



Briefing Note

DHR/SAR “Louise”

Liverpool Safeguarding Adults Board are today publishing a joint Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) / Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) regarding Louise (not her real name) who died in March 2020, age 32.

The review was commissioned in line with Home Office guidance and Care Act 2014 statutory guidance to identify what lessons could be learned and to ensure that agencies work together effectively, take account of complex needs and are responding appropriately to victims of domestic abuse

Louise had a medical history of self-harm, previous history of overdoses, malnourishment and psychosis. Louise had been in a relationship with ‘Julie’ since 2013, and there had been many incidents involving the couple that were reported to a number of agencies. Whilst information was shared between agencies, the incidents were viewed in isolation. There were missed opportunities to pull together a multi-agency meeting to look at the relationship and the risks to both Louise and Julie (partner) to consider potential referrals to MARAC or safeguarding

The DHR/SAR panel agreed that the key line of enquiry would focus on how Louise’s case, and how cases which identify domestic violence and history of coercion and control are responded to in Liverpool.

The DHR/SAR panel also identified the following themes for analysis

- How do agencies respond to safeguard individuals, like Louise who have capacity, when there is no opportunity for professionals to implement sections of the Mental Health Act to safeguard as this would remove their liberty.
- How it was likely that Louise had suffered intimate terrorism and had responded on occasion by use of violent resistance
- How agencies considered suicide prevention
- How agencies respond to Individuals who have a known history of domestic abuse and how they assess the risk of this to prevent suicidal ideation
- How agencies train professionals to respond to trauma informed practice, especially when there is a disclosure of coercion and control in their relationship
- How agencies ensure there is not a response of unconscious bias- especially in same sex relationships

- Whether there were missed opportunities to share information to safeguard Louise from abuse, particularly in response to her disclosures about her abusive relationship

The board wishes to record their condolences to Louise's family.

The Liverpool Safeguarding Adults Board and its partners fully accept the report and its recommendations. The partnership is now working on addressing the recommendations and a multi-agency action plan is in process to secure improvements in how professionals work with adults who are at risk of suicide and have a history of domestic abuse and coercion and control in Liverpool.

Duncan Dooley-Robinson

Independent Chair

Liverpool Safeguarding Adults Board