**Solihull MARAC & response to Domestic Violence**

As you will be aware, as result of COVID-19 we are seeing a significant increase in domestic abuse nationally, regionally and locally. Solihull’s Domestic Abuse Priority Group (DAPG) has been reviewing our response to this and has provided additional resources to improve our local capacity to meet this additional need.

The multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARAC) are key to the swift multi-agency response to domestic abuse cases. COVID-19 lockdown restrictions have had significant impact on the frequency and severity of domestic abuse, which has already started to increase the numbers requiring a MARAC response to support safeguarding. This increase is expected to continue for the coming months. We have also had feedback that the length & intensity of these sessions has also been difficult for staff to maintain.

Given the number of cases which need to be reviewed and after consultation with partners, the frequency of MARAC will be increased to fortnightly to ensure the growing case list is covered. We appreciate that this may place additional pressures on staff who are actively in involved in the MARAC process which you may need to review.

Fortnightly meetings will provide short and long term benefits:

* give us the capacity to deal with the surge, which is evident from data
* provide the flexibility to manage increased numbers as part of business as usual
* allow us to deal with high risk cases in a timely manner
* Reduce stress on panel members

These arrangements, which would also bring us into line with other parts of the region, will be reviewed in November 2020 to understand how they are working for partners. Attached is a summary of the agencies and departments who form the core panel membership.

At the moment there is domestic abuse legislation progressing through parliament, which is expected to result in Domestic Abuse legislation in April 2021. At this point, we do not think MARAC’s will be a direct feature, however they are likely to be included in the statutory reporting template, each area will be required to submit to the DA Commissioner.

If you have any queries, please do contact

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Sarah Pugh – Coventry & Solihull MARAC co-ordinator (marac\_referrals@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

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| **Agency/department**  |  |
| **WMP - PPU**  | **SCH –Housing Options**  |
| **WMP – Offender management**  | **SCH – neighbourhood team**  |
|  | **St Basils**  |
| **SMBC – Children Social Care** | **Bromford Housing**  |
| **SMBC – Adult Social Care**  |  |
| **SMBC – Education safeguarding**  | **Rape and Sexual Violence Project**  |
| **SMBC – PH**  |  |
|  | **Birmingham and Solihull Women’s Aid IDVA** |
| **Community rehabilitation company**  |  |
| **National Probation service**  | **Safe House male idva**  |
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| **BSMHFT** | **Black Country Women’s Aid Stalking & harassment advocate**  |
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| **HEoFT** | **Victim Support**  |
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| **BSOL CCG safeguarding**  | **Mytime perpetrator programme**  |
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| **SIAS** | **Solihull Community Hub**  |
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| **South Warwickshire Foundation Trust safeguarding**  |  |