

Wirral Domestic Abuse JSNA (June 2025)

High Risk Incidence (MARAC)

MARAC referrals and change

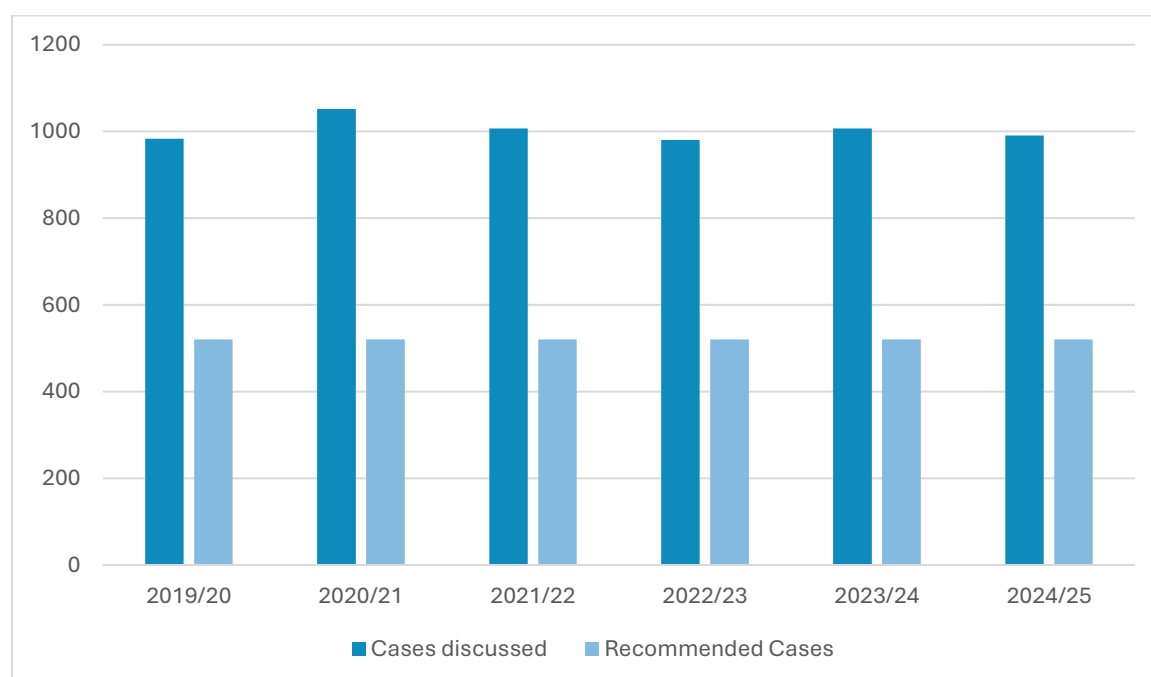
The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a local meeting where information concerning the highest risk DA cases is shared between representatives of police, probation services, health services, child protection specialists, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. The representatives discuss options for increasing the safety of the victim and children and these are developed into a co-ordinated action plan. The MARAC also makes links with other bodies to safeguard children and manage the behaviour of the perpetrator.

At the heart of a MARAC is the working assumption that no single agency can see the complete picture of the life of a victim, but all may have insights that are crucial to the safety of the victim. Victims and children are represented by an IDVA at MARAC.

Ref: [Learn more about the Marac - SafeLives](#)

In Wirral, MARAC takes place daily (Monday – Friday). This ensures that services responses and action plans are put into place in a timelier manner, offering a more effective level of support to victims and their children (see cases numbers in **figure 1**)

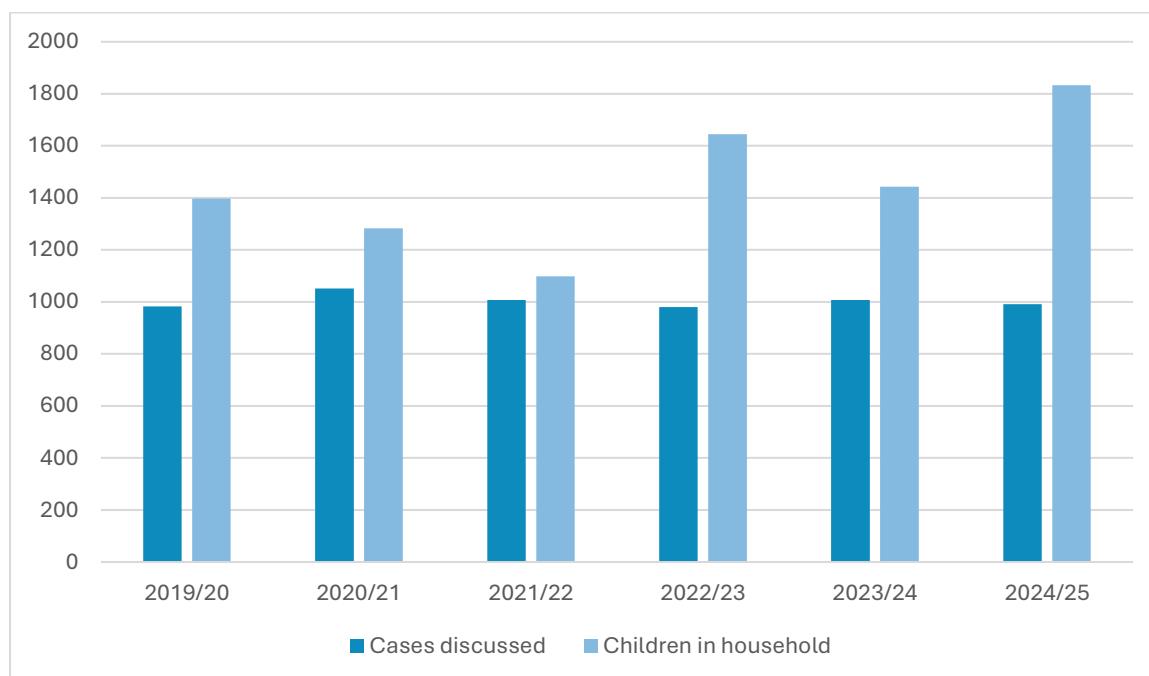
Figure 1: Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences. Number of cases discussed in Wirral compared with numbers 'recommended' by SafeLives, six-year period from April 2019 - March 2024.



Ref: Recommend cases SafeLives Recommended level MARAC Review Report Wirral May 2024.

Children

Figure 2: Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences. Number of cases discussed in Wirral and number of children in households, six-year period from April 2019 – March 2024.



Ref: Recommend cases SafeLives Recommended level MARAC Review Report Wirral May 2024.

In 2022, 980 cases were discussed at the MARAC in Wirral with 1645 children associated with these cases (**see Figure 2**).

This is the highest number of children associated in the six-year period. In 2024/25, 71% of cases discussed involved children.

Although cases could be referred to the MARAC more than once, this is an indication that for high-risk cases, it is common for children to be part of the domestic background.

The number of victims aged between 16-17 years (referring specifically to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) only), and the number of perpetrators harming others aged 17 and under, are recorded in MARAC cases however are not presented in this needs assessment due to data quality issues.

Victim/Survivor Demographics

It is a recommendation of this needs assessment to improve data collection by service providers to accurately reflect the demands on local services.

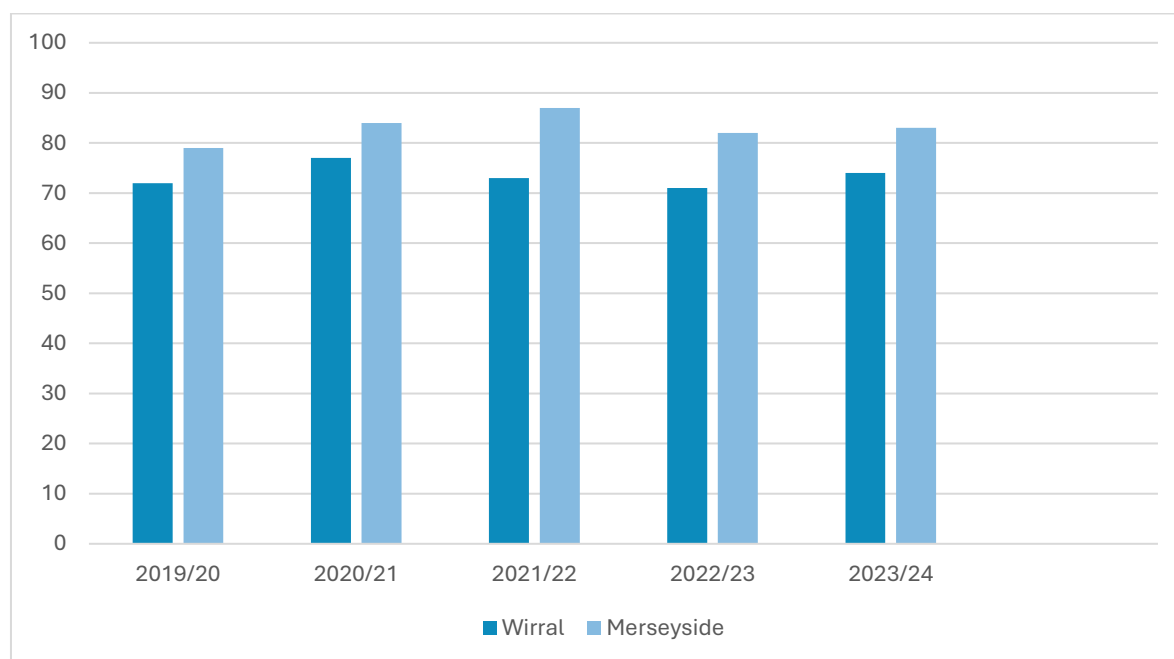
The figures in **Table 3** are below the SafeLives Recommendations.

Table 3: Recorded characteristics of those experiencing domestic abuse (percentage)., Wirral, 2019/20 to 2024/25

Wirral MARAC	Cases 2019/20	Cases 2020/21	Cases 2021/22	Cases 2022	Cases 2023/24	Cases 2024/25
Disability	2.4%	0.7%	1.4%	Error with data recording	0.5%	2.4%
LGBTQ+	1.2%	0.0%	0.2%	Error with data recording	1.1%	1.2%
Ethnic Minority residents	0.9%	1.1%	2.2%	Error with data recording	2.4%	2.2%
Male	3.4%	4.0%	4.9%	Error with data recording	2.2%	1.2%

Notes: LGBTQ+ - is an acronym commonly used to describe people who are lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, questioning and ace.

Figure 3: Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences. Number of cases per 10,000 adult female population in five-year period for Wirral and Merseyside Police Service.



Ref: Recommend cases SafeLives Recommended level MARAC Review Report Wirral May 2024

In **Figure 3** above, illustrated are the number of cases per 10,000 adult female population in the noted five-year period for Wirral and compared to Merseyside Police Service. Wirral is below Merseyside Force area average.

Data from the MARAC process for the years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2024/25 are illustrated in the figures above.

In these years, the numbers of cases discussed through the MARAC process in Wirral were 983, 1052, 1007, 980, 1007, and 991 respectively (**Figure 1**), although a case could return to the MARAC and be counted again as a repeat.

In all six years the case numbers discussed in Wirral exceeded the numbers that Safelives would anticipate being discussed in an efficient, local MARAC system, given the size of the local population. Wirral, as a local MARAC system, given the size of the local population should be seeing numbers around 520 per annum, or 40 cases per 10,000 people.

This trend is seen in Merseyside and across England and Wales as a whole, suggesting that more needs to be done to ensure cases are discussed efficiently.

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

When lockdown measures came into force in early 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic, police reports went down by at least 20%.

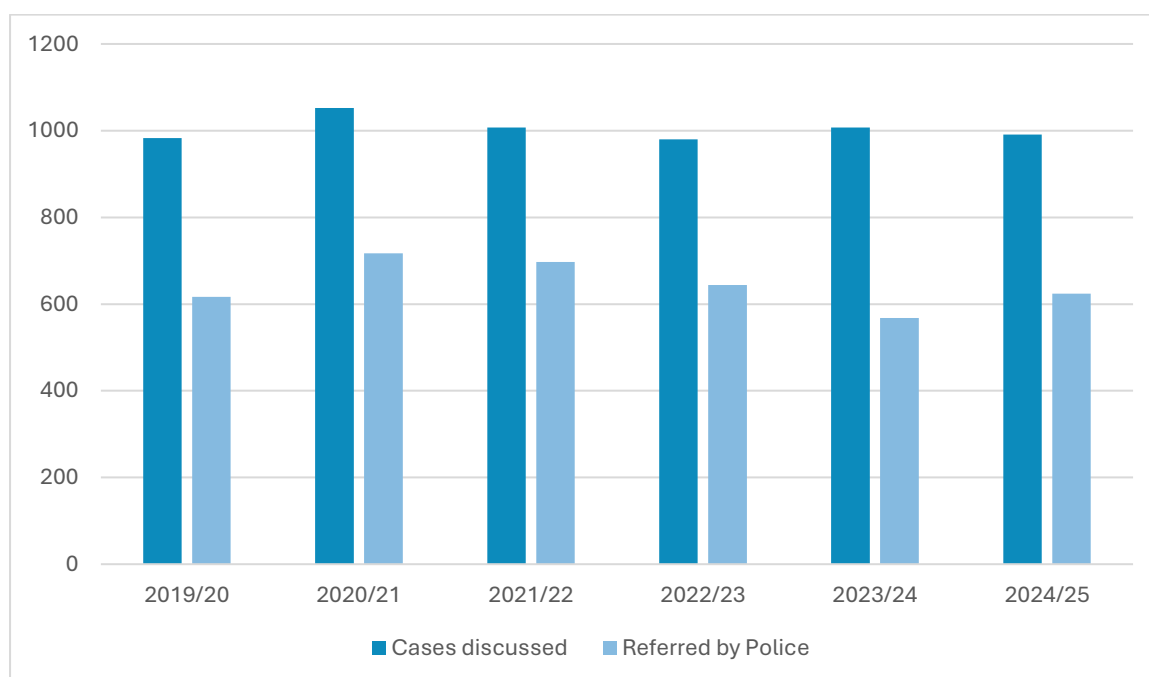
It is believed that this is due to victims having difficulty contacting the police because their abuser was also locked in with them and this trend seems to have continued on post pandemic. The reports the police received were more likely to be third party reports (neighbours) as they were also at home and could hear the disturbance.

The risk level (DASH risk checklists - domestic abuse, stalking and honour based violence) ([DASH Risk Checklist](#)), also went down with fewer high-risk cases from the police into MARAC.

As a result of this, a 'silent solution' was promoted on social media platforms to help victims report. In addition, Central Government also issued advice that victims of domestic abuse were exempt from lockdown restrictions, in that they could leave their home if they were experiencing domestic abuse.

Referrals to MARAC and Repeat Cases

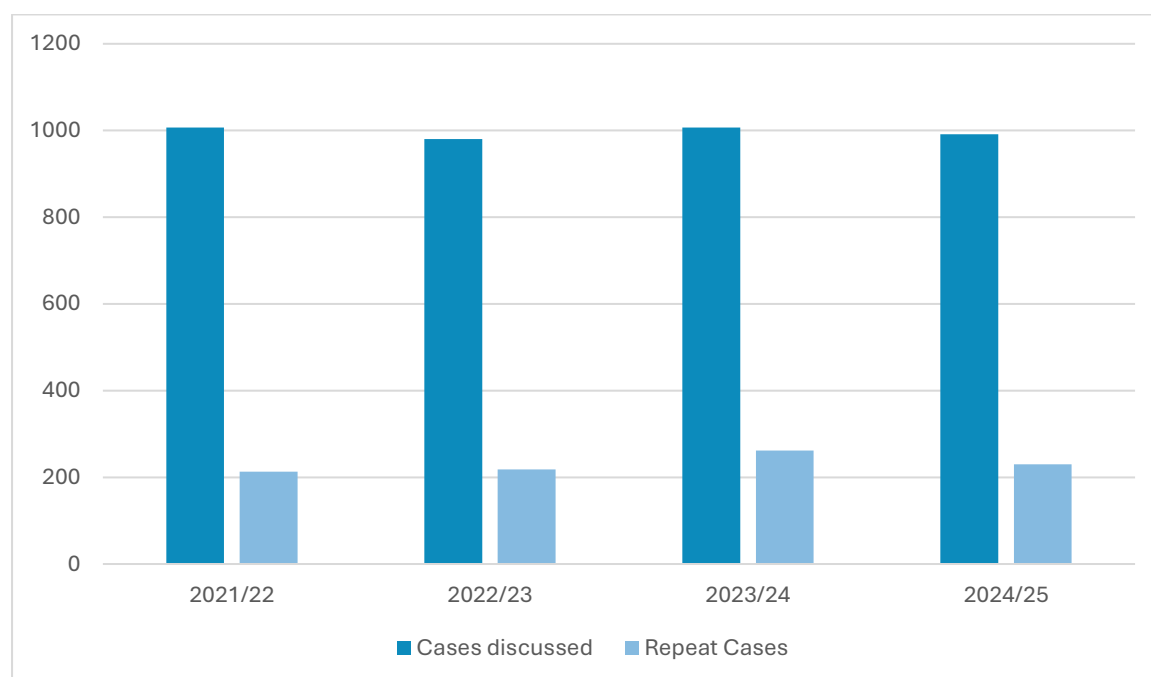
Figure 4: Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences. Percentage of MARAC cases for Wirral referred to MARAC by police in six-year period from April 2019 – March 2024



Ref: Recommend cases SafeLives Recommended level MARAC Review Report Wirral May 2024

Police remain the highest referrer into MARAC across the six-year period. Any professional can make a referral into MARAC (**Figure 4**).

Figure 5: Multi- Agency Risk Assessment Conferences. Percentage of MARAC cases for Wirral compared to percentage of repeat cases in a four-year period from April 2021- March 2025.



Ref: Recommend cases SafeLives Recommended level MARAC Review Report Wirral May 2024

The percentage of repeat cases heard at Wirral MARAC for years 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 were 21.2%, 22.2%, 26% and 23.2%, respectively.

The reduction in repeat cases (**Figure 5**) in the recent year highlights the ongoing work in Wirral focusing on earliest help for domestic abuse, allowing victim/survivors and their children to access support with no threshold and 'no wrong door' approach, thus reducing the number of people experiencing the highest risk level of domestic abuse and reducing repeat victimisation.