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**MARAC Fact sheet**

**Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference**

**What is the DASH form?**

(Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment) is a series of questions that is completed by a professional, it should be completed with the victim. It is a simple tool which aims to indicate those who are at highest risk of harm and should be referred to a MARAC.

The DASH form and MARAC referral can be downloaded from the Professionals sector of www.cambsdasv.org.uk

The questions can be used to grade the severity of any incidents. The police may suggest and refer you to an IDVA (independent domestic abuse advisor) they provide support with your consent and any information shared is with your consent.

**Thresholds for referring DA victims to MARAC:**

Any disclosure of domestic abuse requires a response to ensure the victim and any children or family members are safe. The current threshold for MARAC in Cambridgeshire is 17 questions out of 24 on the DASH form answered with a ‘yes’ Additionally, if a professional has serious concerns about a victim who scores below 17, they can also refer based upon professional judgement. Professional judgement is risk led information that is not contained in the Dash questions.

This means, if any professional completing the questionnaire believes that a victim is at risk of serious harm or homicide they need to document their assessment and refer.

**What happens at MARAC?**

MARAC meetings take place 3 times a week in Cambridgeshire- Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. A scheduled 20 minute discussion takes place per case and named professionals involved with the case contribute relevant information (i.e. police, Probation, IDVA Service, Housing, Children’s social care, Adult Social Care, Drug/Alcohol Services, Mental Health and Education), the allocated IDVA acts as primary safeguarding lead for the victim and shares risk led information and advocates the thoughts and wishes of the victim. Risks are collectively identified and agreed by the professionals present and a plan is collectively formulated by professionals suggesting specific actions to reduce identified risks. The primary aim being to keep the victim, children and other named vulnerable household members safe from further abuse.

If you make a referral to MARAC you will need to attend (either in person or via Teams) to present the case.

If you have any questions, professionals can email the Duty IDVA to discuss referrals to MARAC idva.referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk