

Domestic Abuse Update

- Domestic Homicide Reviews
- 'Julie'
- Domestic abuse arrangements in North Yorkshire and York



Current DA definition

- Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those involved 16 or over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality



Domestic Homicide Reviews

- Death of a person aged 16 or over
- Resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by
- A person whom he/ she was related or had been in an intimate personal relationship; or



Domestic Homicide Reviews

- A member of the same household
- Held with a view to identifying the lessons from the death



Domestic Homicide Reviews

- “ where a victim took their own life (suicide) and circumstances give rise to concern, for example it emerges that there was coercive, controlling behaviour in the relationship, a review should be undertaken, even if a suspect is not charged with an offence or they are tried and acquitted”



National Picture

- 2018- 173 people were killed in domestic violence related homicides
- 75% of victims of domestic killings by a partner, ex-partner or family member were women



National Picture

- “invisible victims of knife crime”
- “that’s part of the issue about violence against women, it mostly remains invisible”
- Professor Sandra Walklate,
Liverpool University



Key Findings

- Among both men and women the highest proportion of domestic homicides was among those aged 30-50 (40%)
- Most common method of killing was by a knife or a sharp instrument



Analysis Group (40)

- 33 intimate partner homicides, 15 included dependent children
- Mental health issues present in 25 of the 33
- In 24 of the 33, the perpetrator had a history of violence



Themes- Intimate Partner (33)

- Record keeping 22 (66%)
- Risk assessment 27 (82%)
- Communication and information sharing 25 (76%)
- Known possible signs of DA 24(73%)
- 'Training' highest proportion of recommendations



Julie

“Confident, outgoing and independent”

“Julie loved the outdoors and being active and enjoyed holidays”



Family involvement

- <https://vimeo.com/167567940>



Julie

- Marcus “has taken every bit of happiness out of this family. She was the force within the family that held the family together”
- “She pulled me up if I was going down. She never let me sink.”



Julie

- 21st August 2013
- Julie reported DA to the Police
- Had occurred 4 days earlier while on holiday in Greece
- Serious incident
- Contact with Marcus' sons



Julie

- 28th June 2014
- Julie telephoned '999' to report she had been strangled
- Secure hospital
- October 2014, pleaded guilty at York Crown Court and was detained on a Hospital Order



Julie

- March 2015 discharged to the care of community health services
- 4 separate MARAC meetings



Julie

- 5th March 2018
- Marcus made a '999' call to police stating he had killed his ex-partner

Key Issues

- Good practice
- Communication/ record keeping/ information sharing
- Risk assessment
- Being aware of the 'child'
- On/ off nature

We cannot say with any certainty that the homicide could have been prevented...missed opportunities should be balanced against some of the positive actions taken by agencies to protect Julie. These actions included advice to leave such a violent partner.



*Her family also pleaded with her to end the relationship..
Julie did not feel able to make a complete break from this destructive relationship.*



Actions

- **Training**
- DA- push/ pull factors and pressure on victims
- Risk assessment
- Child focus “putting the child at the centre of their thinking irrespective of the reason they are involved”
- Stalking and harassment

Actions

- **Processes**
- Closure of incidents
- Flagging
- **Record keeping-** cross reference
- **Review of MARAC arrangements**

DA arrangements

- Domestic Abuse Joint Coordinating Group- North Yorkshire and City of York
- Joint commissioning arrangements
- Joint DA strategy



DA arrangements

- Victims- IDAS (Young Perps)
- Perpetrators- Foundation
- Therapeutic Service- Foundation
- Re-commissioning refuge and accommodation based services
- Further work children and young people

