



# Guidance for MARACs

## Addressing the abusive behaviour of alleged perpetrators

**This guidance will support the MARAC process to address the abusive behaviour of alleged perpetrators. While the central focus of the MARAC is on the safety of the adult victim and children, this can only be achieved if the behaviour of the alleged perpetrator is addressed effectively.**

Thus, it is essential that the MARAC considers information about the alleged perpetrator, and that actions are agreed within the safety plan that directly address their abusive behaviour. This guidance aims to reinforce our current advice on support for victims and children at MARAC and should be read by both the Chair and MARAC representatives.<sup>1</sup>

### Managing perpetrators at MARAC

#### The role of representatives: Sharing relevant information

It is the role of **representatives** at MARAC to bring information about the alleged perpetrator's circumstances and their behaviour for every case, as well as information about the victim and any children.<sup>2</sup>

#### **MARAC representatives (including the police) should research and share information such as:**

- Accurate, up to date personal details, including any aliases.
- Whether the person is a serial perpetrator.
- Child protection concerns.
- All intimate relationships and children they have contact with.
- Offending behaviour, police markers and intelligence relevant to domestic abuse including arson, threats to kill, sexual violence, extreme levels of control, or stalking.
- Any employment, interests or activities which involve physical ability, weapons, or access to specialist detective or IT skills.
- Any vehicles, premises and IT systems the perpetrator has access to.
- Drug or alcohol misuse and/or mental ill health issues.
- Risks to professionals.
- Health or wellbeing issues which affect their likelihood of further perpetration.
- Other relevant information, eg financial difficulties, pet abuse, cultural practices, fire setter status.

#### The role of the Chair: Identifying the risks and action planning

The **Chair** should ensure that all information relevant to the perpetrator and factors that are likely to increase the risk of re-abuse to the victim, harm to children, other vulnerable parties and risk that agency staff could be harmed, is heard at the meeting. This would be in addition to the usual proportionate and relevant information shared on the victim and any children. It is essential that the Chair outline the risks identified from this information and invites other **representatives** to highlight any additional concerns that may have been overlooked.

#### **Some examples of risks specifically relating to the alleged perpetrator may include that they are:**

- Homeless.

<sup>1</sup> To view these resources in full, visit:

[http://www.safelives.org.uk/marac/Resources\\_for\\_people\\_involved\\_in\\_MARACs.html](http://www.safelives.org.uk/marac/Resources_for_people_involved_in_MARACs.html)

<sup>2</sup> While we refer to a single perpetrator, it is crucial to confirm if there is more than one perpetrator in a case.

- Self-harming or threatening suicide.
- Misusing drugs or alcohol.
- Demonstrating behaviours which suggest they may be suffering from a mental illness, and these which may be exacerbating the risk of continued abuse of the victim and any children.
- Ignoring or breaching bail conditions or court orders.
- Stalking and harassing the victim or their friends/family/colleagues.
- Threatening the victim or their friends/family/colleagues.

Clearly there will be other risks that need to be identified relating to the victim, children and any other vulnerable parties at this stage.

**Once the Chair has outlined all risks associated with the victim, children and perpetrator, it is important to encourage actions from the representatives which both address victim safety and address the perpetrator's behaviour.**

Actions to address these risks and behaviours in relation to the alleged perpetrator fall under 4 main headings:



**We have included some examples relating to the alleged perpetrator below but representatives need to be creative in the actions they offer and this list is not comprehensive.**

- Arresting and charging the perpetrator for a criminal offence.
- A disruption plan managed by a single point of contact within the police or probation service, using surveillance, overt targeting, ANPR systems, flagging, uniform patrols etc.
- Consideration by the police for Potentially Dangerous Person status where there is no previous criminal conviction.
- Consideration for MAPPA Management or Integrated Offender Management.
- Review of MAPPA 3 status after expiry of licence conditions.
- Address serial perpetrators in line with local procedures.
- Community mental health assessment.
- Consideration for an anti-social behaviour order.
- Withdrawal of tenancy.
- Referral to substance misuse services.
- Ensuring links are made with Child Protection work and Family Court hearings.
- Offer community perpetrator programme, where appropriate.
- Referral to Respect, Samaritans or other support network.

**Perpetrators can go to extreme lengths to facilitate their abuse; the MARAC team need to keep one step ahead of the alleged perpetrator and make continuing abusive behaviour difficult, if not impossible.**

### Additional information and guidance

- **Respect** (<http://www.respect.uk.net/> / 0808 802 4040) develops, delivers and supports effective services for male and female perpetrators of domestic violence and young people who use violence and abuse at home and in relationships.
- **Guidance on Integrated Offender Management (IOM)**. Information about IOM, which allows local and partner agencies to co-ordinate the management of offenders, including details of the Choices programme. <https://www.gov.uk/integrated-offender-management-iom>
- **Guidance on MAPPA Category 3 Offender status and licence conditions**. National MAPPA Team. (2012). MAPPA Guidance 2012: Version 4. p37. <http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/offenders/mappa/mappa-guidance-2012-part1.pdf>
- **Guidance on Potentially Dangerous Persons**. National Policing Improvement Agency. (2010). 'Identifying and Managing Potentially Dangerous Persons'. In Guidance on Protecting the Public: Managing Sexual Offenders and Violent Offenders 2010 (pp103-116). London: Association of Chief Police Officers. [http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/crime/2010/20110301\\_CBA\\_ACPO\\_\(2010\)\\_Guidance\\_on\\_Protecting\\_the\\_Public\\_v2\\_main\\_version.pdf](http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/crime/2010/20110301_CBA_ACPO_(2010)_Guidance_on_Protecting_the_Public_v2_main_version.pdf)