

Who can I talk to about Domestic Violence/Abuse?

Locally

Bristol Domestic Abuse Helpline

Free confidential 24 hr advice line

0800 6949 999

www.bdaf.org.uk

Next Link Domestic Abuse Services

IDVA Service

0117 925 0680

www.nextlinkhousing.co.uk

WISH @ Knowle West, Hartcliffe and Withywood

IDVA Service

0117 903 8632

www.wishforabrighterfuture.org.uk

Victim Support Avonvale

IDVA Service

0845 456 6099

www.victimsupport.org.uk

Domestic Abuse Referral Team

Based within the police they provide advice to women and men across Bristol

0117 9454307

Always phone 999 if you are in immediate Danger

The Freedom Programme

Women's group work programme

07990 558593

www.bdaf.org.uk/help-and-support/womens-groupwork-programme

Nationally

National Domestic Violence Helpline

Free 24hr confidential women's helpline

0808 2000 247

Honour Network Helpline

Free confidential helpline that supports victims and survivors of forced marriage and honour based abuse

0800 5999 247

Men's Advice Line

National free confidential helpline for men who experience violence from partners/ex-partners

0808 801 0327

Broken Rainbow

Support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people

08452 604 460 or 0300 999 LGBT (5428) from mobile

Childline

Free 24 hour helpline

0800 1111

Respect Phonenumber

Information and advice for people concerned about their abusive and/or violent behaviour towards their Partners

0845 122 8609



Bristol Domestic Violence and Abuse

MARAC

(Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

Information for people at risk from domestic abuse

Domestic Abuse:
there's no excuse

What is a domestic abuse MARAC?

MARAC stands for **M**ulti-**A**gency **R**isk **A**ssessment **C**onference.

It is a meeting held twice a month in Bristol where workers from a number of agencies discuss the health and wellbeing of individuals and family members experiencing the impact of domestic violence and abuse and make safety plans to support those at risk.

The aim is to increase the safety of those involved and reduce the risk of them becoming repeat victims.

Who is referred to MARAC?

People who are identified as being at 'high risk' of serious current or future harm from domestic abuse. Normally this is because of what the abuser is doing or threatening to do.

The agency referring you to MARAC will speak to you about it and ask you if you are in agreement with it. Sometimes someone may be referred to MARAC without their agreement. This only happens where there is an urgent need to protect that person or their children.

If you have been referred to MARAC once agencies will continue to review your case if there are any other incidents within 12 months of the last time you were referred.

Do I need to go to the MARAC?

No, it is just the workers from the different

agencies who attend. Everyone is offered support from a specialist domestic violence and abuse support worker known as an IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor). The IDVA service is independent of the police, council, or any other agencies. If you would like to let the MARAC know anything which affects your safety, or things you need help with please let your IDVA or another support agency who is attending know.

How will the MARAC help me?

By referring you to the MARAC, agencies are trying to make you safer by working with other agencies to help and support you.

The MARAC can help people access more resources locally.

Some of the actions that a MARAC might take include:-

- Making sure any agencies that you approach are aware of your situation so they can support you better.
- Writing a support letter on your behalf if you need additional help (e.g. for housing issues)
- Arranging joint meetings between agencies to help coordinate any support you may need.

Who attends MARAC?

A number of different agencies attend. These include:-

- Police
- Probation

- Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)
- Housing
- Children and Young People's Services
- Schools
- National Health Service (NHS)
- Mental Health Services
- Drug and Alcohol Services.

If you are involved with any agencies and think they should be invited, please let your IDVA know.

How do I know the information shared about me at MARAC is safe?

The MARAC will respect your right to privacy and confidentiality. Any information resulting from the meeting will be kept secure and not shared with anyone who is not involved in your case. Everybody at the MARAC has to sign a confidentiality agreement before the meeting begins.

The abuser is not aware that the MARAC is taking place and information will not be passed on to them.

What happens after a MARAC?

After a MARAC your IDVA or another agency supporting you will feedback. They will let you know about the help and support that agencies are offering to you.