

# MARAT

MULTI AGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT TEAM and  
CONFERENCE



# MULTI Agency Risk Assessment Conference Arrangements

- MARAC was set up to provide a coordinated, specialist multi agency response for cases of high risk domestic abuse.
- MARAC originated in early 2000s and spread nationwide by mid 2000s following review of the initial benefits.

# Risk Definition

- High Risk: There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.
- Medium Risk: There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The offender has the potential to cause serious harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances, for example, failure to take medication, loss of accommodation, relationship breakdown, and drug or alcohol misuse
- Risk of serious harm (Home Office, 2002 and OASYs, 2006): 'A risk which is life threatening and/or traumatic, and from which recovery, whether physical or psychological, can be expected to be difficult or impossible'

# THE TEAM

- The MARACs are split into 3 areas for Essex – Southend on sea Borough, Thurrock and the rest of Essex.
- The teams are managed by Jacqueline Lovegrove at Essex, Julie Jones at Southend and Shadiat Ogu at Thurrock.
- The team consists of representatives from :
  - Children’s Social Care
  - Adults Social Care
  - Essex Police
  - Health
  - Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors
- At the conference there may also be representatives from Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service, Housing, drugs and alcohol and other voluntary organisations.

# MARAC OBJECTIVES:

- To work collaboratively using a multi-agency risk assessment process to improve risk assessment and safety planning, intervention and review for adults and children at high level risk of significant harm or death as a result of domestic abuse.
- To use Agency information to inform risk to determine if an adequate safeguarding plan is in place for the victim and children
- To ensure any on-going risk posed by perpetrators is addressed within safety planning for the victim and children
- To ensure high risk domestic abuse incidents are discussed at a MARAC within 14 working days of the referral
- To ensure MARAC meetings are focussed and purposeful to improve quality of information and risk management.

# WHAT DOES THE MULTI AGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT TEAM DO

- The MARAT receives all referrals of High Risk Domestic Abuse from the Police and other external agencies such as Safer Places, Health etc.
- The MARAT discusses risks and formulates a multi agency owned plan to address these risks . The actions set are in addition to the statutory requirements on agencies such as social care and do not replace this statutory obligation.
- Essex MARAC sit daily, whilst Southend and Thurrock sit once a week.

# DATA

- In Essex they receive approximately 40 referrals per week, Southend approximately 10 and Thurrock approximately 5.
- Obviously a large percentage of these victims will have children and the impact of domestic abuse on children growing up in a household where it is present is widely recognised.

# Contact Arrangements

- MARAT Communications Newsletter will be available where contact details for each area will be shown.