

Louise made a routine appointment at her GPs for a check up as she was feeling quite run down, tired and emotional all the time. During the appointment and the questioning from her GP he determined that there may be an alternative reasoning to a health issue to how Louise was feeling. The GP completed the DASH (Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment risk assessment) with Louise and established that she was in fact a victim of Domestic abuse from her husband of 11 years. The RIC came out as scoring high and showed that Louise was in fact a high risk victim. The GP referred the RIC and Louise to the MARAC and myself as IDVA. The GP attended the MARAC meeting and heard Louise's case discussed there and was fully part of the multi agency plan to support Louise.

I contacted Louise but it was difficult to arrange to see her as her husband kept such a tight rein on her so I contacted the GP who referred Louise and negotiated that I could in fact visit the surgery and be in his room for Louise's next appointment. Louise attended her husband waited in the car park. I completed a safety plan with Louise and identified her options with her. We agreed some safe contact arrangements. Louise wanted to flee her marriage and abusive husband so we began to put this in action. Louise had family down on the South coast so liaising with professionals and agencies down there we secured a safe place for her to move to without her needing to go into a refuge and without the knowledge of her husband finding out this is what we were planning. The GP and her surgery made all this possible allowing us to use them as a ruse to continue to meet with Louise.