the safety of victims and their children and hold perpetrators accountable for their behaviour.

An evaluation of the Marac pilot showed a reduction in repeat victimisation with 40% of survivors suffering no further abuse a year after their Marac referral (those who did, felt able to report it much earlier demonstrating a significant increase in public confidence).

There are now over 300 Maracs operating across the UK.

Marac in Scotland

The first Marac in Scotland began operating in 2005. Since August 2022 there are now 35 operational Maracs representing all 32 local authority areas across Scotland.

This means a victim identified as being at high risk of harm anywhere in Scotland can expect to receive a coordinated multi-agency intervention.

“I am pleased that Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (Maracs) are operating in every local authority area in Scotland... Maracs enable different agencies to work together to support victim/survivors of domestic abuse. Together, these agencies can share their knowledge to create better plans the keep people safe.”

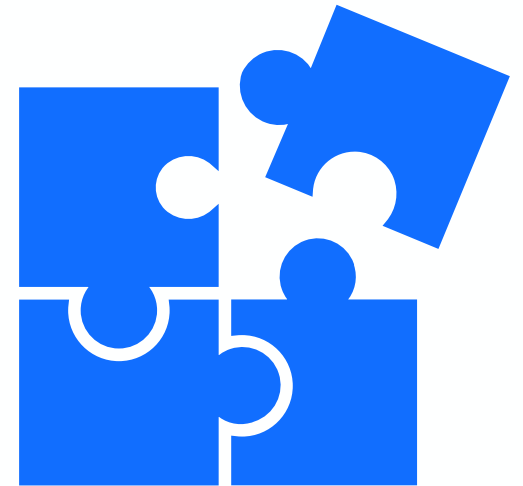
Minister for Equalities and Older People
Christine McKelvie (2022)

What is Marac? (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)



At the heart of Marac is the working assumption that no **single agency or individual can see the complete picture of the life of a victim**, but all may have insights that are crucial to their safety.

A victim identified to be at high risk of serious harm or homicide needs a **coordinated multi-agency response to risk**, with all agencies sharing relevant information to develop an action plan that is comprehensible, robust and addresses the risks to *all* parties.



The four Aims of Marac

Protect adult (and child) victims

Protect agency staff

Make links with other public protection arrangements in relation to children, perpetrators and vulnerable adults

Address the behaviour of the perpetrator

“I am what [Maracs] are about, I am who you are discussing at a Marac, it is me and my children that you are keeping safe and allowing to stay in my own home and it is my perpetrator that you are holding to account.”

**Scottish Authentic Voice Panel
Member**



The Key Roles

Steering
Group



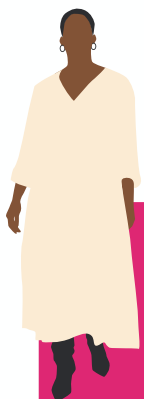
Marac
Coordinator



Independent
Domestic
Abuse
Advocate
(Idaa)



Chair



Agency
Representatives



Police
Idaa (Victim Voice)
Justice Social Work
Children and Families
Social Work
Education
Health (including Mental
Health)
Substance Misuse
Services
Housing
Adult Support and
Protection

What is an Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (Idaa)?



Acting as the victim's voice by representing them during the Marac meeting



Tailor support to individual needs



Give emotional and practical support



Safeguard victims and children by assessing risk and developing safety plans



Act as a primary point of contact



Provide a specialist service and often hold the Idaa SQA qualification



Provide support before, during and after Marac

Referral Criteria for Marac

Visible high risk

14 or more yes answers on the Dash RIC

Professional Judgement

Based on professional experience informed by Dash RIC and victims perception of risk

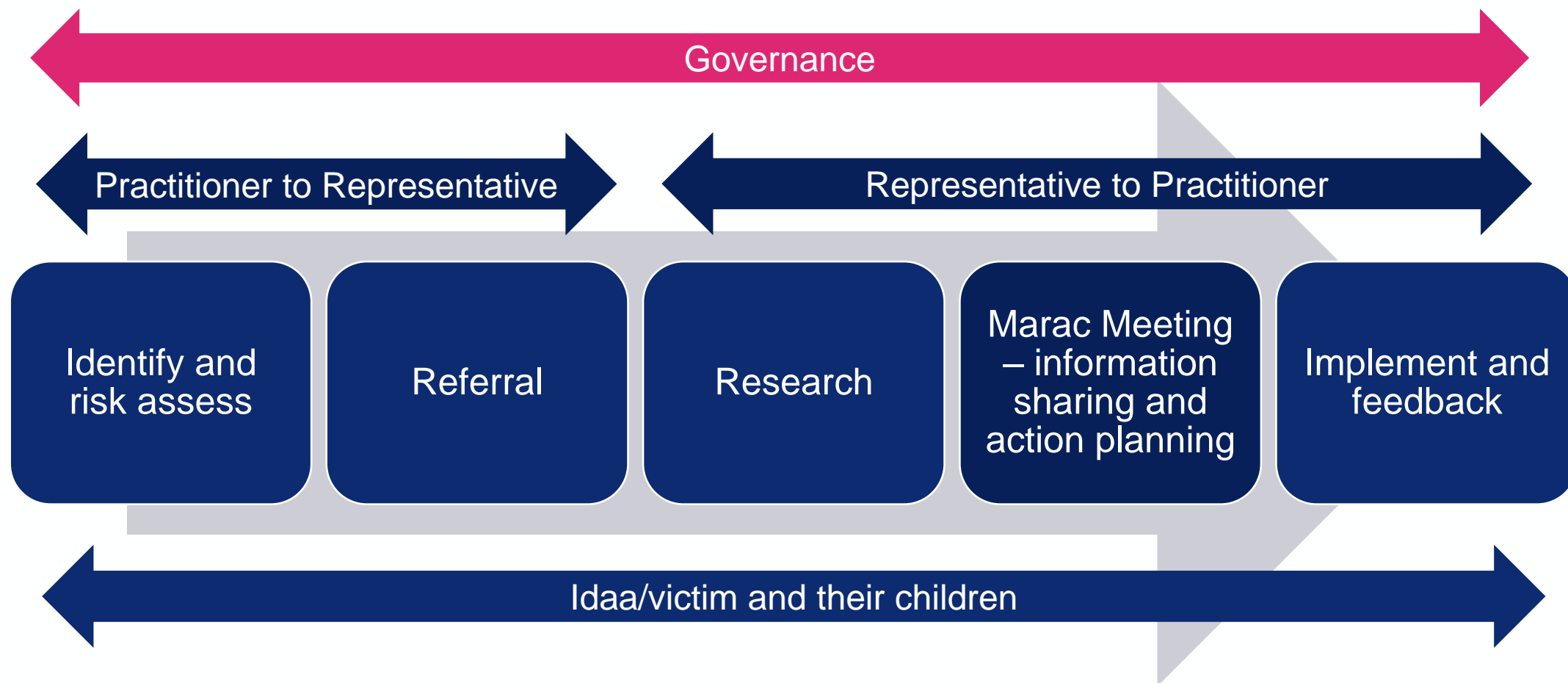
Escalation

Potential escalation in frequency and/or severity of abuse in a 12 month period

Repeat

Another incident or new risk identified in a 12 month period from proceeding Marac referral

The Marac Process



The 10 Principles of an Effective Marac

Identification

Referral to Marac

Multi-Agency Engagement

Independent Representation and Support for Victims

Information Sharing

Action Planning

Number of Cases

Equality

Operational Support

Governance

Keep in touch!



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Thank You!



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