

## **Lambeth Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) <sup>i</sup>**

### **Fact sheet**

Supporting victims and survivors at the highest risk of harm

#### **What is MARAC?**

The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a meeting held every two weeks where professionals come together to share information and develop safety measures for victims and survivors who are at high risk of serious harm or homicide due to domestic abuse and hold perpetrators to account. The MARAC is coordinated by the Violence Reduction Unit's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Team on behalf of the Safer Lambeth Partnership.

MARAC brings together representatives from key agencies, including the Police, Health Services, Children's Social Care, Housing, the Gaia Centre, and other key organisations. The victim or survivor does not attend the meeting; instead, they are represented by an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA).

The purpose of MARAC is to strengthen partnership accountability and ensure that safety planning is collaborative, timely, and effective.

#### **What is OASIS?**

OASIS is Lambeth's secure MARAC case management system.

It is used to:

- submit referrals
- see previous MARAC involvement
- identify repeat cases
- share information with partners
- record actions and updates

If OASIS is used well, safety planning can begin immediately. This means only the most complex cases need to be discussed within the meeting. All cases meeting high-risk criteria will still be listed.

#### **Who can be referred to MARAC?**

Adults (and young people 16+) living in Lambeth who are experiencing domestic abuse and appear to be at high risk.

Domestic abuse includes physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, financial abuse and coercive control.

## What does “high risk” mean?

High-risk in the domestic abuse context is defined as someone being at high risk of serious injury or death as a result of the abuse. High risk is not solely determined by violence. It is defined by pattern, intent, opportunity, and context, not by incident count alone. Indicator patterns include:

High-Risk abuse indicators	Examples
Coercive Control	Isolation, monitoring, intimidation, threats, control over money or movement
Separation/Life Changes	Leaving the relationship, pregnancy, new contact arrangements
Escalation	Incidents becoming more frequent or severe
Hidden Harm	Limited disclosure, shame, fear, or barriers to speaking openly
Serious Indicators	Strangulation, threats to kill, stalking, sexual violence, property damage used as intimidation
Vulnerabilities	Disability, mental health difficulties, insecure immigration status, substance use, homelessness
Perpetrator Behaviour	Breaches of orders, weapons access, gang links, obsession or fixation

## How to refer

Any professional working with victims and survivors, children or perpetrators can refer to the MARAC. The perpetrator must not be informed of the referral as this can increase risk to the victim or survivor. Submit referrals via the OASIS MARAC Web Referral Form. **Referrals can be made via the following link: [Oasis: MARAC Web Referral](#)**

Contact the MARAC Coordinator if you are unsure whether the case meets threshold. You do not need consent if requesting consent would increase risk. A MARAC referral indicates the entire multi-agency system must take coordinated action to prevent escalation or serious harm.

## The four ways a case meets MARAC threshold

### 1. Professional Judgement

Professional Judgement is always a valid threshold. Please use the [What does “high risk” mean](#) section above, for guidance, stating any indicator patterns on the referral. Your assessment can indicate high risk, even if the [SafeLives DASH Risk Checklist](#) score is low. There will be occasions where your professional experience and the context of a situation gives rise to serious concerns even if the victim or survivor has been unable to disclose the information that might highlight their risk more clearly. This could reflect extreme levels of fear, cultural barriers to disclosure, immigration issues or language barriers particularly in cases of ‘honour’-based violence.

## 2. SafeLives DASH Risk Checklist - Visible High Risk (14+ “Yes” answers)

If a victim or survivor answers yes to 14 or more questions meet the MARAC referral criteria. The checklist supports the decision but is not required to refer.

## 3. Escalation (Police)

This threshold is used by Police to identify cases where there is not a positive identification of a majority of the risk factors on the list, but where abuse appears to be escalating and where it is appropriate to assess the situation more fully by sharing information at MARAC.

- 4 + more police callouts to the victim/survivor as a result of domestic abuse

## 4. Repeat MARAC Case

Any new incident between the same victim/survivor and perpetrator within 12 months of the last MARAC meeting. This includes unwanted contact, messages, intimidation, breaches, property damage or concerns raised by any agency.

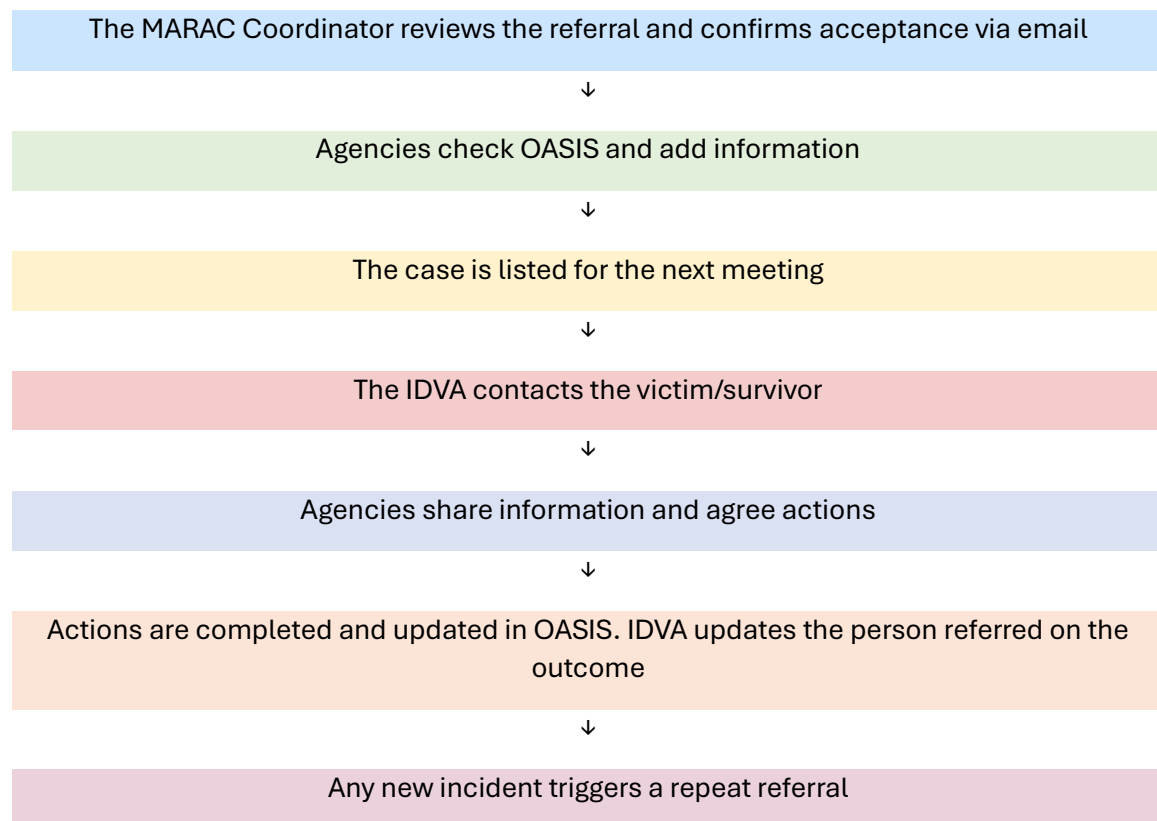
### Why repeat referrals matter

It is expected that a percentage of cases will return to the MARAC due to the nature of domestic abuse and the patterns of convicted and suspected perpetrators. Repeat incidents show that risk is ongoing or increasing.

MARAC should see 28–40% “repeat cases.”

Lower rates may indicate missed incidents or under-reporting. Repeat referrals help agencies adjust safety plans quickly.

### What happens after you refer to MARAC



## What makes a good referral?

Keep it brief and clear and provide:

- victim/survivor details
- perpetrator details
- children involved
- summary of concerns
- SafeLives DASH Risk Checklist (if completed)
- reason for referral or repeat
- any immediate safeguarding actions taken

Important to Remember
MARAC is for high-risk domestic abuse cases
Referral on OASIS supports early safety planning
Repeat referrals prevent escalation
Your professional judgement + summary of key high-risk indicators and concerns is sufficient
Never inform the perpetrator about the referral

Summary of the four MARAC Criteria			
<b>Professional Judgement</b> Always valid. Use high-risk guidance. Context matters even if DASH score is low.	<b>SafeLives DASH Risk Checklist</b> 14+ "Yes" answers meet MARAC criteria. Checklist supports decision but is not required.	<b>Escalation (Police)</b> 4+ call outs	<b>Repeat MARAC Case</b> Any new incident within 12 months of last MARAC meeting.

## MARAC contact details

For more information, please visit: [Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference \(MARAC\) | Lambeth Council](#).

You can contact Lambeth's Violence Reduction Unit VAWG teams, MARAC Coordinator at [lambethmarac@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:lambethmarac@lambeth.gov.uk)

- Download the [Lambeth MARAC privacy notice](#)
- Download the [SafeLives DASH Risk Checklist](#)
- Make a Referral [Oasis: MARAC Web Referral](#).

## Support for victims and survivors

### Gaia Centre

Supports Lambeth residents experiencing domestic abuse or gender-based violence. A referral to them indicates a survivor needs specialist support. You can contact the Gaia Centre for advice.

**Tel:** 020 7733 8724

**Email:** [lambethvawg@refuge.org.uk](mailto:lambethvawg@refuge.org.uk)

If the person you are supporting is scared or frightened of further abuse or harm, or don't feel safe, trust your instincts and support them to call 999.

---

<sup>i</sup> SafeLives 2025: <https://safelives.org.uk/about-domestic-abuse/domestic-abuse-response-in-the-uk/what-is-a-marac/>

<sup>ii</sup> This is SafeLives (the UK-wide charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse) recommended repeat rate percentage for well performing MARAC