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# **Domestic Homicide Review 6 Lessons Learned & DV Update**

## **Leeds Dual Diagnosis Network September 2015**

# Key Facts & Statistics

- “ Approx 2 women each week are killed by a partner or former partner (Home Office 2013/14)
- “ 46% of all female homicide victims were killed by a current or ex-partner (6% male homicide victims) (Home Office 2013/14)
- “ 85% of all victims of domestic violence are women (Government Equalities Office Fact Sheet, 2008)

- ” Domestic Violence accounts for approximately 18% of all violent crime
  
- ” Police call outs 14414 (Leeds 2014/15)

# Definition of Domestic Violence

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

⌘ This definition includes so called %honour+ based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.q

# of Domestic Homicide Reviews

- “ Prevent further domestic homicides
- “ Prevent domestic violence and abuse
- “ Safeguard victims of domestic violence and abuse and their families
- “ Learn from cases and situations that challenge us as a multi-agency partnership
- “ Improve individual, agency and inter-agency responses to those affected by domestic violence and abuse

# Context

- “ Victim - 50 Year old woman
- “ Perpetrator - 62 year old man
- “ Perpetrator came to England from Afghanistan in 2001 and given Leave to Remain after seeking Asylum
- “ Victim came from Pakistan in 2006 with 2 sons to join husband
- “ Married for 30 years and separated in 2009 (3 years after victim arrived in England)
- “ Victim killed by husband in 2012
- “ Post mortem showed cause of death to include stabbing and strangulation
- “ Perpetrator sentenced to Life Imprisonment for Manslaughter

# involvement of Services

- “ Police
- “ LYPFT
- “ Association for Blind Asians Leeds
- “ LTHT
- “ GP
- “ Family declined offer to be involved in review

# Lessons Learned

- “ Use of interpreters/language
- “ Cultural sensitivity and access to mental health services
- “ Isolation/hard to reach communities
- “ Responding to disclosure
- “ Triggered enquiry
- “ Flagging on systems
- “ Record keeping
- “ Community organizations responding to DV
- “ Assessment of male victims and DV Awareness



# Recommendations

- “ Electronic directory of DV services for GPs
- “ DV Training for GPs
- “ DV info in public areas of hospitals and GP surgeries
- “ Flagging on GPs systems
- “ Review of GPs record keeping re DV
- “ Training needs analysis within LTHT
- “ LTHT Review of practice in high volume female patients areas
- “ Review of Interpreting Services/Use of interpreters



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# New Developments National & Local

# New Developments

- “ Domestic Violence Protection Orders
- “ DV Disclosure scheme
- “ Caring Dads
- “ PACT
- “ Coercive Control Legislation (ammendments to Serious Crime Bill 2015)
- “ Front Door Safeguarding Hub

# Door Safeguarding Hub

- “ New initiative to provide faster, more co-ordinated response to those affected by DV & A
- “ Focus is assessing risk & co-ordination of support
- “ Key partners co-located/virtual links
- “ Daily meetings reviewing Police call-outs
- “ Improved information sharing, tasking and accountability
- “ Priority given to medium & high risk cases
- “ Response in lower risk cases still being developed.



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# Working with victims of Domestic Abuse

# Male Victims

- ” **Respect Research 2011 -12.**
- ” Of 2,903 men identifying themselves as victims on the helpline, after the call the workers considered.

CATEGORY	No	%
Victim	1247	43
Victim who\$ also using violent resistance	241	8
Perpetrator	298	10
Perpetrator whose victim has used violent resistance	180	6
Mutual Violence	42	1.4
Unhappy Relationship, No Abuse/Violence	374	13
Not Sure	369	13

# who is doing What to Whom

Example questions:

“Can you tell me about the last time something frightening or violent happened?”

“Can you tell me about the worst time there has been?”

“Can you tell me what you usually do when this happens?”

“Do you ever feel afraid to make certain decisions or do certain things because of what you think your partner might do?”

“Have you ever been injured by your partner..tell me more about that?”

# Who is doing What to Whom

- “ Has your partner ever been injured during an incident .. tell me more?
- “ Are you frightened of your partner? Are you frightened of what they might do to the children?
- “ Do you think your partner is frightened of you? Have they ever said that they are frightened of you?
- “ What do you want to happen now?



## ings to consider....

- “ Victims of abuse can also pose a risk to children.
- “ We are trying to identify **the presence of a pattern of controlling behaviour where the victim feels controlled through a pattern of intimidation**’.
- “ Those in **unhappy** relationships would need practical help/counselling rather than DV service.
- “ Former victims could use violence with a different partner as a defensive strategy or with the same partner when they become older/infirm. These particular causes need to be acknowledged when determining the appropriate intervention.

# Supporting Victims

- “ Emergency plan
- “ Longer Term Safety Planning
- “ Recovery

# Longer term safety planning

- “ emergency plan in place
- “ information about support agencies
- “ telephone numbers of those who will help her
- “ contact with Safeguarding Officers and the local police
- “ safety measures like target hardening through Sanctuary/MARAC referral
- “ attending GP appointments and ensuring that injuries are documented
- “ support on finance and employment

## Term safety planning (cont..)

- “ local community and educational activities to increase self-esteem and circle of friends and decrease isolation
- “ specific support groups and agencies for black women, disabled women and young women
- “ support for children: school learning mentor, therapeutic work, support to maintain contact with friends and family
- “ recovery programmes, counselling etc
- “ support to think about what kinds of relationships they might wish to form in future.

# Recovery

- “Removing themselves from immediate control was only the first step for victims
- “90% experienced post separation abuse
- “Barriers were exacerbated by social policy changes eg access to Legal Aid or Social Housing
- “Rebuilding lives is a lengthy process

*(Finding the Costs of Freedom – how women and children rebuild their lives after domestic violence. Solace Women’s Aid/Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit 2014)*

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# Services in Leeds

## LDVS

- ” Stonham
- ” SARSVL
- ” Women’s Health Matters
- ” Genesis
- ” Leeds Housing Options
- ” Probation
- ” YOS - PACT
- ” Caring Dads

# National DV Services

- ” National DV Helpline
- ” Respect
- ” (National Men’s Advice Line)
- ” Women’s Aid website (Hideout)
- ” Broken Rainbow
- ” Karma Nirvana



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