

Sense Check Document: DASH completions and MARAC referrals

Purpose

This document provides a structured sense check for practitioners completing the DASH risk assessment and making MARAC referrals, as well as for MARAC reps/safeguarding leads to be assured those documents have been completed thoroughly.

It looks to support all areas of risk being explored, safeguarding responsibilities being met, and trauma-informed practice can be embedded throughout.

DASH Completion Requirements

- Every question is answered to demonstrate that all areas of risk were explored.
- If a question was not answered, this was recorded clearly and sensitively.
- The DASH form includes the exact date it was completed.
- The DASH was completed **within 48 hours of a disclosure** of domestic abuse.

High risk cases

- MARAC referral form completed **within 48 hours of the DASH**.
- Practitioners ensured that the victim understood the role of an IDVA.
- Recorded whether consent was given or if refused, why.

MARAC rep/Safeguarding lead should ensure the practitioner is aware of the Importance of Consent document to support consent conversations.

Trauma-Informed Practice Tips

Does the practitioner who completed the DASH/MARAC referral feel they allowed the victim the following:

- A safe space to prioritise safety, dignity, and empowerment.

- Use calm, non-victim blaming language towards the victim.
- Time to disclose and state what they feel comfortable sharing.
- Validation of their feelings and experiences, reassuring that this is not their fault.
- Time and space for the victim to respond.
- Processes were clearly discussed to support a reduction anxiety and uncertainty.

MARAC Referral checks

- Is there a clear summary of the reasons for referral.
- Is there a clear focus on risk indicators, patterns of behaviour, and escalation.
- Has unnecessary narrative detail or opinion been avoided.
- Is it clear what the imminent or severe risks are.
- Has anything been repeated on the referral form.
- A note of clear, appropriate safeguarding referrals being made.
- Ensure the MARAC referral is signed off by the MARAC representative before sending to MARAC admin.