

Case Study 2: Liverpool

Merseyside have a harmful practices steering group which oversees responses to harmful practices in the area. They have produced a Pan Merseyside Forced Marriage (FM) and Honour Based Abuse (HBA) Protocol which provides information on these forms of abuse, as well as detailing expected responses from a range of agencies, as well as MARAC: [Link](#)

Savera UK are a by and for agency based in Merseyside who specialise in harmful practices. They provide direct support to victim/survivors of harmful practices, as well as carry out education in schools, community engagement and training for professionals: [Website](#)

Liverpool MARAC hold a separate 'closed MARAC' which sits every two weeks to hear cases that are deemed to require a higher degree of confidentiality such as those with victim/ survivors who work for MARAC agencies and harmful practices cases.

Components of the meeting include:

- Attendance by a smaller 'core group' of agencies
- Harmful practices cases referred to Savera for specialist support
- Savera is a key agency at the meeting, and can provide advice on cases as well as advocate for victim/ survivors
- If a case is identified as being a harmful practices case in the main meeting, it would be moved to the closed MARAC

I actually really enjoy the way that Liverpool has been structured purely on the basis that it's so well, it is very well structured. It's very well chaired. I think when you have a good chair who knows what they're doing, and who has the knowledge of why we're in a closed MARAC specifically on the HBA side it makes things flow a lot easier - Savera