

DOMESTIC ABUSE

SUPPORT SERVICES IN BEXLEY

Information for victims of domestic abuse in Bexley

Multi Agency Risk
Assessment Conference
(MARAC)



**BEXLEY
DOMESTIC
ABUSE SERVICES**

www.bexleydomesticabuseservices.org.uk

What is MARAC?

The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference is a two-weekly meeting where agencies discuss high risk domestic abuse cases and together develop a safety plan for the victim and his or her children. Details of the agencies that attend this conference are shown under 'MARAC agencies' in this leaflet.

Why am I being discussed at MARAC?

You have disclosed information about domestic abuse, which could be physical, emotional, financial, sexual or psychological. The agency representative has completed a risk indicator checklist from the details you have provided and feels that you, or your children, are at high risk of further or increased harm.

Can I refuse to give my permission for my case to be discussed?

You will be asked to give permission for your details to be shared at the MARAC. You may decline to give permission. However, as you have been assessed as being at a high risk of harm, our priority is to safeguard you and your children. Whilst we would like you to support the referral, the MARAC agencies do have authority to share information without your consent where there are real concerns for your safety.

What happens at a MARAC?

The incidents involving your case will be discussed and any identified risks will be outlined. Jointly, agencies will then decide what action plans can be put into place. This may mean making a referral to Victim Support's Bobby Van Scheme to increase the security in your home to make you feel safer by modifying your existing home security. It could also include a visit by London Fire Brigade to fit a fire proof bag on the inside of your letter box. Alternatively, this may involve helping you to move to increase your safety, or helping you to seek orders to prevent your ex-partner from contacting you.

Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs)

IDVAs from the Solace Women's Aid provide advocacy, support and advice to increase the safety of women and children who are affected by domestic abuse and living in high risk situations.

An IDVA will contact you before the MARAC meeting to discuss what help you would like from the agencies involved.

MARAC agencies

The following agencies may attend the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference:

Metropolitan Police Service

They have domestic abuse officers who specialise in all aspects of managing and reducing domestic abuse and improving the safety of victims.

Victim Support

Offers free, confidential support and information for victims of crime and can provide safety measures for victim's homes.

Solace Women's Aid

Provides community support and refuge to women and children experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence. Solace Women's Aid also offers programmes that provide an insight into abusive behaviours and its effect on the family. They also operate a one stop shop. This is a weekly drop-in service offering professional help and advice in a secure and safe environment.

National Probation Service

They have dedicated women's safety workers who can support women whose partners are attending a perpetrator's programme.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

For people seeking advice and/or services to support and protect vulnerable children, young people and their families. MASH is also the referral gateway for the Family Wellbeing Service and Children's Social Care (including services for children with disabilities). Family Wellbeing Service and Children's Social Care attend the MARAC.

Adult Social Care

Provides social work, personal care, protection or social support services to adults in need or at risk, or adults with needs arising from illness, disability, old age or poverty.

Pier Road Project

Offers rehabilitation programmes and support to victims with alcohol and drug dependency.

Oxleas NHS Foundation

Provide advice and support for victim's with mental health problems.

Housing

Housing providers can offer advice and support to victims of domestic abuse and help them to relocate or find a safe place to stay

Health visitors

Can offer a wide range of support and advice to help improve the health of individuals and families.

London Community Rehabilitation Company

Works with offenders to help them lead responsible, law abiding lives.

Honour-based violence and forced marriage

A number of agencies, including many of those mentioned above, have been trained to recognise honour-based violence and forced marriage issues and are able to work with victims to offer safety measures.

Useful contacts

METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE

In an emergency call 999. For enquiries and non-urgent crime reports call 101

24 HOUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE

A national service for women experiencing domestic violence, their family, friends, colleagues and others calling on their behalf, including refuge enquiries.

Freephone Helpline - 0808 2000 247

There is also BT Type talk for callers with hearing difficulties.

SOLACE WOMEN'S AID

Leading specialist charity operating in Bexley supporting women and children affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Advice and support - 020 3198 4659

(open Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm).

RESPECT

The UK membership organisation for work with domestic violence perpetrators, male victims and young people.

Telephone – 020 7549 0578 (general enquiries)

Helpline – 0808 802 4040 (for domestic violence perpetrators) (free from landlines and most mobiles)

MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH)

For people seeking advice and/or services, to support and protect vulnerable children and young people.

Telephone – 020 3045 5440 (open Monday to Friday

9am to 5pm). Out of hours (5pm to 9am Monday to Friday and 24 hour cover at weekends) telephone –

020 8303 7777 or 020 8303 7171

VICTIM SUPPORT

A national, independent charity providing support to victims of crime.

Freephone Support Line - 0808 168 9291 (South London assessment and referral line is open 8am – 8pm Monday – Friday, 9am – 7pm weekends, 9am – 5pm bank holidays).

Out of office hours, this number will automatically redirect calls to a 24-hour support line.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (NCDV)

The National Centre for domestic violence provides a free, fast emergency injunction service to survivors of domestic violence regardless of their financial circumstances, race, gender or sexual orientation.

Telephone - 0800 970 2070

MEN'S ADVICE LINE

A confidential helpline for male victims of domestic violence and abuse from a partner (or ex-partner).

Advice Line - 0808 801 0327 (open 9am – 5pm Monday – Friday)

GALOP

Is the lead partner of the London LGBT Domestic Abuse Partnership and coordinates the service.

They support people who have experienced domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime.

Telephone - 020 7704 2040

If you are deaf please dial 18001 followed by the full telephone number from your textphone.)

KARMA NIRVANA

Supports victims and survivors of forced marriage and honour based abuse.

Helpline - 0800 5999 247 (open between 09:30am and 5pm Monday – Friday)