



## Partnership Management Group 13 November 2006

### MARAC

Key Decision	Yes
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#### 1. Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committee (MARAC)

The MARAC is a forum convened by Thames Valley Police Domestic Violence Unit to co-ordinate a multi agency response to High Risk domestic violence cases. The role of the MARAC is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate action to be taken to increase public safety.

3 meetings have been held with representation from the police, Health, Housing, Children's and Social Services, Probation, Victim Support, MK Lighthouse and MK Women's Aid.

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#### 2. Purpose

For the MARAC process to be effective, it is necessary to achieve strategic sign up and commitment from all agencies that may come into contact with high risk domestic violence victims and perpetrators. The commitment to provide a representative who is able to share information, allocate resources and regularly attend meetings is essential to success.

The MARAC process requires:

- The strategic backing of, and sign up from, the Community Safety Partnership.
- A commitment to allocate representatives and resources where appropriate from relevant directorates and agencies involved.

#### 3. Issues and Choices

The MARAC process requires agencies to share relevant information and intelligence around high risk domestic violence victims and perpetrators. This allows effective protection plans to be formulated and implemented. To this end, all agencies who have attended meetings have agreed and signed an information sharing protocol. Confidentiality is paramount to the

protection of individuals as much information is of a highly sensitive or personal nature.

The complex needs of domestic violence victims means the MARAC process will require services such as Housing, Health, Probation, Social Services, Children's Services, Mental Health and Substance Misuse Services to assist in the development of protection and sanctuary plans for victims. Organisations such as MK Lighthouse, MK Women's Aid and Victim Support provide essential advocacy, refuge, and emotional support to victims and can often engage high risk victims that may be wary of police and statutory involvement.

## **5. Implications**

### **5.1 Resources**

No additional resources are required for the MARAC process except that of allocating a representative to attend a monthly meeting. Existing resources may then be targeted at those identified as high risk or at imminent risk of harm.

### **5.2 Legal**

The Community Safety Strategy 2005-08 Key Target 3: To reduce domestic violence victims by 10% by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

### **5.3 Sustainability**

Evaluation of the MARAC process is expected to be measured in the reduction of the number of repeat Domestic Violence offences recorded.

### **5.4 Other Implications**

## **6. Recommendation**

That the partnership agrees to co-operate with the MARAC process and allocate representatives and resources from relevant directorates and agencies involved