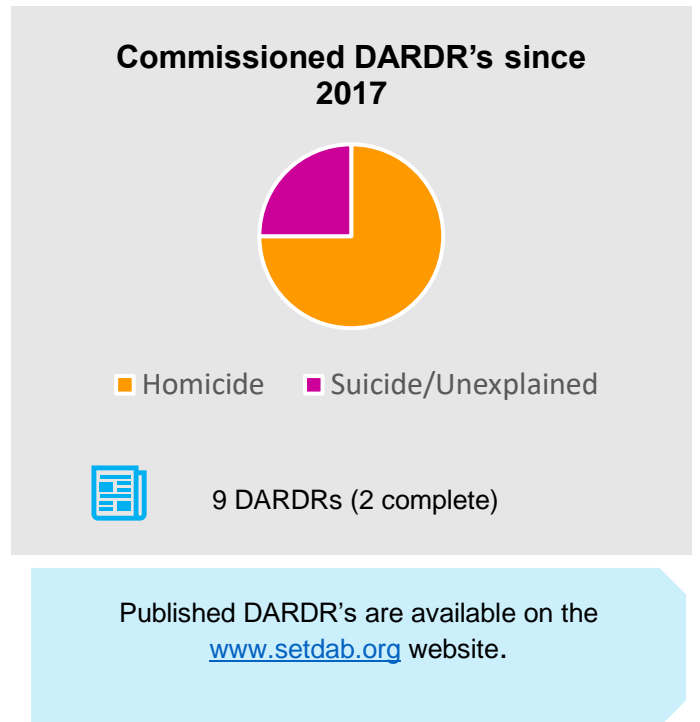
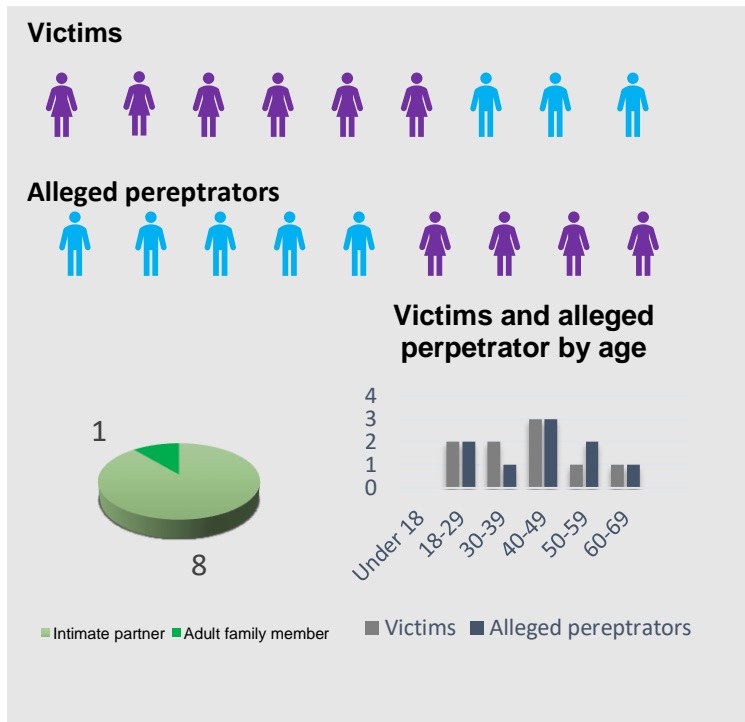


Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR) Suspected Suicide Spotlight

“Where a victim took their own life (suicide) and the 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. Reviews are not about who is culpable.”

A DARDR is to establish what can be learned from the death regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims and prevent further deaths. This summarises the key emerging themes from suspected suicide cases across Southend, Essex and Thurrock.



Key emerging themes



Agencies understanding of the links between domestic abuse and suicide many agencies are aware of the risks of homicide to victims of domestic abuse, but the stages outlined in the Suicide timeline are not so prevalent within services risk assessments. [Dr Jane Monkton Smith Research](#)



The presence of substance misuse and mental health issues and difficulties with agencies engaging with service-users facing multiple complex needs.



Reliance on signposting leading to missed opportunities for intervention and support.



Importance of multi-agency working, professional curiosity and taking a **whole family approach**.



Information sharing including sharing concerns for safety and issues with **cross-boundary work**.



Importance of routine enquiry about domestic abuse and appropriate responses to disclosures within the mental health sector.

Key Messages

Improve risk assessment mechanisms to more effectively identify and understand the risk of suicide in cases of domestic abuse.

Multi-agency working and information sharing- work together to share information more consistently across agencies.

Disengagement from service- consider barriers to engagement and how these might be overcome including whether disengagement might mean increased risk.

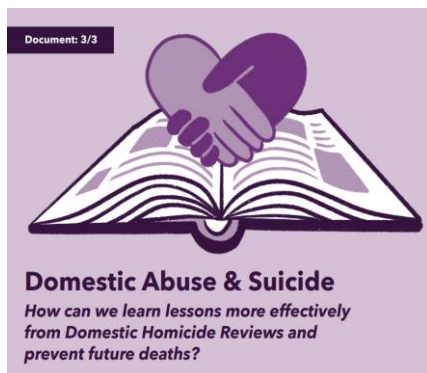
Consider intersectionality of domestic abuse, mental ill-health and substance misuse.

Professional curiosity at high-risk points consider how individuals suicide risk may change at different moments.

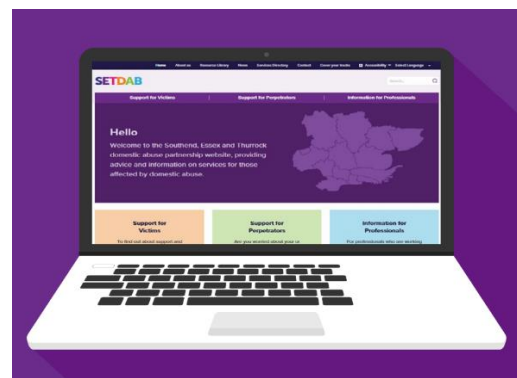
Safe routine enquiry on domestic abuse and mental health, self-harm and suicide ideation.

Training for staff on domestic abuse and suicide prevention across sectors.

Resources, further guidance and support



[DA & Suicide Toolkit AAFDA](#)



[SETDAB](#)

If you have been affected by domestic abuse and would like information and advice please contact [COMPASS](#), our single point of contact for local domestic abuse services.

You can [call the Samaritans](#) 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call **116 123** for free.