



The ten children chosen for this audit were aged between 1 year and 15 years old at the time of the audit.

The children have a range of needs including domestic abuse and living with extended family, parental substance misuse and mental health, adult exploitation, parental learning disabilities, forced marriage, immigration issues, maternal self harm, ADHD, Harmful Sexual Behaviour, physical health needs

What we are worried about?

- Child not identified at address by police, need to ensure there is a question asked about children even if they are living elsewhere
- GP records do not show child living with grandparent
- Not automatic that MARAC discussions are added to children's records in some health settings
- Unclear use of language in records to describe mental health
- Missing analysis about Adverse Childhood Experiences and lack of curiosity
- Lack of evidence of effective sharing information between adult social care and children's social care & GP
- GP not aware of MARAC or CP plan for one child
- Inconsistency of police BRAG risk assessments
- GP not invited to Review CP conference
- Lack of progress of change for one child which has been escalated following the audit
- Attendance at Child in Need Reviews didn't include all agencies

What Good Practice did we see?

- Family involvement in assessments
- Swift response from Access Team
- Police incident reports shared with GP
- Transparency about risks known to agencies
- Use of Clare's Law
- Good joined up multi agency working seen, and curiosity seen
- Inclusion of father's voice identified in three audits
- Holistic and joined up work between Health Visitor and GP
- For 3 children there was good recording of child's voice
- Good use of history to inform current and future needs
- Quick referral made when there was a concern

Organisations that audited their involvement with the ten children were: GPs, Social Care, Sirona, NBT, AWP, Police, YJS, EDT and Preventative Services.

Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Children at MARAC Sept 2023



Themes for Learning: Voice of the Child

- Risk of adult focussed assessments when there are complex needs for family
- Some children in the audit had no evidence of their voice being heard
- One case: voice of child heard only through mum
- Even young and non verbal children should have their voice recorded and assumptions not made about what their daily life is like



Signs of Safety Tools for listening to the voice of the child are available here

The audit of 5th September 2023 reviewed the records of ten children and the aim was to look specifically at responses to children whose parents have been heard at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

The aim of the audit was to ascertain whether there were good multi-agency standards for managing cases and whether organisations have implemented a robust and consistent response in line with statutory and good practice guidance, and the Children's Partnership policies and procedures.



The audit didn't find consistent use of Domestic Abuse Toolkit Click here to see the tools



When there are adult safeguarding concerns for a parent always consider links with children's social care



Think Family: Consider who are the best people to invite to meetings – who work with adults or children



Remember: all practitioners can refer a child to school health nurses – click for more

Themes for Learning Children at MARAC

What we found:

- Effectiveness of MARAC plans for children
- MARAC is about protecting victims and has historically just focussed on the adult
- Not clear impact of MARAC seen on children's records for this audit, very clear for the adults
- Evidence of Domestic Abuse Act about children as victims not embedded
- Consistency of chair and co-ordinator at MARAC is ensuring actions are followed up well

What needs to Happen?

- Need to ensure that children are considered in their own right as victims
- There was one case where this had happened well although most audit cases didn't show evidence of this

Multi Agency Bitesize MARAC sessions here

New Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Training here

MARAC and Domestic Abuse resources available here