

---

# WEST SUSSEX MARAC PLUS

(MULTI-AGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE)

# TERMS OF REFERENCE

---

## 1 Purpose of The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference Plus Meeting

1.1 West Sussex County Council has developed MARAC Plus as a local arrangement and process. This is an extension to the current county MARAC arrangements and serves as an embedded pathway of escalation. (see current MARAC OPS/ISG)

1.2 The purpose of MARAC Plus is to manage domestic abuse cases which repeatedly come to notice at locality MARAC level. Specifically, where it is identified that local MARACs may not be able to manage cases effectively without a higher agency strategic oversight.

1.3 Cases discussed at MARAC Plus hold an additional level of complexity. Parties discussed may have compounding disadvantages, where locality MARAC's action planning is not able to effectively reduce domestic abuse risk.

1.4 The aim of MARAC Plus is to allow for a more pro-active response and overcome barriers which may have been identified at a local MARAC level. MARAC Plus seeks to answer why harm may be continuing, whether there are gaps in support for parties discussed and what may need to be put in place for all those involved.

## 2 Membership

2.1 The Membership listed below are to attend each MARAC Plus meeting and are responsible to arrange a suitable replacement of similar strategic management level to attend in their absence.

### **Note Takers**

Partnership Support Officer MARAC - West Sussex County Council,

### **Meeting Chairs**

Service Manager - West Sussex County Council

Detective Inspector - Sussex Police

### **Agency Representatives**

Allocated IDVA/Worker - WORTH Services

Advance Social Worker - Children's Services

Service Manager – Adult Social Care

Named Nurse, Safeguarding Children - Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust

Named Professional for Safeguarding Adults - Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Young Person & Families Service Lead - CGL West Sussex Drug & Alcohol Wellbeing Network

Accommodation Team - West Sussex County Council

Senior Probation Officer – The Probation Service

### 3 Administration

3.1 The administration for the meeting will be completed by the Partnership Support Officer MARAC (PSO MARAC)

3.2 The case summary will be distributed 8 working days before the MARAC and to all members on the MARAC plus distribution list. This will also include the original MARAC referral form and the most recent MARAC minutes for each case to support agencies with their research.

3.3 The minutes will be recorded at the meeting by the PSO MARAC and distributed within 2 working days.

3.4 Actions set at MARAC Plus will be checked for completion on a weekly basis and escalated accordingly if necessary.

3.5 Any actions for cases rolled over to the next MARAC Plus meeting will be reviewed as part of the case discussion to ensure they have been completed in a timely manner.

### 4 Referral Criteria

4.1 Cases **must** require ongoing multi-agency management.

4.2 Referred via locality MARAC

4.2.1 Cases must have at least 3 MARAC referrals and case discussions in the last 6 months prior to consideration for escalating into MARAC Plus

4.2.2 Locality MARAC Representatives will collectively decide if a case requires a professionals meeting, safeguarding strategy discussion OR escalation to MARAC Plus

4.2.3 Locality MARAC Representatives must answer the following questions as part a decision to escalate a case to MARAC Plus which will be captured in the MARAC minutes.

- What are the barriers met at MARAC that MARAC Plus can look to overcome?
- What do you hope MARAC Plus can achieve?
- What are the outstanding MARAC actions.

Locality MARAC Representatives will identify key professionals who may need to be invited to the MARAC Plus discussion.

4.2.4 If there is already an identified lead professional, they will be invited to present the case at MARAC Plus. If no lead professional is identified, then the Chairs of the meeting will present the case information.

4.2.4 When referring to MARAC Plus, consideration to be given to our local perpetrator response and support in West Sussex. Referrals to be made where appropriate (High Harm Programme, role of Domestic Abuse Officers (DAO's) as part of the Family Safeguarding intervention, Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC)).

## 5 MARAC Plus Delivery Aims / Function

5.1 Review of previous actions (from previous locality MARACs held). Specifically, what has worked well, what has not worked, what current risks are present along with any additional vulnerabilities/barriers to support.

5.2 Each case will be discussed for no longer than 30 minutes, if further time is required, a professional meeting to be considered outside of the meeting.

5.3 MARAC Plus representatives will agree a risk management plan with SMART actions linked to all victims and alleged perpetrators as part of case discussion. During the meeting the members will agree on a suitable timescale for the completion of each action.

5.4 Lead agencies will be identified for the referred adult victim (over 16 years of age), linked child victim(s) and referred alleged perpetrator(s) (over 16 years of age). On occasion it may be helpful for an identified lead practitioner to be invited to attend the meeting discussion.

5.5 A collective decision is made at the end of the MARAC Plus case discussion as to whether the risks, safety concerns, actions or gaps in support require the case to be rolled over for further MARAC Plus discussion the following month.

## 6 Discharging Cases

6.1 A case will only remain at MARAC Plus for a maximum period of three months, unless on a discretionary basis the MARAC Plus Representatives agree this can be extended and a rational for the reasons why.

6.2 A collective decision will be made regarding discharging cases from the MARAC Plus process. This will involve a full review of actions taken, any evidence of risk reduction, confirmation of no outstanding actions, highlighting any on-going concerns and a clear recording of what current agencies remain involved and a rational for discharging from MARAC Plus. It will be the responsibility of the Chairs of the meeting to propose a short discharge summary which will be recorded in the minutes.

6.3 Following discharge from the MARAC Plus process, if MARAC Repeat threshold is met, then a case will be referred into the locality MARAC for discussion.

## 7 Frequency

7.1 The MARAC Plus will take place on a rolling monthly basis. If there is a significant escalation or incident(s) of harm between meetings taking place, then an urgent professional meeting or strategy discussion should be considered to avoid delay.

7.2 If there are no cases listed for a given month, then no meeting will take place.

## 8 Review of Terms of Reference

8.1 The terms of reference will be reviewed every two years.