

Section 4 Integrated Impact Assessment – Summary Report

Each of the numbered sections below must be completed.
Please state if the IIA is interim or final

1. Title of proposal

Multi agency Risk Assessment Conference (Marac) Operating Protocol 2022 (vs.3): Final Integrated Impact Assessment.

2. What will change as a result of this proposal?

East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection arrangements include agreement to operate Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (Maracs) in East Lothian and Midlothian which is the highest risk element of our approach to improving the safety of survivors of domestic abuse and their families. Marac is a key part of our delivery of the Scottish Government and COSLA's [Equally Safe Strategy](#).

A Marac is a multi-agency meeting where information is shared about the victims who are at the highest risk of serious harm or murder due to domestic abuse. The meeting provides a safe environment for agencies to share relevant and proportionate information about current risk, after which the Chair will summarise risks and ask agencies to volunteer actions to reduce risk and increase safety.

The aims of Marac are to:

- Work with victims of domestic abuse to help keep them safer and respond to their needs;
- Manage perpetrators' behaviour to reduce risk;
- Ensure that risk and support needs attached to family members or extended networks are identified;
- Maintain the safety and welfare of professionals; and
- Make links with other protection processes (such as Child Protection, Adult Support and Protection, Multi-Agency Task and Coordination groups, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements)

The Marac Operating Protocol has been in place since 2015. This third iteration of the Marac Operating Protocol sets out the operation of our Maracs in accordance with the [10 Principles of an Effective Marac](#) and the [Toolkit for Marac in Scotland](#) from [SafeLives](#), which is recognised as the lead agency for domestic abuse risk assessment and the Marac model.

The Purpose of the Marac Operating Protocol is to:

- Establish accountability, responsibility and reporting structures for Marac;

- Outline the process for the Marac;
- Enhance existing safeguarding, public protection and information sharing protocols and arrangements, rather than replace them; and
- Support existing policies and procedures regarding multi-agency working on domestic abuse.

The Marac Operating Protocol will ensure the correct functioning of Marac in accordance with the SafeLives model referred to above. Marac is also supported by Marac Quality Assurance processes and measures to guide improvement.

Ultimately Marac will reduce risk and increase safety of victims of domestic abuse at high risk of serious harm or murder.

For further information see: [MARAC FAQs for MARAC practitioners 2013 FINAL.pdf \(safelives.org.uk\)](https://safelives.org.uk/FINAL.pdf)

3. Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned

As this is an operating protocol it is to guide the partners involved and is not for public involvement.

4. Is the proposal considered strategic under the Fairer Scotland Duty?

No

5. Date of IIA

26th July 2022, via Microsoft Teams


6. Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, lead officer, report writer and any employee representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. Council, NHS)

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training
Veronica Campanile (lead officer)	VAWG Coordinator, East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office.	
Sinead Cronin (report writer)	Marac Coordinator, East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office.	
Ben Leathes (key public sector partner)	DI (DAIU & RIU), Police Scotland J Division	

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training
Yvonne Irvine (key third sector partner)	Service Manager East Lothian, Women's Aid East and Midlothian.	
Linda Alexander (IIA lead for East Lothian)	Equalities Officer, East Lothian Council	Summer 2021

7. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
Data on populations in need	SafeLives recommended Marac cases calculation 40 referrals per 10,000 local adult female population	As per the SafeLives recommendation and our local adult female populations there are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 180 victims at high risk per year in East Lothian 150 victims at high risk per year in Midlothian.
Data on service uptake/access	Marac Annual Report 2021/22 (not yet published)  Marac Annual Report 2021-22.pdf SafeLives recommendations	In 2021/22: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Lothian Marac discussed 123 cases; 30% fewer than the SafeLives recommendation of 176 cases. Midlothian Marac discussed 111 cases; 24% fewer than the SafeLives recommendation of 146 cases.
Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation.	N/A	
Data on equality outcomes	Marac Annual Report 2021/22 and SafeLives Marac Data Indicators	SafeLives LGBT indicator: 2.5%- 5.8% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no LGBT cases referred to Marac 2021-22 and none were recorded as transgender or non-binary. This is the first year since 2016/17 when we have had no LGBT cases. Male victims indicator: 5% – 10%

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no male victims in East Lothian. This was the first year since 2016 with no male victims recorded in East Lothian. • In Midlothian, less than 2% of victims were male. The number of male victims in Midlothian since 2016 has fluctuated. <p>We recognise that we need to improve performance on the above two population groups. We have been working on engagement with Mypas and Fearfree to seek to increase referrals from males and LGBT+ people.</p> <p>SafeLives Disability indicator: 18%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10.5% (13) cases in East Lothian had a known disability in the year. This is more than double the number of cases from 2021/21. • 14% (16) cases in Midlothian had a known disability in the year. This is more than double the number of cases from 2021/21. <p>Action to further improve this is underway.</p> <p>SafeLives BME indicator: 5.1% East Lothian, 4.2% Midlothian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.1% of cases in East Lothian were from BME populations. This is a slight decrease from the previous reporting year. • 6.9% of cases in Midlothian were from BME populations. This is a slight decrease from the previous year. <p>Whilst we have exceeded the recommendation we are continuing to provide specialist training for services delivered by Shakti Women's Aid.</p> <p>SafeLives Young People: Young people aged 16-24 experience abuse at the highest rates. SafeLives recognise that the number of young people referred nationally is low amongst 16 - 17 year olds.</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 5% of victims in East Lothian were aged 16 - 17 in 2021/22. 23% were aged 16-25. • In Midlothian, less than 5% of victims were aged 16 – 17. 15% were aged 16 – 25. <p>SafeLives does not have a recommendation for referrals for victims aged 60+.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In each area less than five victims were over the age of 60. <p>People in this age group may have been in abusive relationships for many years and are less likely to report to the Police or seek specialist help.</p> <p>Work is underway to improve awareness of domestic abuse and Marac with universal services such as primary health care.</p>
Research/literature evidence	Resources for professionals in Scotland Safelives	SafeLives guidance sets the standard for us.
Public/patient/client experience information	N/A	Not relevant but we do take account of clients views and due to the nature of Marac where consent is not required Marac does not have direct involvement with victims referred. SafeLives Scotland is currently working on a research project called the Scottish Authentic Voice Panel which will inform our future work.
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings	N/A	Not relevant for this process and more relevant for referring agencies. The above project may prove relevant.
Evidence of unmet need	See data on population in need	See data on service uptake above.
Good practice guidelines	Resources for professionals in Scotland Safelives	This Marac Operating Protocol is our local good practice document.

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data	N/A	
Environmental data	N/A	
Risk from cumulative impacts	N/A	
Other (please specify)	N/A	
Additional evidence required	N/A	

8. In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights	Affected populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>The purpose of Marac is to eliminate harassment of anyone in relation to domestic abuse from a partner or ex-partner.</p> <p>Marac is inclusive of all protected characteristics</p> <p>We proactively engage with services such as FearFree and MyPas to raise awareness of Marac.</p> <p>The Marac Improvement Plan works specifically to improve access and representation across all minority groups.</p>	<p>Marac is open to all populations and inclusive of all protected characteristics</p>
Negative – None identified	NA

Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts	Affected populations
Positive – Noted this section is not relevant to Marac	NA
Negative – Noted this section is not relevant to Marac	NA

Economic	Affected populations
Positive Actions offered at Marac such as referrals to employability services	Young people and adults who are not in employment or are under-employed
Negative	None

- 9. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so how will equality, human rights including children's rights, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?**

None

- 10. Consider how you will communicate information about this policy/service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language? Please provide a summary of the communications plan.**

This is not applicable as it this is an internal document to guide the work of partners and it is not for the general public.

- 11. Is the plan, programme, strategy or policy likely to result in significant environmental effects, either positive or negative? If yes, it is likely that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be required and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this. See section 2.10 in the Guidance for further information.**

No

12. Additional Information and Evidence Required

If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered. If appropriate, mark this report as interim and submit updated final report once further evidence has been gathered.

No further evidence is required

- 13. Specific to this IIA only, what recommended actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? (these should be drawn from 7 – 11 above) Please complete:**

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
Continue to deliver the Marac Improvement Plan	Katerina Gradeva, Marac Coordinator, EMPPO	Ongoing	June 2023
Continue to deliver the VAWG training and awareness raising programme	Veronica Campanile, VAWG Coordinator, EMPPO	Ongoing	June 2023
Gain approval for the VAWG Prevention Plan	DCI Keith Mackay Chair VAWG Delivery Group, Police Scotland J Division.	March 2023	June 2023

- 14. Are there any negative impacts in section 8 for which there are no identified mitigating actions?**

None identified

- 15. How will you monitor how this proposal affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?**

The Marac Annual Report reports on the representation of people with protected characteristics in relation to risk from domestic abuse, as well improvement action undertaken and planned.

- 16. Sign off by Head of Service**

Name 

Date 04/08/2022