

MEETING NAME	DATE
Forces Women's IAG	20/7/2022
DIRECTORATE / DEPARTMENT	AUTHOR
Investigations - MSCRT	
NAME OF PAPER	
Domestic Homicide Reviews	

CURRENT STATUS OF DHRs

- There are 16 DHRs currently being progressed within Avon and Somerset. The Police are only actively writing the initial IMR for one of these reviews as the others are waiting for the Chair to finalise the Overview report prior to sending to the HO.
- We are waiting for 6 DHRs to be formally published, some of which are currently with the HO for their approval. These reviews date back to 2017 / 2018.
- 4 DHRs have recently been commissioned. The Police are waiting for the Terms of Reference prior to commencing these reviews.

CURRENT STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Avon and Somerset currently own 12 recommendations that have derived from 6 separate DHR reviews
- We have actioned and finalised 21 recommendations since the start of 2022.
- There were 3 recommendations recently circulated in the Overview Report relating to a death in 2019. These have now been agreed by the Police and are waiting to be disseminated to the relevant Theme leads.

DA MATTERS CULTURAL CHANGE PROGRAMME

Several of our recommendations are being addressed by DA Matters Cultural Change Programme which is scheduled for September 2022. The overall aim is to provide police officers and staff with knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse, the reality of domestic abuse and how to respond consistently and effectively to reports of domestic abuse. (objectives of the programme are detailed in Appendix 1)

SafeLives will be conducting a two-phase evaluation to measure how the training has been received and to understand additional learning and barriers for frontline officers. Phase 1 will be on the day of the training and then phase 2 will be carried out 6 months later.

DA PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE

Our internal DA guidance has been amended and updated to reflect recent changes in legislation and the learning from DHR recommendations.

DA INFLUENCER'S NETWORK

This network of enthusiastic and knowledgeable officers has thrived over the last year and is supporting and influencing the organisation in DA investigations. We are awaiting a short summary with terms of reference will be received by 19/7/22.

IDENTIFYING INTERNAL BEST PRACTICE / GOOD WORK / LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Statutory Case Review Team have recently devised a process whereby the authors of the DHRs complete a template recognising good work / learning opportunities for officers involved in the investigations. This form is then discussed with the DA Theme Lead who will then personally deliver the feedback and if needed address any training needs.

THEMES AND LEARNING FROM OUR RECENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Police have recently dealt with recommendations which have resulted in learning / changes to processes. I have grouped these under the following headings and then detailed the learning in the below table.

MULTI AGENCY SHARING

- Sharing Of Intelligence regarding weapons
- Domestic Abuse Information Sharing project between Police and Primary Care (GPs)
- Referral pathways into mental health
- Promoting support services / referral pathways
- Sharing intel regarding firearm license holders with GPs

VICTIM FOCUSED:

- Dealing with complex victims who may also be suspects
- Victim focussed response to DA
- Responding to people in long term abusive relationships

OFFICER AWARENESS:

- Specific feedback for officers involved in DA investigations
- Consideration of language used and necessity not to blame the victim.
- Open mindset
- Elder domestic abuse
- Police culture / victim barriers / gender bias
- Coercive control, intergenerational and familial abuse

PROCESS / GUIDANCE CHANGE:

- Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme
- Flagging of individuals who have firearm licenses

MULTI AGENCY SHARING

THEME	ACTION	LEARNING / CHANGES
Sharing Of Intelligence regarding weapons	Review the sharing of intelligence that a perpetrator of high-risk domestic abuse keeps weapons with the IDVA and other services. Aim: to facilitate effective safety planning.	We have confirmed that details of weapons are shared: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• at MARAC for High Risk• By the LSU for Medium and Standard incidents if it is included within the BRAG
Domestic Abuse Information Sharing project between Police and Primary Care	To review the Somerset CCG Domestic Abuse Information Sharing project between Police and Primary Care (GPs) during COVID-19 Pandemic 2020 Aim: to facilitate sharing of information between Police / GPs.	Waiting for the Integrated Care Partnership (formerly CCG) to agree on the final draft of the DPIA. An ISA has also been drawn up which sits underneath the DPIA and essentially informs the GP's of the

		<p>principles of the data sharing process between Police and GP surgeries across Somerset.</p> <p>A comms plan forms part of the Implementation Plan, which will enable differing methods of awareness raising with all GP surgeries, to provide guidance and support across the area.</p> <p>A full launch scheduled in September 2022 for all GP surgeries across Somerset.</p>
Sharing intel regarding firearm license holders with GPs	Aim: To ensure that GPs fully engage with sharing medical information of patients who hold firearm licenses.	<p>There is now a process to allow for renewal background checking 3 months prior to the renewal date of certificate. GPs will now share medical reports prior to renewal.</p> <p>It is now a requirement for the applicant, whether at renewal or grant, approaches their relevant doctor's surgery to obtain a wet signed or stamped notification regarding their suitability.</p>
Referral pathways into mental health	<p>Review how partners can best make referrals directly to mental health and substance abuse services.</p> <p>Aim: for ASC to have a direct referral pathway to Mental Health Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Recently discussed during a meeting with CCG & PCC on 29/6/22 to ascertain if there is a positive opportunity to progress (outcome not known)</p>
Promoting support services / referral pathways	Aim: all LSU staff to understand the length and breadth of support needed for those high risk, complex cases including those at multiple disadvantage	Ongoing

VICTIM FOCUSED

THEME	ACTION	LEARNING / CHANGES
Victim focussed response to DA	<p>Undertake an audit on the LSU response to DA - focus on the quality of service and quality of the investigation, including timeliness, compliance, appropriateness, and liaison with other departments.</p> <p>Aim: to ensure we are providing a victim focussed response to reports of domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Audit schedule has now been implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 random domestic tagged crimes are reviewed daily by the IAU and feedback given. <p>Result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improvements regarding investigative action plans positive increase in the quality of investigations and the recording of rationales
Responding to people in long term abusive relationships	Aim: Upskill all professionals so they know how to assess and respond to people in long-term abusive relationships.	<p>LSU staff have been upskilled</p> <p>We now have processes between LSU and partner agencies where daily multi-agency meetings occur to identify DA</p>

		cases and how support can be provided, before a case reaches the high risk threshold of MARAC.
Dealing with complex victims who may also be suspects	Internal scrutiny of LSU's ability to wholly support those complex victims that suffer from multiple disadvantages, who may at times also be suspects of crime (but for this not to prejudice their decision making) Aim: to ensure opportunities for intervention are acted upon	Ongoing

OFFICER AWARENESS

THEME	ACTION	LEARNING / CHANGES
Specific feedback for officers involved in DA investigations	Aim: to re-set officer norms and to receive an educational programme as a priority to ensure a better standard of service for future DA victims	Officers highlighted will be personally de-briefed by the Theme Lead for DA and learning opportunities given including attendance at the DA Matter Cultural Change Programme
Consideration of language used and necessity not to blame the victim.	Ensure training and awareness includes consideration of language and necessity not to blame the victim. Aim: to understand and limit unconscious bias / victim blaming	Part of Project Bluestone is focussed on changing the way investigations are done to ensure there is no "victim blaming" and that officers are mindful of the negative impact of the language they use. A language booklet is being developed (alternative terms) in partnership with the HBA theme Also being addressed by the DA Matters Cultural Change Programme scheduled for Sept 2022. DA guidance now includes specific reference to unconscious bias
Open mindset	Aim: To empower officers to recognize, respond and report Domestic Abuse, encouraging professional curiosity through an 'open mind' and 'investigative mindset'.	DA Guidance has been updated to include section about approaching DA incidents with an open and investigative mind-set. Training delivered across the force ref DASH and having an evidence led approach to DA investigations Having an open mindset is included in the DA Matters Cultural Change Programme scheduled for Sept 2022.
Elder domestic abuse	Aim: Improve awareness of older people and domestic abuse/sexual violence and how to respond.	DA Guidance now has hyperlink to needs of older victims CCB has a new procedural guide covering all aspects of CCB and how it needs to be dealt with by officers. Localised element of elder abuse is included in the DA Matters Cultural

		Change Programme scheduled for Sept 2022.
Police culture / victim barriers / gender bias	Aim: To ensure ASC policing culture is in line with expectations within Force Procedure in relation to being empathetic towards the barriers that victims might face.	Focus groups held with officers to understand mindset Result: Force Guidance amended with hyperlinks for diverse types of DA victims and includes barriers that victims might face Theme Lead has identified opportunities to engage with patrol to deliver key messages to address attitudes and culture. Police culture / barriers is included in the DA Matters Cultural Change Programme scheduled for Sept 2022.
Coercive control, intergenerational and familial abuse	Aim: To raise awareness and understanding of coercive control, intergenerational and familial abuse	The thematic lead has led internal and external campaign raising awareness amongst our own staff on CCB in an effort to improve recognition and response to CCB. We have recently launched our internal DA Pledge which has been established to help create a supportive culture around DA within Avon and Somerset Police and to strengthen the confidence and commitment to report it Forms part of the DA Matters Cultural Change Programme scheduled for Sept 2022.

PROCESS / GUIDANCE CHANGE

THEME	ACTION	LEARNING / CHANGES
Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme	Review the DVDS scheme. How do we promote the use of the DVDS across the organisation? Officers to understand the information sharing process with other forces. Aim: to enable more effective risk management	We have devised a web form for the public / professional to use to apply for a DVDS (ready by end of summer 2022) Currently trialling a 6 month DVDS pilot. This is a new police staff role responsible for meeting victims and making decisions on what will be disclosed. Once the pilot has been completed, and based on the findings, a business case for this role will be presented.
Flagging of individuals who have firearm licenses	Aim: To have a process to ensure that the Police system is used to record and flag individuals who have a firearms licence.	We now have a process to ensure that all firearm license holders are recorded on our Police system.

OBJECTIVES OF THE DA MATTERS CULTURAL CHANGE PROGRAMME

- Define what is meant by the term 'domestic abuse'
- Explain the role of the first responder and the DA Matters Champion in the DA Matters Change programme
- Explain what is meant by the term "coercive control" and how to discover evidence of coercive control using appropriate questions and communication techniques.
- Describe the effect of multiple controlling behaviours on victims, other vulnerable persons and children impacted by the perpetrator's behaviour
- Identify why victims can find it difficult to leave an abusive relationship and how hard perpetrators work to resist their victim leaving an abusive relationship
- Identify the stages of change a victim experience when in and preparing to leave an abusive relationship and how these impacts on them as responders
- Describe what intervention responders can provide to a victim at each stage of an abusive relationship
- Specify the link between coercive control and stalking and harassment
- Explain best practice when recording and reporting the responses to domestic abuse incidents which can maximise evidential value and minimise victim blaming
- Describe the tactics perpetrators may use to manipulate first responders
- Describe the importance of securing evidence at the scene of a domestic abuse incident
- Identify the need and potential options to safeguard victims and children