

BACKGROUND

A Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR) was commissioned to identify how agencies worked together and to learn from any lessons to improve multiagency responses to domestic abuse.

This DARDR was not published but the learning has been shared across the partnership.

AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

- Essex Police
- Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT)
- GP Practice
- Adult Social Care
- Children's Social Care
- Health Visiting Team
- School
- Safe Steps
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (Pain Service)

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Jessica
Domestic Abuse Related
Death Review
(DARDR)

RECOMMENDATIONS

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There were 13 recommendations, summarised below:

- Raise awareness across agencies of the links between domestic abuse and suicide.
- National recommendation to consider making guidance available, linked to the DASH tool, to support the identification of suicide risk linked to domestic abuse.
- Create a short briefing video, to remind all services of the recently published Southend Safeguarding Partnership's Successful Engagement Guidance.
- The learning around carers identified in a recently completed DARDR thematic review, will be reshared.
- Strengthen EPUT practice around, professional curiosity, significant relationships and non-engagement.
- Review of current handover processes between Community Mental Health Teams and urgent care when transferring of high-risk patients between services.
- Review EPUT DA Policy to ensure guidance is provided when there are counter allegations and provide additional training.
- Southend Children's Social Care to review assessment tools to include consideration of internet influences.
- Essex Police to strengthen training and understanding between domestic abuse and sexual offence investigation teams.
- ICBs to improve suicide prevention training, pathways and implementation of NHS England's "Staying Safe from Suicide" guidance.

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KEY THEMES

- There is a need for greater awareness and understanding of the links between domestic abuse, coercive control, and suicide risk and the importance of adopting a contextual approach that considers an individual's circumstances and the impact of Domestic Abuse.
- How complex mental and physical health needs can intersect and create significant barriers to seeking, accepting, and accessing support.
- The importance of embedding trauma-informed approaches, which recognise the effects of trauma, domestic abuse, coercive control, and complex health needs on an individual's ability to access support. The review highlighted that an over-reliance on telephone and remote appointments may create barriers to engagement for some individuals.
- How isolation due to physical and mental ill health can be compounded by informal caring arrangements which can increase dependency.
- Risk assessments should consider historical context, cumulative risk factors and changes in circumstances.
- Improved information sharing and multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.