

## Referral process for MARAC:

Where a practitioner has serious concerns about a client's situation they should complete the Safe lives DASH risk assessment checklist with their client or refer to MIA to assist with this if required to do so.

If 14 or more boxes have been ticked "yes" or there is significant cause for concern (may include repeat victim cases) the referring agency should, where appropriate, inform a client about the MARAC process and obtain consent to information being shared with other agencies present. Consent should be obtained. However if consent is not obtained it can still be referred to Marac. A discussion should be had with advocacy manager and/or Marac Coordinator re the case to ensure quality assurance.

Marac referral form completed and submitted to Marac coordinator → Marac coordinator will update advocacy service → an advocate will be appointed who will make contact with the referral agent and client where applicable to do so.

MARAC email – [taysidemarac@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:taysidemarac@scotland.pnn.police.uk)  
Multi-agency Independent Advocacy (MIA) contact information – **01382 596 100**  
MARAC co-ordinator – **01382 596637**

## DASH Risk Indicator Checklist: from Safelives

This risk checklist can be downloaded from [www.safelives.org.uk](http://www.safelives.org.uk). It is primarily intended for professionals both specialist domestic abuse workers and other professionals working for mainstream services. It aims to provide a uniform understanding of risk across professions.

### How does it work?

The simple series of questions makes it easy to work out the risk someone is facing, and what they might need to become safe and well. **A high score means the victim is at high risk of serious harm and needs urgent help.** These victims should get help from an advocate (MIA), and all the relevant local agencies should come together at a MARAC meeting to make a plan to make them safe. The risk checklist is available in several languages, as is guidance on how to use the tool.

The risk assessment tool cannot replace vital professional judgement. It cannot replace the need for training. It is guidance. **See next page for indicators of high risk.**

For more information see [www.safelives.org.uk](http://www.safelives.org.uk)

## Indicators of high risk

- **Victim's perception of risk of harm:** victims of domestic abuse often tend to underestimate their risk of harm from perpetrators of domestic violence. However, if they say they fear further harm to themselves, their child(ren) or someone else this should be taken seriously when assessing future risk of harm.
- **Separation** (child contact):
- **Pregnancy/new birth** (Under 18 months old):
- **Escalation**
- **Community issues/isolation**
- **Stalking**
- **Sexual Assault**
- **Strangulation**(choking/suffocation/drowning)
- **Credible threats to kill**
- **Use of weapons**
- **Controlling and/or excessive jealous behaviour**
- **Child abuse**
- **Animal/Pets abuse**
- **Alcohol/drugs/mental health:** the abuser's use of drugs and alcohol are not the cause of the abuse, as with all violent crime they might be a risk of further harm.
- **Suicide-Homicide:** Threats from an offender to commit suicide have been highlighted as a factor in domestic homicide.



## Child/ Victim - Centred and Perpetrator - Focused Practice Quick Guide

Incorporating the Principles of the  
Safe and Together approach  
and the DASH Risk Indicator Checklist (RIC)

[www.dundeeprotects.co.uk](http://www.dundeeprotects.co.uk)

## Safe and Together Principles



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### Critical Components:

#### Identify -

1. The perpetrators pattern of control.
2. Actions taken by the perpetrator to harm the child.
3. Full spectrum of the non-offending parent's efforts to promote the safety and wellbeing of the child.
4. Adverse impact of the perpetrator's behaviour on the child.
5. Role of substance misuse, mental health, culture and other socio-economic factors.

This guidance promotes the position that the perpetrator's behaviour, not the relationship or living arrangements, is the source of the risk.

This is of great significance as child safety and wellbeing is not automatically resolved by ending the relationship or a change in living arrangements.

For good practice to be undertaken in domestic abuse cases the Safe and Together model principles and critical components should be applied.

### Non – offending parent

#### KEY MESSAGE

You know that the abusive behaviour is not the non-offending parent's fault and that you are here to help.

#### Example questions for Non-Offending Parent

- Can you tell me what concerns you have about how (your partner) has behaved and how it's impacted your children?
- Can you tell me about times (your partner) has tried to control you? Been physically abusive or made you feel scared?

- I can see how hard you have been working to keep your children safe. How can we support you to do that?
- Explore extent and severity of partner's control and level of violence: USE DASH RIC.
- Explore partner's risk to the children and potential adverse impact more explicitly.
- Explore non-offending parent's safety planning and protective efforts.

#### KEY MESSAGE

The domestic abuse perpetrator and his behaviour are the foundational source of the risk and safety concerns for children, not the adult survivor or her behaviour.

### Perpetrator's Pattern of Control

What do we know, from all possible sources (including DASH RIC) about the perpetrator's pattern of coercive control and actions taken to harm the children?

Possible sources of gathering this information can include:

- Other agency records,
- Criminal background checks and justice services.
- The adult survivor
- Family/Friends

### Intervening with the Perpetrator

#### KEY MESSAGE

The choice(s) to be violent, abusive and controlling are parenting choices.

- Be clear that you are there because we are concerned about the impact of his behaviour on the children. Remain focussed on his behaviour – you are not there to speak about any issues with the non-offending parent.
- Explore the perpetrator's understanding of the pattern of abuse and its impact.
- Explore the perpetrators willingness to take steps to prevent further abuse.