

St Helens Community Safety Partnership

Domestic Homicide Review

Overview Report

Report into the death of Ben (pseudonym) December 2014

Author and Domestic Homicide Review Chair - Stephen McGilvray 2016

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Glossary

Addaction	A national charity which provides support to people to help them recover from substance misuse. Addaction have been commissioned to provide substance misuse services for adults in St Helens since 2012.
AOT	Mental Health Services Assertive Outreach Team.
Breaking the Cycle	Whole Family intervention.
CAADA Safe Lives.	Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse – later renamed
CAF	Common Assessment Framework.
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group.
CIN	Child In Need.
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service.
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review.
DVIC	Domestic Violence Involving Children.
FCIU	Family Crime Investigation Unit, Police unit dealing with domestic abuse.
Freedom Program	Freedom Programme-a 12-week course to help women who have been in an abusive relationship with a male.
G.P.	General Practitioner/Doctor.
Gold Victim	FCIUs risk assess domestic abuse victims and categorise them as Gold, Silver or Bronze. Gold victims are the highest risk ones.
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advocate.
IMR	Independent Management Review.
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference.
MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.
MeRIT	Merseyside Risk Identification Tool – MeRIT.
Niche	Merseyside Information/Incident Recording System.

NSPCC	National Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children.
PROtect	FCIUs use this database to record all incidents of domestic abuse, child protection and vulnerable Adults. The VPRF 1 is the input document.
Safe Lives	Formerly CAADA Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse.
SIO	Senior Investigating Officer (Police).
SMART	Specific, Measurable Achievable, Realistic Timescale.
STORM	Police initial call received electronic logging system.
VPRF1	Police officers responding to domestic violence incidents use the Merseyside Risk Identification Tool – MeRIT – to establish the level of risk faced by the victim. This information, together with any additional comments by the officer, is used to populate the VPRF 1.

Individuals

Alison	Perpetrator of this offence of murder
Ben	Victim of murder by Alison
Colin	Former partner of Alison
Donald	Former partner of Alison
Erica	Mother of Ben
Frances	Sister of Ben

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW

OVERVIEW REPORT

Independent Author: Stephen Mc.Gilvray January 2016

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been undertaken following the death in December 2014 of Ben during a domestic incident involving his partner Alison at their home address in St Helens Merseyside.
- 1.2 In December 2014, Merseyside Police were informed by the Ambulance Service Control about a reported stabbing at the couple's home address where it was discovered that Ben had received a single stab wound to the right-hand side of his back just below the shoulder. Ben was taken to Whiston Hospital where he underwent surgery, but despite this later that morning Ben died of the injuries.
- 1.3 Alison was arrested at the scene and later charged with the murder of Ben. Alison pleaded not guilty to the murder of Ben but following a trial at Liverpool Crown Court in June 2015 Alison was found guilty of murder and sentenced on 6th July, 2015 to life imprisonment with a minimum tariff of 14 years.
- 1.4 On 22nd December 2014 a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) was commissioned by St Helens Community Safety Partnership in line with expectations contained within Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of DHR's 2011 and as amended in 2013.
- 1.5 Following the first meeting of the DHR Panel held on 26th March 2015 all evidence was secured, and chronologies of agency engagement with the two people involved in this Review and their families were commenced.

- 1.6 At this first meeting the Panel also considered if there were any lessons consistent with the purpose of a DHR which needed to be acted upon immediately. None were found at this stage.
- 1.7 This Review was running in parallel with an ongoing criminal investigation and at the request of the Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) in this case at this time no Independent Management Reviews (IMR) were commenced by members of the DHR Panel nor members of Alison or Ben's family or friends interviewed due to their involvement with the criminal justice proceedings.
- 1.8 The request to delay completion of IMR's which may have involved the questioning of staff who had engaged with the family and interviewing of family and friends, was made in order to avoid issues of disclosure associated with the criminal trial.
- 1.9 The work of the DHR was further delayed by the need to appoint a new Chair for the Panel. It was established that the current Chair, Michael Murray, had been involved in the supervision of staff engaged in the investigation of earlier incidents of domestic abuse involving Alison and her children and in order to maintain the independence of the Chair he stood down.
- 1.10 Following the appointment of a new Chair IMR's were completed, interviews with family and friends were commenced by the Chair of the Panel, and the DHR was concluded without further delay.
- 1.11 In accordance with the statutory guidance for the conduct of DHR's, the Panel agreed that the purpose of this DHR was to:
- Establish what lessons are to be learned from the domestic homicide regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations worked individually and together to safeguard victims.
 - Identify clearly what those lessons are both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they will be acted upon, and what is expected to change as a result.
 - Apply those lessons to service responses including changes to policies and procedures as appropriate.
 - Prevent domestic violence and abuse homicide and improve service responses for all domestic violence and abuse victims and their children through improved intra and interagency working.

1.12 A DHR Panel was established by St Helens Community Safety Partnership and comprised the following agency representatives:

- Michael Murray, Independent Chair of DHR Panel (Stood down)
- Stephen Mc.Gilvray, Independent Chair of DHR Panel
- Sandra Dean, Merseyside Police
- John Griffith, Merseyside Police
- Gail Churchill, Merseyside CRC
- Kevin Clague, Merseyside Police
- David Rooney, Merseyside Police
- Nina Ellement, St Helens Council, Borough Solicitor
- Debbie Fairhurst, Chrysalis Centre for Change
- Tracey Forshaw, St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group
- Ann Dunne, St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group
- Helen Smith, St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group
- Samantha Atkinson, Clinical Commissioning Group Safeguarding Service
- Gill Healey, Helena Partnerships, Housing
- Jeanette Kuyateh, National Probation Service
- Collette Walsh, St Helens Council, Public Health Commissioning
- Jason Pickett, St Helens Council, People's Services
- Fiona Woods, St Helens Council, People's Services
- Wendy Wright, St Helens Council, Domestic Violence Coordinator
- Rod Jones, St Helens Council, Safer Communities Manager

1.13 Expert guidance on issues of domestic abuse was provided to the Panel by Wendy Wright St Helens Council Domestic Violence Coordinator and coordinator of the MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference).

Voluntary Sector organisations were represented on the Panel by Debbie Fairhurst, of the Chrysalis Centre for Change a voluntary sector organisation that provides outreach and counselling services within the community and through their domestic abuse support worker host a domestic abuse support group.

Due to changes within organisational structures there were a number of changes to Panel Membership during the lifetime of this Review and the above list of Panel members represents all who sat on the Panel during the lifetime of the Review.

1.13 The Panel met a total of five times during the course of this Review with meetings held on the following dates;

26 th March 2015	Chaired by Michael Murray
15 th June 2015	Chaired by Michael Murray
22 nd October 2015	Chaired by Stephen Mc.Gilvray
17 th December 2015	Chaired by Stephen Mc.Gilvray
16 th February 2016	Chaired by Stephen Mc.Gilvray

All of the agencies with the exception of the National Probation Service completed an Independent Management Review (IMR). Each IMR detailed;

- o Agencies involvement with Alison and Ben.
- o In some cases, authors of the IMR conducted interviews with staff who had contact with Alison and Ben.
- o Subsequent to the death of Ben any lessons which may be learnt by that agency to prevent such an event from taking place in the future.

Chair of the Domestic Homicide Review Panel.

- 1.16 Initially an independent person Michael Murray was appointed to Chair the Review and Michael chaired the first two meetings of the DHR Panel.
- 1.17 Michael Murray is a retired police officer who was independent of all agencies and individuals connected to this case. During his police career he was primarily involved in detective duties and performed the role of Senior Investigating Officer on many occasions, specialising in serious crimes committed within families, including a number of Domestic Homicides. During the last years of service, he was in charge of a large Family Crime Investigation Unit, specialising in Child Protection, Domestic Abuse, and the protection of Vulnerable Adults. He was involved in a number of Serious Case Reviews and other Multi Agency reviews. On retirement, he received a national award in relation to a lifetime achievement in policing, recognising his contribution to work and expertise within family based crime. After retirement, he worked as a manager at Women's Aid, and as a strategic consultant to his Local Authority advising on service delivery to victims of domestic abuse. He has received national and local training in relation to the management of DHRs, and is currently involved in a number of DHRs. Michael Murray is not employed by any of the agencies of the St Helens Community Safety Partnership or the Adult Safeguarding Board.
- 1.18 However, following a decision by the Panel to extend the period subject to review it was established that during this period under review Michael had been the supervisor of staff involved in the investigation of a domestic dispute involving Alison and an earlier partner.

- 1.19 St Helens Community Safety Partnership sought advice from the Home Office DHR Enquiries Team and in order to ensure the independence of the Chair Michael Murray stood down from that role and St Helens Community Safety Partnership then commissioned Stephen Mc.Gilvray to Chair the Review Panel and he was appointed in September 2015. Stephen Mc.Gilvray has also written this overview report.
- 1.20 Stephen McGilvray is a former Head of Community Safety in a different Local Authority where he worked for nine years and included within his area of management responsibility within that Authority was the Family Safety Unit, a multi-agency co-located team of professionals focussed on providing support to victims of domestic abuse and their families. This role included responsibility for the coordination and commissioning of Domestic Abuse services to meet the needs of domestic abuse victims and their children. During the period, the Family Safety Unit was under Stephens management the team achieved CAADA Leading Lights accreditation.
- 1.21 Whilst Head of Community Safety Stephen also had management responsibility for the Integrated Offender Management Unit a multi-agency collocated team of Police, Probation, and Substance Misuse workers whose role was to reduce the level of threat and risk posed by offenders, including perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- 1.22 Prior to this Stephen had completed 30 years Police service. Stephen has successfully completed the Home Office training course for Chairs of DHR's. He was responsible for the development of a reciprocal agreement with a neighbouring Authority in relation to the Chair and writing of reports following the work of DHR Panels and has completed several Overview Reports as well as taking part in a number of Serious Case Reviews.
- 1.23 Prior to undertaking this Review Stephen Mc.Gilvray has not had any involvement with the individual people subject to this Review, nor is he employed by any of the participating agencies.
- 1.24 The specific methodology and scope of the review agreed by the Panel at its first meeting in March 2015 included the following:

Seek to establish whether the events which lead to the death of Ben in 2014 could have been predicted or prevented.

Consider the period between 2003 and the date of Ben's death in 2014, subject to any information emerging that prompts a review of any earlier incidents or events that are relevant. Any information outside this timescale relating to domestic abuse within the relevant family

history was considered. The decision made by the Panel to review incidents between 2003 – 2014 was made on the grounds that Alison had during that period been involved in three separate relationships all of which involved incidents of domestic abuse and violence.

The Panel sought the involvement of the family, neighbours and friends of Ben to provide a robust analysis of the events. Interviews did take place with the family of Ben and whilst letters were sent to the friends and neighbours of Ben together with a copy of the Home Office DHR leaflet for friends they did not take up the offer to contribute to this Review.

- 1.24 The Panel also took account of the Coroner's inquest in terms of timing and contact with the family
- 1.25 At the conclusion of its work the Panel produced a report which summarises the chronology of the events, including the actions of involved agencies. (A full chronology of agency and voluntary sector involvement is attached hereto at Appendix B.) The report analyses and comments upon the actions taken by agencies and concludes by making recommendations regarding safeguarding of families where domestic abuse is a feature. The recommendations and those of individual agencies detailed within their IMR's together form an action plan which is included at Appendix A of this report.
- 1.26 Merseyside Police undertook to advise the Panel if there was any conflict between the work of the DHR Review and the criminal justice process. It was agreed that in the case of conflict between the parallel processes the Review would be suspended to await the conclusion of the criminal justice process.
- 1.27 The Panel agreed to produce the report shortly after the conclusion of the criminal justice process subject to responding sensitively to the concerns of the family, particularly in relation to the inquest process, the internal management reviews being completed and the potential for identifying matters which may require further review.

Key lines of enquiry

- 1.28 The Panel agreed that the DHR should be focused upon the following key lines of enquiry:
 - A. How did your agency deal with reports of and/or knowledge of incidents of domestic abuse within the family?
Were responses appropriate and in accordance with agency policy in relation to tackling domestic abuse.

In particular were matters relating to an alleged offender managed effectively and robustly: were responses to alleged victims sympathetic, supportive and timely?

B. Were there opportunities for agencies to identify and assess domestic abuse risk?

What was the Agency responses to any identification of domestic abuse issues?

C. Was communication and information sharing between agencies timely and effective?

Did it lead to a clear understanding of the complexity of the issues within the family and was the approach to helping the family properly coordinated?

Were plans formulated holistic with a long-term problem solving approach rather than being incident driven?

How effective was joint action managed and delivered through the MARAC process. Were resources/capacity an issue in relation to service delivery?

D. Did professionals display appropriate understanding of the risks presented within this family.

Were the risks effectively managed and was supervision and management adequate in providing control and direction.

E. How did your agency recognise and deal with root causes which contributed to the manifestation of domestic abuse within the relationship? (For example alcohol/drug abuse).

Was action/support effective?

If barriers prevented engagement in support what strategies were in place to overcome such barriers?

F. What knowledge did family/friends have of issues within the relationship regarding domestic abuse?

Were they engaged in support strategies and/or did they feel able to be involved?

How will family/friends be encouraged to contribute to the review?

1.29 The author of this report is grateful for the valuable contribution to this report made by the family of Ben. In very difficult and painful circumstances they willingly gave their time and views to Stephen Mc.Gilvray and the information they provided and their views have been included in this report.

2.0 Equality and Diversity

- 2.1 Equality and diversity issues were considered throughout the work of this Review. It was the desire and practice of the Panel that all family members interviewed as part of the Review were treated with respect and dignity.
- 2.2 During the work of the Panel no challenges had to be made by the Chair to agencies for a breach of equality standards.
- 2.3 No issues associated with disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation were identified in any of the IMR's.
- 2.4 Alison and Ben subject of this DHR were partners. Both are white British adults with English as their first language.
- 2.6 The ongoing monitoring of the MARAC by Safe Lives illustrates that St Helens MARAC addresses the needs of members of diverse communities details of which are included within the table below
- 2.7 The following table illustrates the breakdown of St Helens MARAC clients during the period 1st January – 31st December 2014.

Indicator	St Helens	Safe Lives Recommendations	Merseyside	Most similar Forces group	National data
Number. of cases discussed	465	290	2892	19208	76336
Number of children	569		4475	26211	96523
B&ME referrals (%)	2.4%	MARAC area B&ME population 3.4%			
LGBT referrals (%)	1%	5%	1%	1%	0.9%

Referrals where victim has a disability	1%	17%	2%	2.4%	3.5%
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3.0 Ben Family and Friends input.

- 3.1 Family and friends of Ben were witnesses in the criminal trial and at the request of the Police Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) in this case, after advising Bens next of kin of the commencement and purpose of the DHR and enclosing the Home Office leaflet for Family Members no further contact was made with family until the conclusion of the criminal case on 6th July 2015.
- 3.2 In September 2015 Stephen Mc.Gilvray met with the family of Ben, who were supported by an officer from Victim Support throughout the interview. References relating to the family of Ben contained later within this report are as follows;

Erica Mother of Ben

Frances Sister of Ben

It was the decision of the Community Safety Partnership that Ben's family should not be shown a copy of the Overview Report until authorisation for publication had first been received from the Home Office Quality Assurance Unit.

Friends of Ben identified by family members at this time were written to by the Chair of the Review and a Home Office leaflet was enclosed. The letters to friends did not receive any response and they were followed up by telephone calls to the friends made by the Chair, however the friends declined to take part in the Review.

4.0 Structures within St Helens Domestic Abuse Partnerships

- 4.1 Throughout this report several references will be made to MARAC and DVIC. For ease of future reference a summary of each meetings Membership and terms of reference will now be included.
- 4.2 DVIC. This is the Domestic Violence Involving Children meeting which has a membership of;
- St Helens Council
 - St Helens CCG
 - Merseyside Police, (St Helens Domestic Violence Unit)
- 4.3 The meetings were established in 2004 and continue to operate to-day. Terms of Reference for the meeting were created in 2004 and remain in operation to-day.
- 4.4 The Domestic Violence Social Worker chairs this multi-agency meeting that takes place every two weeks to discuss children's welfare following the Police attendance at a domestic incident. The purpose of this meeting is to identify the most appropriate agency to make contact with the victim to offer advice and guidance in relation to their difficulties in cases where the level of abuse falls short of thresholds for children's safeguarding and MARAC. Currently if the contact is not progressed to referral the outcome is recorded on the Children's Services electronic information system under Provide Advice and Information. The introduction of the Early Help Service and the appointment of a Partnership Coordinator has strengthened the response at level 2. Those children and families considered to require further support at level 2 are progressed via the Partnership Coordinator with additional support via bespoke programmes for the victim and the Child and the allocation of a Family Intervention Worker. When the threshold for intervention is considered to have been met the contact is progressed to referral and a statutory assessment generated.
- 4.5 At the two weekly DVIC meeting it will be decided which agency should undertake the key role in each case. That agency will allocate a key worker who will be responsible for ensuring that the appropriate support or service is provided and that clear outcomes and expectations of the worker will be outlined at the meeting. Feedback on progress will be recorded at the DVIC meeting within four weeks from the date of allocation.
- 4.6 MARAC: Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences are meetings where information about high risk domestic abuse victims (those at risk of murder or serious harm) is shared between local agencies. By bringing all agencies

together at a MARAC, a risk focused, coordinated safety plan can be drawn up to support the victim.

Source: www.caada.org.uk

4.7 Membership of this meeting includes;

- Housing Advice Team
- Helena Housing, Managers of the IDVA Service
- Midwifery Unit at Whiston Hospital
- Whiston Hospital Accident and Emergency Department
- Youth Offending Team
- Addaction (Substance misuse treatment service)
- Merseyside Police
- Registered Social Landlords
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Adult Mental Health Services
- Homeless Housing Provider
- CCG Children Safeguarding officers
- Victim Support
- St Helens Council Domestic Violence Coordinator.

4.8 The MARAC began operation in St Helens in 2007 and the meetings have a published Procedures, Protocols and supporting documents manual which was updated in June 2014. The MARAC meetings are held every two weeks and is chaired by the Police Inspector within the FCIU.

5.1 Domestic Abuse Training within St Helens Partnership.

5.2 St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust has training needs analyses in place in respect of safeguarding Adults, Children and Domestic Abuse Training which date from 2008 in respect of adults, 2011 in respect of children and 2013 in respect of domestic abuse.

5.3 Safeguarding Training in general has been part of the Trusts Mandatory Training programme since 2000 but this initially focussed upon children. The current training programmes are consistent with national guidance and the domestic abuse element is included in all levels of adult and children safeguarding training.

5.4 St Helens Local Safeguarding Children's Board with the support of the Domestic Violence Coordinator deliver training for agencies including colleagues within the voluntary sector on the following issues;

- Safeguarding Children Awareness,
- MARAC and MeRIT awareness,

- Domestic abuse awareness and
- Domestic abuse and children's safeguarding,
- Forced marriage awareness, • Honour based violence, and
- Female genital mutilation.

5.4 Healthy schools team work closely with DV Services and have put together a DV Training package for staff. They have also included two toolkits to address DV on their learning platform.

6.0 The Facts

The Facts.

Background of Victim and Perpetrator.

- 6.1 At the time of his death Ben was a 38-year-old male who had enjoyed full time employment at an engineering company prior to that company closing. This closure resulted in Ben losing his job and subsequently his home.
- 6.2 After losing his home Ben then moved into the home of his sister Frances's before later moving in with Alison at a Housing Association property she rented in St Helens.
- 6.3 Whilst in the relationship with Alison, which saw the birth of Bens first child, Ben found new employment at a local hotel where he worked for two years before his death.
- 6.4 Until the final period of his relationship with Alison the sister Ben had shared a home with Frances acted as a refuge and confidant for Ben who disclosed to her the level of domestic abuse he was suffering at the hands of Alison.
- 6.5 Unfortunately, because of a threats Frances had received from Alison, Frances was forced to move home into a neighbouring Authority area. Such was the strength of the support Ben received from his sister Frances during his relationship with Alison that Frances feels that "*Ben felt I'd betrayed him when I moved.*"
- 6.6 Prior to the commencement of his relationship with Alison, Ben had no known history. However, during his relationship with Alison there were a total of 11 incidents, including the fatal attack, of domestic abuse reported to Merseyside

Police involving Alison and Ben. During his relationship with Alison Ben received two Police cautions for possession of cannabis.

- 6.7 Alison is 28 years of age and has three children each from a different relationship. The children are aged 11 years, 6 years and 2 years of age.
- 6.8 Following the birth of her first child in 2003 when Alison was 17 years of age she has lived in Housing Association properties with the different partners of each of her children. Alison was unable to remain living in her parents' home following the birth of her first child as the parents were Schedule One offenders and at that time had two children on the child protection register.
- 6.9 With the support of her Social Worker Alison was able to obtain a joint tenancy of a property, with the father of her child, from a local housing association. This relationship ended after two years.
- 6.10 In 2006 Alison began a new relationship with Duncan which lasted for 18 months years and resulted in the birth of Alison's second child.
- 6.11 Alison began a relationship with Ben in 2010 and this continued until the fatal incident in 2014. This relationship also resulted in the birth of her third child.
- 6.12 Over the period subject of this review Alison has been involved in a total of 33 domestic violence incidents reported to Merseyside Police. Alison's role within the disputes has been that of victim and of perpetrator and she has one Police caution for an offence of assault committed against a former partner in August 2007. These incidents have spanned all three of her relationships
- 6.13 Stephen Mc.Gilvray visited Alison in HMP Styal following her imprisonment. Alison claimed both she and Ben constantly consumed alcohol though Alison claimed this was to help her to sleep at night.
- 6.14 Alison explained that the only action which agencies could have taken to prevent this murder from happening would have been to have been told by a Social Worker that "*she must leave her partner or they would take my children*"
- 6.15 However, Alison also explained that she would "*say anything to the Social Workers to stop them taking my kids*" and that she always was careful to "*put on a show*" (Making sure everything in the house was clean and tidy) "*for the Social Workers to get them out of my house.*"

Summary of events.

- 6.16 During the period subject of this Review Alison had three significant relationships with male partners, the first commencing in 2003 which included the birth of her first child.
- 6.17 Throughout each of these relationships there is a pattern of domestic abuse incidents which together form the key events within this Review. This section of the report will summarise those key events with a complete and detailed chronology of events taking place between 2003 – 2014 included at Appendix B of this report.
- 6.18 Following the birth of Alison's first child in 2003 there was engagement of Health Visitors and Children's Services with Alison her partner Colin and their new born. Precipitated by the risk that Alison and her new born initially continuing to reside with her mother and step father both of whom were Schedule 1 offenders presented. With support of key workers Alison and Colin were able to obtain tenancy of a housing association property which they moved into with their child.
- 6.19 In September 2004 Alison sustained a wrist injury requiring hospital treatment which Alison disclosed to the Health Visitor at her G.P. surgery had been sustained when she punched her hand through a glass window in anger. Furthermore, Alison stated that she was frightened that she may harm her child and partner. Whilst information sharing was good between Health and Children's Services officers at this time the risks associated with this incident were not shared with agencies at any future DVIC or MARAC meeting nor was a risk assessment completed on her child or partner.
- 6.20 During 2004 – 2005 several incidents of domestic abuse and violence between Alison and Colin were reported to Merseyside Police. None of these resulted in the arrest of either party nor the sharing of this information with any other agency.
- 6.21 This period also documents the Alison's and her partners use of alcohol as a factor in disputes, an issue which continues throughout the period of this Review.
- 6.22 Following the ending of her relationship with Colin there was a gap of 18 months before Alison began a relationship with Donald. During this new relationship Alison became pregnant and her second child was born.
- 6.23 Domestic disputes including violence occurred early and frequently in this new relationship as did the knowledge amongst Alison and agencies that Donald was suffering from a form of mental illness. Indeed, Donald spent a considerable length of time in hospital receiving in-patient treatment for mental

illness during the period of his relationship with Alison. During this time treatment services established that;

“The primary motivating factor behind the alleged abuse was considered to be his (Donald) deteriorating mental state rather than the classic factors associated with domestic abuse, power and control etc.”

- 6.24 Merseyside Police arrested Donald on three occasions between February and October 2007 for assaulting Alison. On two occasions following Donald’s arrest Alison failed to support a prosecution. Police however administered a caution to Donald following the first arrest. Following the second arrest Donald was charged with assaulting Alison but the charge was later discharged at Court as Alison failed to attend to give evidence. The third arrest did result in a Court appearance for Donald who was made the subject of an 18-month Community Order which included a mental health treatment requirement and a condition of residence.
- 6.25 In April, 2007, Alison was seen by her G.P. in his surgery who discussed with her that in view of Donald’s alleged mental health problems, use of cannabis, alcohol misuse and the two recent domestic violence incidents between Alison and Donald the G.P. believed that Donald was an unsuitable partner for her. Records show that Alison in response minimised the incidents of domestic violence and planned to continue her relationship with Donald.
- 6.26 In July 2008, a Social Worker from Children’s Services conducted a home visit to the home of Alison. Alison was asked about the level of contact she now had with Donald and she replied, that *“she would stab him if he came near her or her children.”* Records of the visit show that during the visit the Social Worker saw a man hiding in the bathroom of the house who they believed to be Donald. The Social Worker did not challenge the male or Alison regarding his identity. Prior to concluding the visit, the Social Worker asked Alison if there was anyone in the house that shouldn’t be there and Alison assured them that there was not.
- 6.28 In 2010 Alison began a relationship with Ben and after three years of the relationship their child was born. Alison’s two children from earlier relationships continued to live with their mother and Ben.
- 6.29 With the exception of the fatal attack and one seven weeks prior to that during which injuries were caused a summary of the incidents of domestic disputes occurring between Alison and Ben which Police Patrols attended would be records that one or both parties had been consuming alcohol and Police recorded the incidents as verbal disputes only with no violence.

- 6.30 Several referrals to multi agency DVIC and in one case a MARAC meeting were made as the result of disputes between Alison and Ben. With the exception of the MARAC meeting were a number of actions were agreed by agencies to prevent a renewal of the domestic abuse the outcome of the DVIC meetings was that the situation should be monitored or the fact that the case of Alison and Ben was already “open” to one of the support agencies and therefore no further action was necessary.
- 6.31 Following a dispute in August 2013 following a DVIC meeting Health Visitors completed a Pre CAF assessment. The Health Visitor felt there was no requirement for a full CAF to be completed and that the family would be adequately safeguarded within universal services.
- 6.32 In December 2013 Children Services received a referral from the school attended by the two elder children. This was in response to contact with the school made by ex-partner Colin who had advised the school that Ben had smacked his child. Colin expressed concerns that Alison was drunk and that the child had told him that they were required to stay in bed until 12 noon at weekends and did not always get fed or bathed. Police were requested to attend the home of Alison by Children Services. Police report that Alison appeared drunk but was not incapable and that Ben was sober, calm and compliant. There is no record of any further action in relation to this referral by the school taken by Police, Children’s Services or the School.
- 6.33 In October 2014 Merseyside Police received an emergency telephone call from Alison stating that she had been assaulted by Ben and that during the struggle she had struck him on the head with a set of keys. Ben was reported to have left the house. A Police Patrol was deployed but prior to the officer’s arrival Ben called the Police to report that he had been the victim of a domestic assault and that Alison was the perpetrator. On arrival at the home Police Officers spoke to both parties, it was noted at this time that both had been drinking. On entering the house Officers saw that two of the children were visibly upset. Alison explained what had occurred and made a statement of complaint. As a result, Ben was arrested.
- 6.34 When later interviewed at the Police Station Ben stated that earlier that evening he had acted in self-defence and had taken hold of Alison only after being stabbed by her in the head whilst he had his back facing her. Ben also informed the interviewing officer that 18 months prior to this he had been stabbed in the hand by Alison and showed the officer the scar which had resulted from that stabbing. Ben told the officer that he had not reported that stabbing at the time.

- 6.35 Police sought the advice of the CPS in relation to the incident on 17th October only. CPS decision was to refuse the charge against Ben due to insufficient evidence. No criminal action was taken against Alison in respect of injuries to Ben received on 17th October 2014 or the injury to Ben 18 months prior to that date.
- 6.36 No MeRIT risk assessment or VPRF1 were completed in respect of Ben for the incident on 17th October 2014 or the incident he told Police about occurring 18 months prior to that.
- 6.37 The dispute of 17th October 2014 was however referred to the next MARAC meeting at which a number of actions were agreed. In November 2014, the date of next MARAC meeting there was no review of the case involving Alison and Ben and actions which had not been delivered from the previously agreed MARAC safety plan.
- 6.38 Alison and Ben resumed their relationship and in December 2014 at 01.14 hours in the morning Ambulance Control informed Merseyside Police about a stabbing incident at the home of Alison and Ben. They advised that Alison had contacted their Control stating that she had stabbed Ben.
- 6.39 Police Patrols were deployed to the incident and upon their arrival found Ben lying on the floor in the doorway of a neighbour's house. Alison was crouched beside him screaming and in distress and had to be removed immediately from the scene. Whilst at the scene Alison admitted to the Police Officers that she was responsible for the stabbing and directed them to the knife she had used which remained in the kitchen of her house.
- 6.40 Ben died as a result of that fatal attack.
- 6.41 During her interviews at the Police Station Alison maintained that she had acted in self-defence as Ben had grabbed hold of her by the throat. The advice of the CPS was sought and authority was given to charge Alison with murder.
- 6.42 Following a not guilty plea to the charge of murder a trial was held in June 2015 at Liverpool Crown Court and at its conclusion the jury found Alison guilty of murder. On 6th July 2015 Alison was sentenced to life imprisonment with a tariff of 14 years.

7.0 Analysis

7.1 The DHR Panel agreed the following key lines of enquiry be undertaken as part of the review of this case. Analysis will now take place against each of those key lines of enquiry.

7.2 Key line of enquiry.

How did your agency deal with reports of and/or knowledge of incidents of domestic abuse within the family?

- Were responses appropriate and in accordance with agency policy in relation to tackling domestic abuse.
- In particular were matters relating to an alleged offender managed effectively and robustly: were responses to alleged victims sympathetic, supportive and timely?

7.3 Generally action taken by individual agencies was timely and in accordance with their policies. There are however a number of occasions when this was not so.

7.4 Firstly on 29th December 2004 a domestic dispute took place between Alison and Colin. The telephone call made by Colin to Merseyside Police reported that Alison “*was being violent and was stressing out their baby.*” Merseyside Police policy requires that in all cases of domestic violence that they attend where a child or young person is present then the facts of the incident must be shared with Children’s Services in order that appropriate safeguarding action may be taken. That referral did not take place following this incident and information regarding the incident was not therefore shared with key safeguarding agencies.

7.5 Secondly following the arrest of Ben after the incident at their home address on 17th October 2014, Ben was interviewed at St Helens Police Station regarding the complaint of assault made by Alison.

7.6 During that interview Ben disclosed to the interviewing officer that 18 months prior to this date Alison whilst under the influence of alcohol had stabbed him in the hand, showing to the officer the scar which this knife attack had left. Ben did advise the officer that he did not report this incident at the time.

7.7 It has since been established that Ben’s disclosure of a stabbing was not recorded as a crime and no consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service over this matter took place prior to Ben’s release from Police custody the charge against him having been refused.

- 7.8. Failure to record this crime is not consistent with National Crime Recording policy. Home Office Counting Rules, National Crime Recording Standard 1 as amended, April 2015 states that.

Para. 2.2 An incident will be recorded as a crime for victim related offences if on the balance of probabilities;

The circumstances of a victim's report amount to a crime defined by law.

And

There is no credible evidence to the contrary immediately available.

- 7.9. The Home Office Counting Rules also provide guidance to officers on actions which should be taken when faced with an unwilling witness.

Para. 3.5. Victim focussed recording

Where apparent criminal activity comes to the attention of the Police and the victim confirms that a crime has taken place but declines to support an investigation or prosecution a crime must still be recorded.

- 7.10. The conditions of Standard 1 paragraphs 2.2 and 3.5 both appear to have been met in this case and the investigating officer should in accordance with the National Crime Recording Standard have recorded this historical stabbing as a crime.

- 7.11. This disclosure by Ben and the failure to take any further action by the investigating officer is the subject of further comment later within this report when considering the level of understanding of risks and if risk has been effectively managed.

7. Two further examples of when agency policy was not followed relate to firstly a Common Assessment Framework assessment that had been completed by the school attended by Alison's two older children. The school having completed the CAF then failed to progress this work. The result being that the concerns were not monitored via Child in Need procedures, no family action plan meetings were held, and there was no plan of intervention in place. The completion of a CAF would not trigger a referral or oversight by Children's Services without a direct referral from the lead agency (school) completing the CAF. The electronic system for completing CAF's which went live in 2010 would still render the CAF invisible to statutory agencies without consent. Access to the CAF would be restricted to only those agencies to whom the parent/carer has agreed to share their information, often the agency completing the assessment.

7.13 Secondly risks to the unborn third child were hidden from front line maternity staff dealing with Alison during the antenatal period of her care because of the failure to include domestic abuse warning alerts on the electronic information system used for patient notes within the Maternity Unit. The increase in levels of risk of domestic abuse faced by victims during pregnancy is well documented and this omission from the system used by staff in contact with victims therefore had the potential to cause risk to Alison, her unborn child and her two children from previous relationships.

Key line of enquiry.

Were there opportunities for agencies to identify and assess domestic abuse risk?

What was the Agency responses to any identification of domestic abuse issues?

There is evidence to indicate that the lack of a clear and coherent policy which bound together the various multi-agency meetings to which this vulnerable family were referred did lead to some safeguarding issues not being acted upon. Apart from the interventions put in place at the MARAC meeting of 6th November, 2014 there is no other evidence of referrals being made to treatment or support services for the perpetrators of domestic abuse in this case by any of the multi-agency meetings held between 2003 – 2014.

7.14 There are a number of multi-agency meetings to which incidents involving Alison, her three children and her three partners were referred for the purposes of increasing the level of safety within this family group. These included;

- DVIC
- MARAC
- MASH
- Children's Safeguarding; Child Protection Conference Child in Need Meetings

7.16 Each of the above meetings consider the multi-agency response towards individuals, children and adults, who are vulnerable. However, there is currently no written policy in place nor overall management oversight of the relationship between each of these meetings and the means by which information is shared, progress monitored and outcomes evaluated between the meetings.

7.17 In the absence of a current and robust information recording and sharing system open to representatives of agencies attending these meetings and without robust management oversight and challenge it is possible for individuals and the risks they face to be overlooked

7.18 Children's Services observe within their IMR that

"The children became lost within the processes that exist to manage the risks created by domestic violence and that the voice of the children had not been captured effectively throughout a number of different multi-agency processes. Had the social work assessments been more child centred more information would have been gathered, particularly in relation to the dynamics of the family."

7.19 There are a number of other examples of safeguarding issues not being identified and acted upon.

7.20 The clear identification of risk followed by inaction is shown within Children's Case Records and MARAC meeting minutes in 2007 which show;

7.21 Children's Case Records of 15th October 2007 state that Alison is in a relationship with Donald *"who when (Donald's) mental health is poor is a risk to the children"*

7.21 The MARAC of 21st October 2007 minutes record that; *"Donald is schizophrenic and is known to be not taking his medication. Children Services state Donald is a risk to the children."* This information was shared with Health Visitors linked to the family.

7.22 Apart from sharing the information with Health Visitors the first time agencies outside of Children's Services became aware of this information was the MARAC meeting of 21st October 2007 were the risk posed to the children of Alison by Donald was shared with all who attended the MARAC.

7.23 However, there were no safety plans recorded at the MARAC meeting which may have reduced the level of risk faced by the children caused by Donald's poor mental health. Nor a referral of Donald by a multi-agency domestic abuse meeting to mental health treatment services. The severity of Donald's mental illness at the time this lack of action was taking place is revealed below.

7.24 At various times during 2007 Donald spent time in hospital and it was assessed that the primary motivating factor behind his abusive behaviour was Donald's deteriorating mental health. He was assessed as clearly experiencing psychosis and was unstable.

- 7.25 During this period, there was also frequent contact, in large part initiated by Alison, between Alison and Donald which continued despite the bail conditions imposed on Donald by the Courts, and the advice and exclusion from the ward by hospital staff of Alison.
- 7.26 Alison was shown to disregard hospital advice regarding contact with Donald thus placing herself at risk and furthermore in August 2007 Donald disclosed to the AOT that Alison had become pregnant by him.
- 7.27 Throughout this time AOT records show that;
“Due to the unstable nature of Donald’s illness there were numerous contacts with the Police regarding the safety of Donald and his bail conditions.”
- 7.28 However in spite of the following risks there is no record of a MeRIT. domestic abuse risk assessment being completed by any agency in respect of Alison her existing children and unborn child at the point of Donald’s discharge from hospital in January 2008. The following risks therefore took place without any multi agency information sharing or action in order to reduce risk.
- The risk that Donald’s mental health posed to others
 - The disregard Alison had shown to advice from hospital staff regarding her safety which Mental Health Services record as being *“higher due to Alison continual attempts to have contact with Donald particularly when both abused substances and or alcohol.”*
 - A further domestic violence incident resulting in a MARAC review
- 7.29 On 9th November 2007 a Child Protection Conference was held and at its conclusion Alison’s eldest child was placed on the Child Protection Register because of the emotional abuse she suffered as a result of the ongoing domestic abuse incidents occurring within her home.
- 7.30 Over the next 6 months there are no reported incidents of domestic abuse taking place in the home between Alison and Donald. This fact may lend some credence to the statement by Alison who when visited in prison stated that the only action which agencies could have taken to prevent this murder from happening would have been to have been told by a Social Worker that *“she must leave her partner or they would take my children”*
- 7.31 On 21st April, 2008, Alison’s eldest child was removed from the Child Protection Register but continued to be reviewed as a Child in Need, level 3b. The youngest child remained on the Child Protection Register until May 2008 when she was stepped down to a Level 3 Child In Need.

7.32 This level is defined as follows;

Level Three: Children in Need

Children with complex needs that may be chronic and enduring and whose health (physical & emotional) and development may be significantly impaired without the provision of services. This may include some children who are in need of safeguarding. Children with a disability are also children in need.

7.33 Within one month of a multi-agency decision to step down the cases of Alison's two children from a Child Protection Plan (level 4) to a multi-agency Child In Need plan (level 3). Alison was once again coming to the attention of agencies for her involvement with Donald.

7.34 On 13th May 2008, case notes from the AOT show that Donald had been observed close to his home walking with Alison who was pushing a pram. This information was passed from the AOT to Children's Services. The youngest child remained a Level 3 Child In Need at this time.

7.35 On 17th June, 2008 Alison in "a drunken state" attended the home of Donald and an argument then ensued between the two regarding access to their child. Police responded to a call at the address but there were no arrests and the matter was referred to DVIC.

7.36 One month later on 19th July 2008 during a home visit by a Children's Services officer the officer asked Alison about her level of contact with Donald. Alison stated "If he comes near me or my children I will stab him." A male believed to be Donald was seen to be present in the toilet whilst the officer conducted the visit. Neither the male suspected of being Donald nor Alison were challenged over this male's presence or identity.

7.37 NSPCC review of lessons learnt from case reviews published in 2013, states that;

Information about who lives in the home and who has contact with the children should be verified and kept up to date. The identity of any unknown males in the house should be investigated.

NSPCC Domestic abuse; Learning from case reviews November 2013

7.38 The incidents of May, June and July 2008 indicate that Alison was maintaining contact, with and even allowing into her home, Donald who had previously been identified as a risk to the safety of the children of Alison.

- 7.39 There are no records within those which have been made available to this Panel to indicate that any MeRIT risk assessment checklist or other Safeguarding action was discussed or taken either by an individual agency or by multi agency DVIC or MARAC during meetings in regard to this apparent risk to the children, emerging from the renewed contact between Alison and Donald.
- 7.40 Additionally there are no records to show that the discussion and outcomes of the DVIC meetings in relation to these incidents were acknowledged or considered by the Child In Need meetings.
- 7.41 One month later in August 2008 the Children In Need cases of Alison's children were closed to Children's Services.
- 7.42 The final example of a safeguarding issue not being acted upon relates to a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessment which had been completed on the children and family of Alison and Ben by the school which the two elder children attended and other information provided by the school subsequent to the death of Ben.
- 7.43 Neither DVIC nor MARAC currently have a representative from school's present at their meetings. Representatives from Behaviour Intervention Team and Education Welfare Officers have represented the schools in the past but this representation and presence has now lapsed, and the schools absence may have restricted the effectiveness of those and other safeguarding meetings in this case through the lack of important information being shared by the school.
- 7.44 A 2010 Report by the NSPCC, "*Children and Families experiencing domestic violence: Police and Children's Social Services Responses*", indicates that 29% of the cases analysed involved children of school age, aged 5 – 10 years, (ages at the time of the two elder children) within the family group
- 7.45 Social work assessments that have taken place following the domestic homicide reflect that the children's school were very concerned about the care of the two older children.
- 7.46 The school had frequent concerns about Alison turning up at school either smelling or under the influence of alcohol.
- 7.47 A common assessment framework had been completed by the school on the family but this was not followed up by the school and monitored via Child In Need procedures, neither had any family action meetings been convened,

thus there was no plan of intervention in place to safeguard these children following the schools initial expressions of concern.

7.48 The school later advised that they had been reluctant to raise issues with Alison for fear as to how she may react. The school have since reported that the younger child's behaviour in school would escalate on a Friday afternoon and would show increased anxiety as the weekend approached. (This is consistent with the view from the family of Ben who state that the level of domestic abuse was far greater than that reported to Merseyside Police as every weekend Alison would drink heavily and a domestic dispute would take place resulting in Ben seeking sanctuary with friends and family.)

7.49 Children's Services in their IMR state,
"Why this information from the school was not shared earlier and reflected in the social work assessment undertaken in November 2014 is unknown."

Key line of enquiry

Was communication and information sharing between agencies timely and effective?

- Did it lead to a clear understanding of the complexity of the issues within the family and was the approach to helping the family properly coordinated?
- Were plans formulated holistic with a long term problem solving approach rather than being incident driven?
- How effective was joint action managed and delivered through the MARAC process. Were resources/capacity an issue in relation to service delivery?

7.50 There is evidence of some good information sharing during the period reviewed by this Panel.

7.51 In 2004 following the birth of Alison's first child there is evidence of good communication and joint working between Health Visitors, Children's Social Workers, and Housing Providers which identified a risk in relation to Alison's parents. New accommodation was quickly found for Alison and her new born child thus removing the child from risk.

7.52 In December 2012 Police Officers are shown to share information with the Maternity Unit, Health Visitors and Children's Services following a domestic dispute between Alison and Ben prior to which Alison who was pregnant at the time had been consuming alcohol. This case was not discussed at DVIC and therefore the risk to the unborn child would not otherwise have been shared.

- 7.53 However, in terms of agencies working with this family and engaging in a multi-agency approach to reduce risk the answer to this question is best exemplified by the contrasting views of two key agencies coming into contact with and supporting this family.
- 7.54 Merseyside Police in their IMR conclude that
“This murder could have been predicted but was not preventable.”
- 7.55 Children Services in their IMR reflect that,
“There had been little previous indication that the level of previous domestic violence was indicative of a potential homicide.”
- 7.56 No evidence has been made available to this Panel to show that a number of key pieces of information which would have assisted in accurately determining the level of risk were shared between relevant agencies or at meetings the purpose of which was to reduce levels of risk and increase levels of safety.
- 7.57 On 23rd September 2004 a Health Visitor working in the G.P. practice of Alison telephoned Children’s Services advising that three days earlier Alison had punched her hand through a window at her home in anger and that Alison had now disclosed that she *“was frightened she may harm Colin and may harm her child”*
- 7.58 Three weeks later the Health Visitor and Children’s Services conducted a joint visit to the home of Alison. It was established during this visit that Alison had refused to attend an anger management course which had been arranged for her by the G.P. following this disclosure.
- 7.59 No further action was taken and there is no record of Alison disclosure or refusal to attend anger management training being shared with any other agency nor of any risk assessment in respect of Colin and her child being completed.
- 7.60 On the 20th August 2007 Alison received a Police administered caution following an assault she made on Colin. There is no recorded evidence to show that this information was shared with agencies at any future DVIC or MARAC meeting.
- 7.61 Merseyside Police in their IMR note;

That domestic incidents which involve excessive alcohol use (the presence of this risk will be dealt with later within this report) and the allegation of possession or use of a knife should be very carefully risk assessed even if no injuries have occurred. The assessment should take account of the fact that

in any future domestic conflict this combination of risk factors will significantly increase the possibility of serious injury or death. This risk relates not only to the parties concerned but to any front line agency worker who may come into contact with them.

- 7.62 Despite the Police statement regarding knives on 19th July 2008 a Social Worker completed a planned visit to the home of Alison after a domestic violence incident involving Donald. The Social Worker enquired of Alison about the level of contact she currently had with Donald. Alison replied “*If he comes near me or my children I will stab him.*” There are no records to indicate that this information was shared with any other agency or referred to at any future multi-agency meetings relating to Alison and there is no evidence of a risk assessment being undertaken in respect of Donald by the Social Worker.
- 7.63 Maternity records relating to the birth of Alison’s third child in 2013 illustrate a further example of poor communication between agencies. Throughout the antenatal period there was no knowledge within Maternity Services of Children’s Services involvement with the children of Alison until close to discharge of Alison and her new born.
- 7.64 The NHS Trust were however aware of issues of domestic abuse because of information shared with them by the Police and throughout the domestic abuse multi-agency meetings. The result was that when the youngest child was discharged from hospital a discharge meeting was convened at which actions were agreed and followed up. The post-natal care of Alison involved a maternity “*cause of concern*” process which was followed up with appropriate links being made with Community Staff upon discharge.
- 7.65 Ben following his arrest on 17th October 2014 disclosed that during the course of a domestic dispute 18 months ago, prior to which Alison “*had been drinking and had become obnoxious and violent which she always did after consuming alcohol*”, he had been stabbed in the hand by Alison.
- 7.66 Ben had not reported this stabbing at the time but having made this disclosure the information was not shared by the investigating Police Officer with the FCIU or any other agency and could not therefore form part of the decisions regarding risk or safety/action planning.
- 7.67 One must speculate that this murder could have been prevented if these two disclosures by Alison and Ben both relating to stabbing had been firstly shared with other MARAC agencies and secondly, “*very carefully risk assessed*”.

- 7.68 These examples represent long term and systemic failures to share important information between agencies which led to flawed decision making and placed at further risk the safety of Alison her partners and her children.
- 7.69 One must therefore also conclude that weaknesses in information sharing inhibited this partnerships understanding of the complexities and risks present in this case. It was also responsible for creating the significant gap in the perception of overall risk possessed by these two key agencies.
- 7.70 The weakness in information sharing was compounded by the management of MARAC's and DVIC's held in respect of Alison her partners and their children none of which appear to have taken a long term problem solving approach to resolving these domestic tensions.
- 7.71 The MARAC and DVIC both suffered from;
- Limited information sharing
 - No reference to previous incidents or partnership meetings held to reduce risk following these incidents
 - Poor action plans with
 - No follow up of safety/action plan outcomes
 - No reassessment of risk.
 - No strategy to overcome barriers presented by a lack of engagement from victim or perpetrator.
 - An absence of proactive prevention strategies relating to parenting alcohol and substance misuse
- 7.72 It is acknowledged by agencies in their IMR's that incidents of domestic violence in this case were responded to as an individual set of incidents with no reflection or analysis of the cumulative impact of the series of incidents
- 7.73 The Community Healthcare Trust note that information shared with Health Visitors following a DVIC meeting at which the Health Visitor was nominated as the lead professional following an incident of domestic abuse was presented in such a way as to indicate;
"The incidents were assessed in isolation of previous incidents pertaining to those adults and children."
- Repeat referrals of cases involving these adults and children did not in the opinion of the Trust result in an escalation for assessment by Children's Services or a multi-agency case review.
- 7.74 Children Services IMR notes;

“During the early life of the case between 2004 and 2008 incidents of domestic violence were responded to as an individual set of incidents with no reflection or analysis of the cumulative impact of the series of incidents. As a result of this opportunities were missed to address at an earlier stage the true scale and impact of domestic violence these children were exposed to.”

- 7.75 As a result of these weaknesses, opportunities were missed to address at an earlier stage the true scale and impact of domestic violence everyone who was part of Alison’s family, her children and her partners and all front line delivery staff who had contact with them were exposed to.
- 7.76 However, paragraph 6.2 of the DVIC Protocol, developed and agreed by this Partnership, states that the meeting;
- Will decide which agency should undertake the key role in each case. That agency will allocate a key worker who will be responsible for ensuring that the appropriate support or service is provided and that clear outcomes and expectations of the worker will be outlined at the DVIC meeting. Feedback on progress will be required by the key worker and will be recorded at the DVIC meeting within four weeks from the date of allocation.”*
- 7.77 Cases in which Alison was either a victim or perpetrator of domestic abuse were referred to the DVIC on 11 occasions between 2003 – 2014.
- 7.78 In respect of any outcome or safety plan emerging from these 11 DVIC meetings, minutes show that;
- On two occasions no outcome or safety plan was recorded at the conclusion of the meeting.
 - On four occasions the outcome or safety/action plan was simply that the case was open to South East Child and Family Team (SE C & F) and that having been said no action was then allocated to the SE C & F team to deliver.
 - Two DVIC meetings concluded that the case was allocated or open to Health and again no action was then allocated to Health to deliver.
 - On three occasions, the outcome recorded was for agencies to monitor.
- 7.78 Records also show that on only one occasion did DVIC review these cases outcomes, or action plans at a subsequent meeting.
- 7.79 This myopic approach also inhibited the development of evidence based action plans at MARAC as key information detailing the work of the DVIC meetings was not brought to MARAC meetings.

- 7.80 Following the incident on 17th October 2014 the relationship between Alison and Ben was scheduled to be discussed at the MARAC meeting on 6th November 2014.
- 7.81 The following information was not found to have been shared with the agencies attending the 6th November 2014 MARAC meeting;
- Information regarding outcomes of previous DVIC meetings
 - Records of the previous IDVA Service provider which were not provided to St Helens Community Safety Partnership who commissioned the service when that contract was ended and who may have held information relating to Alison's relationships with Colin and Donald. (Access to these records has since been obtained by this Review and illustrate limited contact between the IDVA and Alison in 2008 and that offers of support/help in relation to a Court hearing from the IDVA was declined by Alison.)
 - There is no evidence of the MARAC meeting being made aware of the two arrests of Alison following domestic abuse incidents. Once for causing a Breach of the Peace and once for committing a Section 39 Common Assault upon a previous partner.
 - Records of the frequently intoxicated state of Alison at the scenes of domestic disputes.
- 7.82 Children's Services comment in their IMR that their information
- " suggests that social care and MARAC risk assessment processes focussed too much on Alison being the victim of the violence and failed to sufficiently acknowledge her role as a perpetrator. Alison's two previous partners and fathers of two of her children had previously made allegations of assault against Alison, but this information was not contained within social work assessments."*
- 7.83 Maternity Services also acknowledge that during the antenatal care attention was naturally upon Alison with no attention given to Ben. The Trust note that;
- This was perhaps an opportunity to better understand the dynamics of the relationship and the potential for Alison to be a perpetrator rather than a victim. A greater awareness of the complex dynamics within abusive relationships needs to be further iterated."*
- 7.84 In October 2014 in accordance with the St Helens MARAC protocol, having been advised that the incident of 14th October 2014 would be discussed at the MARAC meeting 6th November 2014, agencies began to take action.
- By 21st October 2014 Children's Services had completed their assessment and referred Ben to Addaction and Help and Alison to the Freedom program (domestic abuse support program). They concluded that they

would be taking no further action and the case was closed by them on 24th October 2014.

- By 28th October 2014 the IDVA Service had made contact with Alison who advised that she had resumed her relationship with Ben and that she did not require IDVA support. The case was then closed by the IDVA Service.

7.85 The safety plan agreed at the MARAC meeting of 6th November then included the following action points;

- Alert the Police Neighbourhood Team
- Health Service to continue to support
- Community Health Trust – on going
- Helena Partnership, (Manager of the IDVA Service) to continue support
- Ben referred to Addaction
- IDVA to offer support once more to Alison

7.86 Safe Lives (Formerly CAADA) acknowledge that with the introduction of DHR's, action/safety plans developed at MARAC need to be consistent and auditable.

7.87 This Partnerships MARAC Procedure and Protocol manual states in Paragraph 21.2:

Action Plans should be SMART and should be explicitly documented in the minutes by the Domestic Violence Administrator.

7.88 However, none of the actions from the MARAC meeting of 6th November 2014 are SMART and are so general in nature that they are difficult to audit.

7.89 The actions sought continued support from the IDVA Service who had already closed their file on this case and include details of an action already undertaken by Children's Services, but with no requirement to monitor if the referral was taken up by Ben at Addaction or Alison at the Freedom program.

7.90 In the action plan of 6th November 2014 MARAC does not appear to take cognisance of the history of this relationship or support for Alison regarding alcohol treatment, nor is there reference to any risks faced by the children living within this relationship or of any plans to reduce that level of risk. This short term single incident approach, and weaknesses in the management of the MARAC and DVIC meetings appear to have rendered the multi-agency approach less than effective in this case.

Key line of enquiry

Did professionals display appropriate understanding of the risks presented within this family.

- Were the risks effectively managed and was supervision and management adequate in providing control and direction.

7.91 Safe Lives include within an Aide Memoire for Chairs of MARAC meetings a reminder to:

Specify actions which are outstanding from the last MARAC, include details of the agency/organisation responsible, the case number and the reason why that action is incomplete”.

7.92 Upon commencement of the DHR process it was identified that elements of the MARAC action plan in respect of Alison and Ben and their children agreed on 6th November 2014 was not reviewed at the next MARAC meeting held on 20th November 2014.

7.93 Immediate steps were taken by the Community Safety Partnership to ensure this was not repeated and now all actions from the previous MARAC meeting are the first item on the agenda of every MARAC.

“MARAC’s need to be measured by their risk management actions and the outcomes of their multi-agency activities. We found examples of MARAC’s that did not monitor risks or did not properly track the actions that it had agreed.”

HMIC 2014 Everyone’s Business; Improving the Police response to domestic abuse.

7.94 Currently if a victim or perpetrator fails to engage with the MARAC safety/action plan, unless new information is forthcoming no further action will be taken by this MARAC. (Alison has a history of failing to engage and more detail will be found later within this report.)

7.95 Whilst the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator explains that this is because there is not the capacity to perform this extra level of safety planning this Review was unable to find evidence that such reassessment of risk has ever been practice of the DVIC or MARAC meetings held by this Partnership.

7.96 This is in spite of such omissions being contrary to the agreed Partnership MARAC Procedure and Protocol and this will be subject of further comment later within this report. In this case there was no MARAC review of their original MeRIT risk assessment or action plan in light of this lack of engagement. Therefore the risk remained at least at the same level as pre MARAC.

- 7.97 This failure to reassess risk on the basis of evaluating engagement of the key individuals in the action plan is also present at a single agency level. Children's Services acknowledge that Alison and Ben lack of engagement with Addaction, the Help program and the Freedom program was not followed up by their staff prior to closure of the case.
- 7.98 The effectiveness with which levels of risk were managed was also challenged by the actions of the Police investigating officer. Following the arrest of Ben after the incident at their home address on 17th October 2014, Ben was interviewed at St Helens Police Station regarding the complaint of assault made by Alison.
- 7.99. During that interview Ben disclosed to the interviewing officer that 18 months prior to this date Alison whilst under the influence of alcohol had stabbed him in the hand, showing to the officer the scar which this knife attack had left.
- 7.100 Regarding this historical stabbing information the interviewing Police Officer took no further action and, failed to complete in accordance with Force policy, a MeRIT Risk Assessment form or submit a VPRF1 in respect of Ben to the FCIU.
- 7.101 Safe Lives recommend the *"most common way of managing counter allegations in domestic incidents is to share the information to help agencies in particular the IDVA service."*
- 7.102 Failure to complete a MeRIT risk assessment and a VPRF1 prevented the information from being shared at the MARAC of 6th November 2014.
- 7.103 In respect of this omission the Police IMR states that the interviewing officer when interviewed stated that he,
- " Was not aware that course of action, (Recording the crime and completion of VPRF1) should have been undertaken as if that was the procedure then there would be a requirement to do this for every person making a counter allegation or historical unreported allegation when arrested for a domestic incident."*
- 7.104 Aside from the failure to follow Home Office Counting Rules policy discussed earlier these actions show a lack of understanding of risk in domestic abuse cases especially when viewed against the history of Alison and Ben relationship which was available to the officer during the time that Ben remained in Police custody.

- Alison had previously been discussed at 11 DVIC meetings and 1 MARAC meeting.
- Alison had previously received an Adult caution for an offence of violence committed against a previous partner.
- Though not included as a warning sign on the Police PROtect system there is evidence contained in a large number of Police incident logs regarding Alison that on many of the occasions of domestic disputes Alison had been consuming alcohol.
- The incident of 17th October 2014, which was being investigated at this time, differs from the historical crime disclosed by Ben only in terms of the weapon used to inflict the stabbing. On 17th October, 2014, it was a key, 18 months previous it was a knife. On both occasions Alison had been consuming alcohol.

7.105 In spite of Ben convincing the investigating officer that he was going to end the relationship with Alison and leave, there was a strong probability that Alison and Ben would resume their relationship and live together once more.

- Alison and Ben had during the course of their 4-year relationship reported 10 domestic violence incidents to Merseyside Police. All of these incidents had taken place at the home Ben shared with Alison which Ben moved into soon after their relationship began. Police logs show both parties living at the same address.
- On 14th August 2014, Helena Housing record that they were assisting Alison with a Housing Benefit claim in respect of both Alison and Ben who were sharing the house.

7.106 This proved to be the case as by 21st October 2014 just 4 days after Ben's arrest an officer from the MASH had spoken to Alison who confirmed that the couple were back living together.

7.107 The incident which lead to the murder of Ben on 17th December 2014, contained the same "ingredients" as the historical incident and the incident investigated on 17th October 2014. Alison having consumed alcohol then committing a stabbing. Additionally, on 17th October 2014 and on the night of the fatal stabbing Ben had his back to Alison at the time of the attack.

7.108 This does indicate there has been a poor understanding of risk in domestic abuse cases shown by a number of agencies and a less than effective management of risk by DVIC, MARAC and individual agency supervision.

Key line of enquiry

How did your agency recognise and deal with root causes which contributed to the manifestation of domestic abuse within the relationship? (For example alcohol/drug abuse)

- Was action/support effective?
- If barriers prevented engagement in support what strategies were in place to overcome such barriers?

7.109 *“Full and accurate information about domestic abuse history is critical to any effective screening and risk assessment process. Reliance on records of convictions will seriously underestimate judgements about the extent and likelihood of domestic perpetration given the level of attrition in domestic violence cases.”*

Richards L 2004 Getting away with it; a strategic overview of domestic violence sexual assault and serious incident analysis.

7.110 The MARAC Procedures and Protocol document states that;

Para 21.5: All of the information provided by the risk indication and risk assessment elements process will have identified the issues and risk factors and indicators which underlie each case. These specific areas of concern now need to be managed in order to reduce risk

7.111 Over the course of three relationships from 2003 until the fatal stabbing of Ben in 2014 Alison was involved in a total of 33 domestic violence incidents reported to Merseyside Police.

7.112 Over the course of those 11 years on two occasions the incidents lead to a MARAC referral, and in the majority of others the case was discussed at a DVIC meeting. Throughout the 33 cases there are 13 separate references to one or both parties having consumed alcohol.

7.113 Police records show Alison to be the perpetrator of a domestic abuse incident on five occasions between 2003 – 2014 and that Alison was arrested twice following domestic incidents. On four of those occasions the Police log recorded that Alison had been consuming alcohol.

“The alcohol use of one or both partners impacts on the boundaries between victim and perpetrator with subsequent difficulties in assessing risk and in determination of who is the primary aggressor”.

Hester M, Williamson E and Gangoli G Exploring the service and support of male, lesbian, gay bi-sexual and transgender and black and other minority ethnic victims of domestic violence. Rapid Evidence Assessment. Home Office

7.114 The NSPCC commissioned report November 2013 also highlighted the impact of alcohol fuelled violence within the context of a domestic setting by stating that this should *“be viewed as an increased risk”*

NSPCC Domestic Abuse; Learning from case reviews. November 2013

- 7.115 Out of the 13 DVIC and MARAC meetings only at the MARAC held on 6th November 2014 is there any record of a referral of one of the parties to a domestic dispute involving Alison to alcohol and substance misuse services contained within the meetings safety/action plan.
- 7.116 Children's Services IMR acknowledges that alcohol misuse was not given full consideration during the course of Social Work Assessments including the assessment of 14th November 2014.
- 7.117 The Police domestic violence incident recording system PROtect contains warning signs regarding Ben for alcohol misuse but the only warning signs in respect of Alison was one of violence there were no warning signs regarding Alison's misuse of alcohol.
- 7.118 The failure to highlight as a warning sign on the Police PROtect system habitual alcohol misuse is recognised within the Police IMR as one of the lessons to be learnt from this Review and is reflected in the action plan which accompanies this report.
- 7.119 Public Health Services, commissioners of alcohol and substance misuse treatment services in St Helens, within their IMR highlight the number of opportunities which were not taken;
- To refer into treatment services Alison and her partners during the period subject of review.
 - To provide support to the children within the family as a result of alcohol abuse
- 7.120 Whilst details of the training programmes were included earlier within this report there is an absence within that training schedule of courses which explore the links and effects of alcohol and substance misuse within a domestic abuse relationship and the impact upon the children within that relationship. This view is reflected in the action plan which accompanies this report and the actions of a number of the Panel agencies.
- 7.121 As with alcohol misuse in this case in spite of there being evidence of need regarding mental health treatment/support available to multi-agency meetings in which Alison and her partners were the subject of discussion there are no records of any referral from MARAC or DVIC to Mental Health support or treatment services during the period 2003 - 2014.
- 7.122 In October 2007 there are two occasions when Social Workers from Children's Services record that Donald because of the state of his mental health is a danger to the children of Alison. There was a DVIC and a MARAC multi-

agency meeting held to discuss the two incidents at which staff from Children's Services would have been present but where there is no record that the mental health threat was shared by either Social Worker or Police Officers whose logs of the incidents also contained the issue of mental health and the risk it posed to the children within that family.

- 7.123 One must wait until an appearance at St Helens Magistrates Court in June 2008 for the Section 39 Offences Against the Person Act assault on Alison which took place in October 2007, before Donald is referred following a domestic violence incident to mental health treatment services.
- 7.124 On 24th June 2008 Donald was sentenced by St Helens Magistrates Court to an 18 month Community Order with conditions of 18 months' Probation Service supervision, a mental health treatment requirement and a residency requirement.
- 7.125 The Probation Service had only two meetings with Donald following this sentence as on 7th July 2007, Donald was admitted to Whiston Hospital having been sectioned under the Mental Health Act.
- 7.126 Donald remained in Hospital for four weeks but was readmitted under a Mental Health Act Section one month later and apart from a period of two weeks when he was discharged briefly in March 2008 he remained as an inpatient until the end of 2009.
- 7.127 A Panel agency has indicated that during this period the Mental Health Trust did not offer services from DVIC to perpetrators of domestic abuse in explanation for a lack of referral of Donald from DVIC or MARAC during 2007. However, when one examines the membership of both DVIC and MARAC meetings knowledge and access to services was sufficient within the group to have established that Donald was already in receipt of treatment and information surrounding the domestic abuse incidents may have assisted those treatment providers and facilitated additional support for alcohol misuse or mental health within safety plans. These omissions indicate poor analysis of the information prior to the meeting and poor management of the DVIC and MARAC meetings at an operational and strategic level.
- 7.128 Records available to this Panel also illustrate that on eight occasions during the period 2003 – 2014 Alison was offered help and support to overcome issues connected to domestic abuse. On each occasion, she either rejected that support or minimised the incident to the officer expressing concern and making the offer of support to her.

The table below details each of those incidents.

Date	Support Offered	Agency	Adult A (F) Comments
13.10.04	Anger management course after punching hand through window in anger and also stated she Alison feared she may harm Colin or her daughter.	Alisons G.P.	Refused to attend
11.04.07	G.P. advises that because of 2 domestic violence incidents and mental health and substance misuse behaviours of partner is not suitable for Alison	Alisons G.P.	Alison minimises the incident and plans to continue the relationship with Colin
04.05.07	Alison offered support via Sure Start etc. following domestic violence incident dispute over maintenance payments claims Colin shut door on child's foot.	Health visitor	Refused support has help from grandmother
09.05.07	Health visitor expresses concern to Alison regarding 2 visits to A&E with Child and 2 recent domestic violence incidents which child witnessed.	Health visitor	Alison minimises the incidents
22.01.12	Police DV Officer attempts to make contact with Alison to offer support.	Police	Alison would not engage
04.08.13	Police domestic violence officer made contact with Alison following domestic violence incident but she declines Police or External agency support	Police	Alison declines support stating it was a one off incident

20.10.14	Freedom Program offered to Alison after domestic violence incident following case heard at MARAC	Children's Services	Did not attend
28.10.14	Refuses IDVA service stating that the couple are working through the issues together	IDVA	Working through issues together

7.129 Paragraph 22.4 of the MARAC Procedure and Protocol states that;

Where actions associated with a risk plan have not been completed or there has been a failure to engage the residual risk will be considered by the Domestic Violence Coordinator and if necessary emergency measures will be considered, however in all such circumstances an update will be provided at the next MARAC.

7.130 The Panel were unable to find any evidence that Alison refusal to accept any offer of support or to engage with agencies following either of the MARACs but more importantly the MARAC of 6th November 2014, resulted in any further action being taken or the MeRIT risk assessment being reviewed in light of this rejection of help and support.

7.131 The MARAC minutes of 6th November 2014 show that;

- Children's Services state the case was closed to them in light of the fact that the risk posed by domestic abuse did not meet the threshold required by child protection procedures, and the family do not wish for any support.
- The case was also closed to the IDVA Service again because Alison declined the service and was resuming her relationship with Ben.

7.132 The MARAC minutes then show that a question was asked of the meeting,

"Are all agencies in agreement with the discussion that has taken place within MARAC and that all concerns have been raised and addressed? Yes."

No further entries are made in respect of the case involving Alison and Ben

7.133 The author has interpreted the phrase "*failure to engage*" contained within paragraph 22.4 as going beyond a telephone conversation between Alison and agencies during which offers of support are rejected and is requiring of a participation in activities contained within the safety plan. On that basis the

MARAC minutes clearly illustrate that paragraph 22.4 of the MARAC Procedure and Protocol was not followed.

7.134 Neither can the Panel find evidence of the MARAC meeting considering the issue of an “Osman” warning. An “Osman” warning referred to in paragraph 22.7 of the MARAC Procedures and Protocol relates to, European Court of Human Rights case Osman versus United Kingdom 1998 following which case guidelines were developed.

7.135 These guidelines *“Allow the Police in cases where all options for coordinating MARAC risk management plan have been exhausted to notify individuals in writing of dangers they feel are clearly indicated by current circumstances if they do not take advice and support offered.”*

7.136 Agencies failure to engage Alison and a subsequent failure to take any further action as a result of Alison and Bens failure to engage or to have considered the history of this case/relationship and learn lessons from what has taken place in the past illustrate an absence of strategies and processes within the domestic abuse and safeguarding partnerships to overcome barriers to dealing with the root causes of domestic abuse in this case and to deliver effective safety planning. Thus increasing the level of risk and dangers faced by Alison her children, her partners and front line agency staff dealing with this family.

Key line of enquiry

- **What knowledge did family/friends have of issues within the relationship regarding domestic abuse?**
 - o Were they engaged in support strategies and/or did they feel able to be involved?
 - o How will family/friends be encouraged to contribute to the review?

7.137 For some time Bens sister Frances lived close to the home Ben shared with Alison and the children.

7.138 Frances was a confidant and source of refuge for Ben who would advise Frances of all the incidents of violence which Alison had committed against him. Frances stated that disputes and violence occurred every week end as a result of Alison consuming large quantities of alcohol.

7.139 Alison was aware of the role that Frances played in being a refuge and confidant for Ben. Frances believes that it was for this reason that Alison had

placed a tracking application onto the mobile phone of Ben. Ben advised Frances that he was frequently challenged by Alison as to why he had visited Frances.

7.140 When Stephen Mc.Gilvray asked Frances why she had not reported this abuse and violence on behalf of Ben she gave a number of reasons.

7.141 Alison would throw Ben out of the house and since losing employment he had nowhere to live. Ben had nothing and that is why he often slept in his car. (When domestic disputes were taking place with Alison)

7.142 Ben believed that he had to “*watch out*” for the children because he drew the violence of Alison away from them and without his presence they would become the recipients.

7.143 It was for those reasons Ben asked Frances not to report this violence and abuse to the Police. Frances told Stephen Mc.Gilvray that having been asked not to report it she did not want to “*Do anything behind his back, to be a grass.*”

7.144 Neither Erica nor Frances prior to this murder knew where they could report domestic abuse of this nature outside of the Police.

Key line of enquiry

Any other issues around equality and diversity to be considered within the review?

7.145 There were no other issues of equality or diversity raised during the course of this Review.

8.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

8.1 The decision by this panel to review the period 2003 – 2014 was made on the basis of Alison record of involvement as victim and perpetrator of domestic abuse throughout this period.

8.2 That decision was beneficial to the purposes of this review because it enabled the panel to establish that weaknesses in structures and processes were

endemic and not confined to the 2010 – 2014 period of the relationship between Alison and Ben.

- 8.3 Following a review of information provided to this review one must conclude that this murder may have been prevented and safeguarding levels have been higher but for the poor management of MARAC and DVIC processes and the meetings and consistently poor levels of information sharing around issues of risk and root causes of conflict within this relationship.
- 8.4 A number of IMR's contain actions concerning agency specific learning points and they are all included within this section of the report and within the overall action plan which is included at Appendix A.
- 8.5 In addition there are actions which this panel believe are relevant to address the weaknesses identified within the Partnership structures in place to deal with matters of domestic abuse and Safeguarding.
- 8.6 The development of the DVIC meeting by taking the MARAC approach and applying it to cases which are not high risk or where safeguarding thresholds have not been reached but where children have experienced the abuse taking place is a positive addition to safeguarding activities for the children and young people of to-day and the adults of tomorrow.
- 8.7 However systemic weaknesses within DVIC, MARAC and Children Safeguarding meetings including MASH thwart this positive approach.
- 8.8 It is therefore recommended that a post with clear management oversight and responsibility delivering structured supervision of DVIC, MARAC and Children Safeguarding meetings including MASH is established. This is to ensure that there is effective coordination between the meetings and a thorough and accurate awareness amongst participants of the actions and outcomes delivered by others working with these vulnerable families.

Delivery of this action would benefit from joint training exercises between participants at each of these meetings.

- 8.9 There is a lack of effective information gathering and preparation before meetings and a failure to place single domestic violence incidents within a wider context of the relationship. Neither is there evidence that this narrow and surface only approach to information gathering and analysis is challenged within the meetings. This issue can be traced back several years within the partnership and one might say are part of its culture.

- 8.10 Accompanying this is the absence of a strategy to overcome barriers created by the non-engagement of both victims and perpetrators with safety plans developed by DVIC, or MARAC meetings.
- 8.11 Whilst this issue will benefit from the first recommendation of this panel it will in the short term require intrusive supervision of such meetings. In order to make the change sustainable a retraining program for all Chairs of the meetings and their participants to ensure processes are delivering as complete and accurate assessment of safety needs as possible and a strategy to overcome the barrier of non-engagement must be developed and utilised. This is the second recommendation of this Panel.
- 8.12 Linked to this is the absence of a problem-solving approach which seeks to structure participation at meetings around the elements of that complex relationship. Illustrative of this is the lack of a school representatives at DVIC and MARAC meetings, and a failure to tackle the root causes of disputes and violence within the relationships. Few good examples of this approach could be found within the evidence available to the Panel.
- 8.13 It is therefore recommended that a revision of membership to MARAC and DVIC is undertaken with necessary changes made following that review and that Chairs and those supporting the Chair at these meetings apply a strong problem-solving approach to the work of the meeting with the aim of preventing repeat victimisation by addressing root causes of conflict within the relationship.
- 8.14 There are several examples found within this Review where a failure to follow policy has occurred and this has inhibited the effectiveness of the partnership response to domestic abuse.
- MARAC meetings fail to deliver SMART objectives in accordance with the published Procedures and Protocols for this MARAC and this has made the evaluation of outcomes from meetings difficult to assess.
 - The failure to review necessary actions and safety plans at the next MARAC meeting and to reassess the level of risk when individuals fail to engage with the action plan. These are both elements which the Procedures and Protocols for this MARAC state should be taking place.
 - The failure to record as a crime the disclosure of an historical stabbing made by Ben at the time of his arrest and shortly before his death, contrary to National Crime Recording Standards, and the failure to complete a VPRF1 and risk assessment of Ben following this disclosure was contrary to Merseyside Police Policy. It stopped this information being shared

amongst MARAC partners and prevented the safety of Ben being fully risk assessed.

- The Schools failure to follow up completion of the CAF forms prevented those concerns being followed up and monitored via Child In Need procedures. With the result that no family action meetings had been convened, and there was no plan of intervention in place.

8.15 It is recommended that compliance with policy forms a key part of the supervision of domestic abuse within single agencies and at future MARAC, DVIC meetings. Additionally, these key policies should be an integral part of the re-training of MARAC, and DVIC Chairs and meeting participants.

8.16 Whilst marketing of services for survivors of domestic abuse is widespread amongst agencies in St Helens, this Review could find no evidence of advice and guidance for friends and family members of victims who are aware that domestic abuse is taking place within the relationship and the importance of them seeking help in such cases. Included within this is the need to reinforce the variety of ways in which help and support for victims of domestic abuse can be obtained.

8.17 The final recommendation of this panel is for the Community Safety Partnership, Children's Services and the Safeguarding Boards to develop a joint education and awareness program focussed upon the family and friends of victims who are aware of ongoing domestic abuse and the need for them to take action in such instances alerting them to the many routes through which this disclosure can be made.

Individual Agency Action Plans.

9.1 The following actions have been identified as necessary to resolve weaknesses identified within individual agency IMR's.

Merseyside Police

9.2. When a victim calls the Police to report a 'domestic abuse' incident and states that violence has taken place, and then refutes this on the arrival of a patrol, the reporting officer must ensure that there has been no undue influence placed on the reporting party to change their story. The reason for any such change in the circumstances of an incident should be recorded on the VPRF 1 and considered during the risk assessment.

- 9.3 Some work has already been undertaken in respect of this action. Merseyside Police are currently developing a 'Bluestar' application for the Calls and response operators to ensure that all systems are checked upon deployment of a first responder so the risk is assessed appropriately. The content of the "Storm" log should be provided to the officer and the officer's responsibility to check the content and verify the information. All first responders now have personal laptops issued to them to allow them to check force systems. There is clear training and guidance for officers with regard the action they should undertake at the scene of a Domestic Incident and the subsequent completion of a VPRF/1 form. The new automated form will also provide an automatic aide memoire for officers to assist in completing the form and securing and verifying information at scene, including the Storm log. The new Coercion and Control lesson plan has incorporated the above issue and is aimed at all first responders across the organisation guiding the officer practically through this type of scenario.
- 9.4 If an allegation is made by a person involved in domestic conflict with another, that a knife or other deadly weapon was in the possession of, or used by that other, whether current or historical, then a VPRF 1 must be completed and an assessment of the risk to those involved undertaken.
- 9.5 Some work has already been undertaken in respect of this action. Merseyside Police record the use of weapons per se in any domestic incident, and clarify whether this is a pre-meditated weapon or an opportunity weapon through the MeRIT risk assessment. Continued guidance for officers is provided in the training which has been developed for Coercion and Control. This is to remind officers that historical incidents can often determine the risk level when deployed to current incidents and allow a wider referral for support from partner agencies. Merseyside Police are in discussion with Dr Keri Nixon with regard the most appropriate process within the VPRF1 form for the first responder to record and risk assess incidents involving knives to establish the most appropriate risk level and intervention.
- 9.6 When creating and indexing Niche logs or records, the perpetual abuse of alcohol by any of the parties involved should be highlighted on their PROtect record as a warning sign, even if the person is a victim.
- 9.7 Some work has already been undertaken in respect of this action. Merseyside Police record the presence of alcohol for both the victim and perpetrator when attending an incident of Domestic Violence, the use of a flagging system via Niche has been proposed to alert the officer and risk assessor of alcohol presence in any domestic incident. The opportunity to refer victims voluntarily to alcohol services or making applications for alcohol treatment orders for perpetrators charged with offences has been promoted.

This has been considered in conjunction with the Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment process conducted by the Domestic Violence Risk Assessor who research the incident and nominal and make the office in charge aware to allow applications for a treatment order in the case of a perpetrator to be included in any Crown Prosecution Service file. This includes their use of alcohol in previous incidents, if alcohol was present previously then domestic violence risk assessor can use professional judgement and consider raising the level of risk to allow alcohol intervention services to be utilised. Although referral to alcohol treatment services is a minimum intervention for incidents risk assessed as silver, there is no requirement to raise the risk level to silver for this intervention to be put in place. Bronze incidents – where alcohol is recognised as a risk indicator – can remain as bronze, but using professional judgement, a referral made to alcohol treatment services. Section 13.10.4 in the Merseyside Police Domestic Abuse Policy refers.

Children's Services

- 9.8 Assessments need to take full account of historical information and ensure it is fully reflected within the assessment process and during the formulation of plans.
- 9.9 Social workers need to reflect on the cumulative impact of a series of individual incidents contained within chronologies and not respond to and view them as a repeat/recurring series of unconnected incidents.
- 9.10 A management process to be developed to monitor service user engagement when they are referred to support services such as Addaction, the HELP Project or Freedom Project as part of an intervention plan. The purpose will be to determine if engagement (or otherwise) improves outcomes for children and/or provides evidence of non-compliance (disguised).
- 9.11 A common assessment should link to a plan of intervention that is subject to regular multi-agency review.
- 9.12 Assessments need to be rigorous in determining the extent of which individuals are victims and/or perpetrators of domestic violence.
- 9.13 The voice of the child should be clearly heard and reflected in all social work children and families assessments encompassing both direct input but also any consistent deficiencies in parenting.

- 9.14 Assessments plans and monitoring arrangements need to take account of the potential for disguised non-compliance of service users and the impact of this on outcomes for the child.
- 9.15 That DVIC be reviewed to consider whether appropriate assessment and mechanisms are put in place that address children at risk.

Community Safety Partnership

- 9.16 That the MARAC is provided with full disclosure by all agencies concerning perceived victims and perpetrators.
- 9.17 That the MARAC consider and document support available to both victim and perpetrator where alcohol abuse is prevalent.
- 9.18 That the MARAC question and document their considerations when counter allegations are evident.

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Acute Hospital/District General Hospital.

- 9.19 Use of this case to address learning in a multi-agency setting to include; Emergency Department, Alcohol Services, Mental Health Liaison, Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Leads with an emphasis on developing skills in
 - Accurate social history taking
 - Identifying the hidden males.
- 9.20 Review advice/pathways in place relating to alcohol related attendances/admissions.
- 9.21 Review advice/pathways in place relating to bereavement issues
- 9.22 Review advice/pathways in place relating to substance misuse issues.
- 9.23 Audit the current use of electronic alerts to Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children.

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

- 9.24 Conduct an audit of the use of MeRIT risk assessment checklist for domestic abuse by the Health Visiting, School Nursing and Family Nurse Partnership

Services. In order to establish if victims and their children are being reassessed in terms of risk being reduced or elevated.

Public Health

- 9.25 A training needs analysis to be undertaken in relation to alcohol awareness and effects on parenting/hidden harms across Police, Children's and Adult Social Care, G.P.'s MARAC and DVIC staff.
- 9.26 Public Health will ensure that reducing harm to children from parental problem drug and alcohol use is a priority aim of the Borough's Alcohol Strategy 2016 – 2017 onwards.
- 9.27 Terms of reference for DVIC and MARAC should include identifying alcohol and drug related challenges especially where there is evidence of or the potential for compromised parenting and take action to address that challenge.
- 9.28 All schools should identify at least one trained designated person able to deal with the problems that might arise with the children of problem drug users (Hidden Harms, 2003).
- 9.29 All services should ensure that the voices of the children of problem drug users are heard and listened to. Work is required to develop means of enabling the children of problem drug users safely to express their thoughts and feelings about their circumstances.
- 9.30 Public Health will explore the Borough offer in relation to providing appropriate support for the children of parents with drug and alcohol problems. Support should be available even if parents are unwilling or unable to change their use of drugs or alcohol.
- 9.31 Learning from this review should be cascaded to drug and alcohol treatment services who will consider when developing plans for the outreach elements of their service.

Appendix A

Action Plan

Action Plan Domestic Homicide Review Ben

	Recommendation	Scope of recommendation, local or regional	Action to take	Lead Agency	Target date	Date of completion and Outcome
1	Management oversight of DVIC, MARAC, MASH and Safeguarding meetings	Local	<p>Appointment of individual with clear management oversight and responsibility delivering structured supervision of DVIC, MARAC and Children Safeguarding meetings including MASH is established.</p> <p>Ensure that there is effective coordination between the meetings and a thorough and accurate awareness amongst participants of the actions and outcomes delivered by others working with these vulnerable families.</p>	People's Services	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	

2.	Supervision and retraining of staff.	Local	Short term require intrusive supervision of DVIC, MARAC, MASH and Safeguarding	People's Services	Within a maximum of 6 months	
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			meetings. Retraining program for all Chairs of the meetings and their participants to ensure processes are delivering as complete and accurate assessment of safety needs as possible.		from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	
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3.	Strategy to overcome lack of engagement.	Local	Development of a strategy to overcome a lack of engagement by victim or perpetrator.	People's Services	Within a maximum of 9 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	
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4.	Review membership of meetings	Local	Revision of membership to MARAC and DVIC is undertaken with necessary changes made following that review.	Community Safety Partnership People's Services	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	
5.	Adoption of problem solving	Local	Chairs and those supporting the Chair at these meetings apply a	Community Safety	Within a maximum of	
	approach		strong problem solving approach to the work of the meeting with the aim of prevention repeat victimisation by addressing root causes of conflict within the relationship.	Partnership People's Services	6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	

6	Supervision of compliance with policy	Local	It is recommended that compliance with policy forms a key part of the supervision of domestic abuse within single agencies and of future MARAC, DVIC and all other Safeguarding meetings. Additionally these policies should be an integral part of the retraining of MARAC, DVIC and Safeguarding Chairs and meeting participants.	All Panel Agencies	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	
7.	Joint education and awareness program for family and friends of domestic abuse victims	Local	Community safety, Children's Services and Safeguarding Boards development of an education and awareness program/campaign to encourage family and friends to act and report when someone they know is the victim of ongoing domestic abuse.	Community Safety Partnership People's Sevices	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	

8	Verification of complaint and completion of form VPRF1	Regional	When a victim calls the Police to report a 'domestic abuse' incident and states that violence has taken place, and then refutes this on the arrival of a patrol, the reporting officer must ensure that there has been no undue influence placed on the reporting party to change their story. The reason for any such change in the circumstances of an incident should be recorded on the VPRF 1 and considered during the risk assessment	Merseyside Police	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	
9	Assessment of risk in "knife" incidents	Regional	If a complaint is made by a person involved in domestic conflict with another, that a knife or other deadly weapon was in the possession of, or used by that other, whether current or historical, then a VPRF 1 must be completed and an assessment of the risk to those involved undertaken	Merseyside Police	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	

10	Accurate recording on Niche	Regional	When creating and indexing Niche logs or records, the perpetual abuse of alcohol by any of the parties involved should be	Merseyside Police	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date	
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			highlighted on their Niche record as a warning sign, even if the person is a victim		of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	
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11	Inclusion of data within assessments	Local	Assessments need to take full account of historical information and ensure it is fully reflected within the assessment process and in formulation of plans.	People's Services	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	
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12	Verification of engagement with support services.	Local	A management process to be developed to monitor service user engagement when they are referred to support services such as Addaction, the HELP Project or Freedom Project as part of an intervention plan. The purpose will be to determine if engagement (or otherwise) improves outcomes for children and/or provides evidence of non-compliance (disguised).	People's Services	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	
13	Review of intervention plans	Local	A single assessment should link to a plan of intervention that is	People's Services	Within a maximum of	
			subject to regular multi-agency review.		6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	

14	Improved assessments	Local	Assessments need to be rigorous in determining the extent of which individuals are victims and/or perpetrators of domestic violence	Community Safety Partnership People's Services	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	
15	Inclusion of child's views within assessments	Local	The voice of the child should be clearly heard and reflected in all social work children and families assessments encompassing both direct input but also any consistent deficiencies in parenting.	People's Services	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	
16	Monitoring non compliance	Local	Assessments plans and monitoring arrangements need to take	People's Services	Within a maximum of	

			account of the potential for disguised non-compliance of service users and the impact of this on outcomes for the child		6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner.	
17	Review of DVIC	Local	That DVIC be reviewed to consider whether appropriate assessment and mechanisms can be put in place that address children at risk.	People's Services	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	
18	Information sharing at MARAC	Local	Supervision and monitoring of MARAC takes place in order to ensure that the MARAC is provided with full disclosure concerning perceived victims and perpetrators.	Community Safety Partnership	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	

19	Tackling alcohol abuse in domestic	Local	That the MARAC consider and document support available to both	Community Safety	Within a maximum of	
	violence incidents		victim and perpetrator where alcohol abuse is prevalent	Partnership	6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	
20	Management of counter allegations/complaints at MARAC	Local	That the MARAC question and document their considerations when counter allegations/complaints are evident	Community Safety Partnership	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	

21	Multi Agency Training	Local	Use of this case to address learning in a multi-agency setting to include: Emergency Department, Alcohol Services, Mental Health Liaison, Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Leads with an emphasis on developing skills in Accurate social history taking Identifying the hidden males	St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Acute	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	
22	Review Advice	Local	Review advice/pathways in place	St Helens and	Within a	
	Pathways re alcohol		relating to alcohol related attendances/admissions	Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Acute	maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	

23	Review Advice Pathways re bereavement.	Local	Review advice/pathways in place relating to bereavement issues	St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Acute	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	
24	Review Advice Pathways re substance misuse.	Local	Review advice/pathways in place relating to substance misuse issues	St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Acute	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	
25	Audit use of alerts	Local	Audit the current use of electronic	St Helens and	Within a	

			alerts to Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children	Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Acute	maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	
26	Audit use of MeRIT.	Local	Conduct an audit of the use of MeRIT risk assessment checklist for domestic abuse by the Health Visiting, School Nursing and Family Nurse Partnership Services. In order to establish if victims and their children are being reassessed in terms of risk being reduced or elevated.	Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	
27	Training needs analysis	Local	A training needs analysis to be undertaken in relation to alcohol awareness and effects on parenting/hidden harms across Police, Children's and Adult Social Care, G.P.'s MARAC and DVIC staff.	Public Health	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	

28	Alcohol Strategy	Local	Ensure that reducing harm to	Public Health	Within a	
	Aims		children from parental problem drug and alcohol use is a priority aim of the Borough's Alcohol Strategy 2016 – 2017 onwards.		maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	
29	Amendment of DVIC and MARAC terms of reference	Local	Terms of reference for DVIC and MARAC to include identifying alcohol and drug related challenges especially where there is evidence of or the potential for compromised parenting and take action to address that challenge.	Public Health	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	

30	Training staff within schools	Local	All schools should identify at least one trained designated person able to deal with the problems that might arise with the children of problem drug users (Hidden Harms, 2003).	Public Health	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	
31	Listening to the	Local	All services should ensure that the	Public Health	Within a	
	voices of children.		voices of the children of problem drug users are heard and listened to. Work is required to develop means of enabling the children of problem drug users safely to express their thoughts and feelings about their circumstances.		maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	

32	Support for children of substance and alcohol misusing parents.	Local	Public Health will explore the Borough offer in relation to providing appropriate support for the children of parents with drug and alcohol problems. Support should be available even if parents are unwilling or unable to change their use of drugs or alcohol.	Public Health	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	
33	Developing outreach services	Local	Learning from this review should be cascaded to drug and alcohol treatment services who will consider when developing plans for the outreach elements of their service.	Public Health	Within a maximum of 6 months from the date of publication of the Overview Report or sooner	

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Appendix B

Chronology

<i>DHR MERGED AGENCY CHRONOLOGY</i>					Comprehensive Agency Chronology
DHR REF: DHR STH 14/2					Date Range of Chronology: 17/11/2003 to 07/12/2014
Date	Time	Source of evidence	Name of Professional (<i>initials</i>)	Contact with	Event description, actions taken, decisions made.
26/11/03		Child health Record	EP		Health Visitor informed by Midwife that Social worker is involved due to historic child protection concerns with the maternal family

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01/12/03		Child health Record	EP	Alison and, Perpetrator's mother	Planned home visit completed. Telephone call to social worker. Informed that she has no concerns about Alison parenting ability and query social services to withdraw services. Alison and child living with maternal grandparents who are schedule one offenders and presently have two children on child protection register under category of neglect
05/01/04	NA	Application for Housing. Received by Helena Housing Local Office Documotive (Tenancy 2)		Alison	An application form for housing (joint application) was received from Alison and Colin Alison address provided:. Alison stated she needed to move due to issues with overcrowding. Alison signed her housing application proof of ID - provisional driving licence identifies her as 'Alison'. Alison address provided is St Helens (This is not a Helena property).
07/01/04		Child health Record	EP		Telephone call to Senior Nurse for child protection to discuss health visitor concerns that child is living in a house with her parents but it is maternal grandparent's house who are schedule 1 offenders. Senior nurse to discuss with Named Nurse for safeguarding.
13/01/04		Child health Record			Clinical Supervision with Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children, who will liaise with Independent Reviewing Officer regarding child protection plan to protect child

15/01/04		Child health Record	EP	Alison & Colin	Both parents attended Well Baby Clinic for child's 6 weeks development check. HV discussed concerns with both parents about child s protection
					whilst living at paternal grandparent's house. Informed by both parents that postnatal and ante natal visits have been done by social worker. Parents signed a form to say maternal grandparents must always be supervised whilst in Child s presence.
16/01/04		Child health Record	EP		Health Visitor spoke with Named Nurse, Health Visitor to be present at core group meetings whilst Child living in maternal grandmothers home
27/01/04	NA	Application for Housing. Received by Helena Housing Local Office Documotive (Tenancy 2)	CG – Housing Manager		Letter received from Social Worker, St Helens for child of Alison, stating that as the social worker for Alison's, baby, she strongly supports Alison's, housing application enabling her to move from her present address 'as soon as possible as this would alleviate any child protection concerns'.
21/04/04		Child health Record	EP	Alison	Alison seen at clinic at her request. Child at home with dad. Alison, was under the impression that Child had an open case with social services. Telephone call to social services to confirm that social worker closed Child case in December 2003. Message left for social worker to write to Alison and dad stating that Child case was closed in 2003.

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17/06/04	N/A	Offer Letter Documotive	H H	Alison and Colin	Offer letter sent to Alison and Colin.
		Child health Record	EP	Alison and Colin	Attended 7-9 month development assessment. Old bruise noted on Child left side of forehead. Alison volunteered explanation. Unexplained bruise appears
30/06/04					to be consistent with injury sustained by Child. Accident prevention and safety discussed.
05/07/04		Tenancy Agreement/I BS Documotive		Alison	Alison and Colin signed up to property at. Joint Tenancy. Other people living at address listed as: Child.
02/07/04		Child health Record	EP		Social worker informed regarding bruise seen 30.06.04. Social worker happy with explanation given. Information to be documented and monitoring to continue whilst Child and parents are living at maternal grandparents home.
20/09/04		Child health Record/ Hospital notification	EP		Health Visitor liaison form received stating domestic violence incident on 20.09.14 between Alison and Colin
20/09/04		Child health Record	EP		Alison apparently thrown out of house by partner Colin . Alison heard baby crying and put hand through window. Attended A&E by ambulance with baby. Alison left waiting room with baby unable to contact her via mobile. Social services informed

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21/09/04		Child health Record	EP	Alison	Telephone call to dad who denied that there was a DV incident and said Alison was in hospital but it was accidental.
21/09/04		Child health Record	EP		Telephone call to social worker to discuss DV incident. Social worker said social services would not be informed unless a further referral was made to social services.

23/09/04		Child health Record	EP		Telephone call from practitioner at GP surgery. She has concerns that Alison admitted on 20/09/04 that she had punched her hand through a glass window in anger. That she was frightened that she may harm Colin and that she may harm Child. Alison referred to Gateway for anger management. Child referred to social services as a child in need.
13/10/04		Child health Record	EP	Alison	Planned joint visit with social worker. Alison does not want to attend anger management, social worker to send information.
29/12/04	02.39	Merseyside Police Systems: Altaris Log 0412290129	PC(LP)	Alison and Colin	Colin made a report by telephone to the police of a domestic incident between himself and his partner (ALISON) at their home address. He reported that she was hitting him and 'stressing out' their baby. A patrol attended the incident. The log was closed with the result that it was a verbal argument only.
17/04/05		Child health Record	EP		Domestic violence incident. Between Alison and Colin. Male and female have been out all night drinking. Argument followed and male slapped female across the face and pushed her onto the floor.

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09/05/05	09:23	IBS diary note	LJB	Alison	Alison telephoned (Neighbourhood Officer). recorded that Alison states she 'Has been assaulted by partner; he is not allowed to go to the property and she has claimed in her own right for HB.
20/05/05		Request for Transfer of tenancy form received. Documotive		Alison and Colin	Request from Alison and Colin requesting a transfer of tenancy to Alison due to relationship breakdown. 'DV occurred within the property. Alison has bail not to return to the property, the case is going to court'. Child also listed at living at address. The transfer of tenancy request was not approved by a Neighbourhood Manager at this time - most likely due to issues with rent arrears which both tenants were responsible for.

25/05/05		IBS diary note.		Housing Benefit Office	Helena received an update from Housing Benefit Office who informed Helena that the current Housing Benefit claim in the name of Colin ceased (week ending from 09/05/05) and have starting paying full rent from 09/05/05 in the name of Alison. Both tenants agreed at this time to pay £5 per week off rent arrears; despite Colin not living there as is was joint responsible for the rent arrears.

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28/09/05		Child health Record	EP		Verbal argument at hospital between both parents. Child distressed and crying. Alison's ex-partner (Child's dad) and paternal grandmother present. Alison got irate and upset in department started to shout at grandmother then informed staff she doesn't get on with them, states she has no help at all at home and her mother hardly helps out. Alison states her ex-partner assaulted her so she got an injunction out. Ex-partner turned up at the hospital and arguments arose. Baby very distressed and crying. Alison wanted to take baby outside in the cold weather whilst she had a cigarette. Advised her not to go out but she did.
28/10/05		Child Health Record	EP	Alison	Planned home visit to discuss the hospital attendance on the 28.09.05. Child's parents are separated and had a verbal argument at the hospital. Occurred due to family tension. Discussed with Alison the importance of not arguing in front of Child and Alison to discuss this with her ex-partner.
21/02/06		Child Health Record	EP		Spoke with social worker at Whiston Hospital regarding Child's A&E attendance. Social worker uncertain as to whether the concerns regarding attendance were grounds for social services referral. Informed social worker Health Visitor would complete a visit to discuss concerns with Alison. Social worker asked for feedback
07/03/06		Child Health Record	EP	Alison	Pre-arranged home visit Alison and Child present. No concerns apparent at this visit with regards to Child's development or maternal care. Telephone call to social worker to advise of visit outcome
02/05/06		Child Health Record	EP		Information received regarding DV incident 26/03/06.

31/05/06	01.06	Merseyside Police Systems: Altaris Log 0605310062	PC (AI)	Alison and Donald	An emergency call operator informed the police of an abandoned 999 call originating from the home address of the mother of (ALISON). The operator stated that a disturbance could be heard in the background. A patrol was dispatched. Upon arrival, the officers were met by the mother of Alison who tried to explain what had occurred. (ALISON) was present at this time and was being abusive towards her mother and the officers, while holding her daughter Child. She had been drinking. The officers separated (ALISON) from parents however she continued with her abusive behaviour and was arrested for Breach of the Peace. She was subsequently refused charge.
09/06/06		Child Health Record	EP	Alison	<p>Planned home visit, informed Alison health visitor had received multiagency form from social worker. Alison openly discussed an incident that had initiated social care involvement. Alison reported Child was asleep at maternal grandmothers home. Both Alison and maternal grandmother had been drinking alcohol and verbal argument occurred and Alison's uncle is alleged to have hit her across the face. Alison rang the police but she wound up in the police station overnight due to aggressive behaviour. Long discussion with Alison of the possible impact upon Child of witnessing domestic violence. Alison acknowledged the possible impact upon Child and was willing to ensure this did not occur. During the visit Child was chatting she talked about uncle hitting Alisons face and told me uncle kicked her in the cheek. Explained to Alison this information had to be shared with social services. Alison agreed with the sharing of information.</p> <p>Referral to duty social worker. Child alleges that her uncle kicked her in the</p>
					face. Alison has photo on mobile phone dated 23/05/06 showing injuries.

15/09/06		Child Health Record	EP	Alison	Planned home visit at Alison's request. Alison reports Child fell from top to bottom of stairs she reports she took her to the walk in centre. Discussed safety. Behaviour management also discussed.
22/12/06	17.32	Walk in Centre record	MS	Alison	Found out pregnant. On examination: Attended alone under the influence of alcohol – 3pints eating well, crying through consultation. unknown cause of pain. To be seen by out of hours GP for further assessment.
17.02.07	22:08	DV Database DVIC	DV Social worker	Alison Perpetrator Alison	<p>Police report of a domestic, female alleging partner grabbed her around the neck causing bruising by grabbing wrists and refusing to let her out of the house.</p> <p>Male had to be CS Gassed after threats made to Police, arrested Assault and S4 public Order.</p> <p>Male suffers from mental health problems; females account obtained although she does not wish to make a complaint.</p> <p><u>DVIC Meeting:</u></p> <p>Outcome not recorded on DVIC database</p>
17/02/07	22.08	Merseyside Police Systems: Altaris Log: 1702071869	PC (SM)	Alison and Donald	<p>Neighbours contacted the police to report that (ALISON) was fighting with Donald in the street outside their house. A police patrol attended and (ALISON) alleged that Donald assaulted her and grabbed her by the throat several times. Donald was arrested during which time he was incapacitated with CS gas due to his violent behaviour. (ALISON) made a written statement but did not want to support a prosecution as she was of the opinion that Donald had mental health issues. He was interviewed and admitted the offence.</p> <p>Following advice from the CPS he was given an Adult caution.</p>
17/02/07		Child Health	EP		DV notification incident between Alison and Donald. Female alleges partner

		Record/ DV notification form			grabbed her around the neck causing bruising and grabbing her wrists refusing to let her out of the house. Female does not wish to make a complaint. Action taken closed to social worker 26.07.06 Pilot 28.02.07
23/02/07		Child Health Record	EP		A & E Attendance – Child fell through glass door.
01/03/07		Child Health Record	EP		Telephone call to social worker asking for information regarding mothers care of Child. Information shared. Allegation that Alison’s new partner is hitting her. Domestic violence.
19/03/07		Child Health Record	KL		Failed home visit.

20.03.07	20:50	DV Database DVIC	DV Social worker	Alison	<p>Female calls Police after verbal altercation with partner. He became aggressive and kicked the T.V.</p> <p>Info from call log states:</p> <p>Boyfriend kicked off for no reason and has kicked TV, caller's daughter in bed. The male is said to be a Schizophrenic, he is on foot and may harm himself as he has done before, and caller stated she has told him their relationship is over after the incident, she now fears he may take his own life. She feels that the male's mother is the only one who can calm him down. Caller for an hour to re settle her daughter in bed before she makes call to his mother of male and the police call to her house.</p> <p>She has not been assaulted but she has on previous occasions.</p> <p>She later states that there is no problem and is willing to present herself at the station to prove she is well, she fails to attend on 24/3/07 but apologises for</p>
					<p>doing so. Fails to attend again so patrol would be more suitable to check the home address and see that the child is safe and well. Completed Child and female safe and well, no crime only verbal argument, advice given.</p> <p>DVIV Meeting: C.F closed to 28.02.07, following referral from biological father.</p> <p>Discussed at Project 04.04.2007 – allocated Health.</p>

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20/03/07	20.53	Merseyside Police Systems: Storm Log: 0703201269	PN (NS)	Alison and Donald	(ALISON) contacted the police reporting a verbal argument with Donald and concerns regarding his aggressive behaviour and mental health. Both had left the house separately and as a result there was a delay in speaking to her personally due to a failure to keep appointments. This incident was eventually resulted as no complaints, female safe and well, no crimes, verbal argument only advice given.
20/03/07		Child Health Record	EP		DV incident verbal argument between Alison and Donald
30/03/07		Child Health Record	EP	Alison	Seen at clinic with dad for 3yr weight and height check – no parental concerns reported
02/04/07		Child Health Record	KL		Failed home visit
11/04/07		Child Health Record/ DV pilot form	EP	Alison	Alison seen at GP surgery discussed with Alison that in view of Donald alleged mental health problems, cannabis use alcohol misuse and domestic violence incidents x 2 that he is an unsuitable partner for her. Alison minimises the incident and plans to continue in her relationship with him.
		Child Health	EP		Attended A & E – burnt palm of hand. Child reportedly to have touched

13/04/07		Record.			exhaust of Uncles bike whilst in care of paternal grandmother
13/04/07	16.45	Trust Health Record			A& E attendance, brought by Dad, Child had sustained a burn to her right hand after touching a motor bike exhaust pipe. Palm of hand noted to be red and blistered. Appropriate dressing applied and appointment given for redress in one day's time

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14/04/07	11.10	Trust Health Record			Child returned to A&E for re dressing of burn, further appointment for 2 days' time
16/04/07	13.10	Trust Health Record			Child returned to A&E for review and redressing of burn, accompanied by parents. Wound noted to be clean, blisters burst. Child was discharged, Alison was provided with a clean dressing.
25/04/07		Child Health Record.	EP		Received information domestic violence incident on 20/03/07.
04.05.07	23:30	DV Database DVIC	DV S/W	Alison	<p>Male and female have dispute over money owed for child maintenance, female confronts male whilst he is drunk, verbal argument, female kicks door before making off, no offences disclosed, child safe and well, Female is pregnant.</p> <p>From call log:</p> <p>Informant states partner Donald is refusing to give her benefit money which is paid into her account, states he assaulted their three year old girl by shutting the door on her foot, states male smoked cannabis all day as well as drinking all day, states she's outside the flat as she needs money for gas and electricity, states she has just found out she is pregnant, asking for a patrol to find, advised patrol might not attend as it is a civil matter.</p> <p>Male threatening to harm himself, inft states daughters foot just been caught in the door, neighbours shouting at male to shut up, inft states male is schizophrenic.</p>

					<p>Alison states she can't have money tonight as he is in bed, male slurring his words, patrol flagged down by female, she was conveyed home.</p> <p>Verbal argument only, child safe and well, no damage to property.</p> <p>DVIC Meeting: unclear who allocated to (may be hand written in book)</p> <p>Outcome from last incident: From Health visitor: Alison remains in the relationship but doesn't live with him, she refused support from Sure Start etc., she has support from grandmother.</p>
	00:00	DV Database DVIC		Alison	<p>RECORDED "Systems problems see other for 04.05.2007" – unclear where this is?</p> <p>Children recorded as present.</p> <p>DVIC Meeting: 09.05.2007 - Outcome not recorded</p>
04/05/07	23.00	Merseyside Police Systems: Storm Log: 0705041869	PC (MF)	Alison and Donald	<p>(ALISON) contacted the police to report that Donald was withholding her benefit money. At the same time Donald contacted the police to report that (ALISON) was kicking his bedroom door. A patrol attended and spoke to both parties. Child seen safe and well and the matter was resulted as a verbal argument with no offences disclosed.</p>
04/05/07		Child Health Record/ DV notification form	EP		<p>DV Notification incident between Alison and Donald, verbal argument, female kicks door before making off, no offences disclosed, female is pregnant. Action taken discussed at the Domestic Violence Pilot on 9.5.07</p>

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09/05/07		Child Health Record.	EP	Alison	Alison seen at clinic, Child not seen reported to be at nursery. Long discussion with Alison about concerns that Child fell through a glass door on the 23.2.07. Burnt hand on motor bike exhaust on the 13.4.07 also that these
					appear to co-inside with Alison having a new partner and 2 domestic violence incidents 17.2.07 and 20.03.07. Alison explained Child fell through a glass bathroom panel she reported she was in the bath when this accident happened and Child was running in the hall and tripped falling through the glass panel. Alison said she immediately sought medical attention. Alison reported the second accident happened when Child was with paternal grandmother. Health visitor also discussed with Alison her concerns that Child heard a domestic violence incident on the 20.3.07 and discussed the possible impact on Child witnessing domestic abuse. Alison appeared to minimise the incident.
17/05/07		Child Health Record/ DV pilot form	AR	Alison	Alison seen at GP surgery she remains in a relationship with Donald despite previous domestic violence incident and Donald has mental health problems, smokes cannabis and can be aggressive after drinking alcohol. He does not live with Alison or Child but often sleeps there
05/06/07	23.40	Trust Health Record			Child was brought to A&E by ambulance, accompanied by Alison. Child had sustained a head injury after falling down stairs (approximately 8 stairs). She was noted to have a haematoma to her forehead and some swelling to nose. Observations were normal at time of triage. It was recoded at 00.48 that Alison had taken Child home before medical assessment.

17.06.07	01:30	DV Database DVIC		Alison and Donald	<p>Female stated she has had an argument with male who stormed out, she was concerned about his safety and followed him. She alleges he grabbed her around the neck and pinned her against a wall, she managed to break free and fled the address. Male arrested no children present.</p> <p>Call log: Informant states her EX Donald aged 22 suffers psychoses and schizophrenia, informant says he turned on her and gripped her by the throat and</p>
					<p>said he was going to kill her, 1 adult male arrested for assault.</p> <p>DVIC Meeting: Open to SE assessment team</p>
17/06/07	01.15	Merseyside Police Systems: Storm Log: 0706170113	PC 5773	Alison and Donald	<p>(ALISON) contacted the police stating that she was at (Donalds) flat and that he had grabbed her by the throat and threatened to kill her. She was concerned for him due to his mental health and stated that she was not injured. A police patrol attended and arrested Donald for assault. Alison provided a written statement outlining the assault and included that Donald had consumed 12 cans of lager and smoked cannabis that day. She admitted having 4 glasses of wine. When interviewed Donald stated that she had attacked him and he only pushed her arm away in self-defence. (ALISON) contacted the police while he was in custody wishing to withdraw her allegation. Despite this CPS advice was sought and he was charged. He was bailed with conditions not to approach (ALISON). The matter was later discharged at court as (ALISON) failed to attend to give evidence.</p>
23/07/07		CRM Log – responsive repairs		Alison	<p>Alison contacted One Call to requesting re-glazing to the front window of her door. Alison stated that she had put the front window through as she had left her keys inside.</p>

20/08/07	21.13	Merseyside Police Systems: Altaris Log 0708201515	PC(CP)	Alison and Colin	(Colin) made a call to the police to report that he had been assaulted by his ex-partner (ALISON). He stated that he had gone to a town centre public house to collect his daughter having been directed there by his mother, who (ALISON) had phoned. Upon his arrival at the public house he saw (ALISON) and he enquired about their daughter and was told that she was inside the public house; this was untrue. An argument between them then ensued. (ALISON) then assaulted Colin. He left the premises and went home. A patrol was deployed and took a report of assault from him. (ALISON) was arrested sometime later. When interviewed she fully admitted her involvement and apologised. The advice of the CPS was sought and (ALISON) was consequently given the benefit of an Adult caution.
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15/10/07		Child Health Record.	VE		Telephone call from social worker requesting information on this family. Alison is in a relationship with Alison who has mental health problems and when his mental health is poor he is a risk to children. In addition Alison is reported to be 7 months pregnant.
16/10/07		Child Health Record.	AR		Telephone call from social worker 15/10/07 requesting information – call returned – unavailable
21.10.07	12:09	DV Database DVIC	DV S/W	Alison and D	<p>Reports of a domestic, female very distressed and crying states verbal with her Ex partner who hit her in the face with a bag containing a drink can, she had swelling to her right cheekbone and reddening.</p> <p>Male left prior to Police arrival arrested Assault.</p> <p>Female 13 weeks pregnant.</p> <p>DVIC Meeting: 24.10.2007 - Open SE C&F team.</p>

21/10/07	11.54	Merseyside Police Systems: Storm Log: 0710210665 and 0710210672	PC (JT)	Alison and Donald	(ALISON) contacted the police to report that (Donald) had hit her across the face with a bag containing cans. She stated that she has a black eye and was 13 weeks pregnant. Five minutes later (Donald) contacted the police to report that (ALISON) was hitting him. A patrol attended and (Donald) was arrested. (ALISON) made a statement of complaint. When interviewed he claimed that she had attacked him and he accidentally hit her with the bag. He was charged and given conditional bail not to approach (ALISON). He failed to appear at court and was arrested on warrant and further bailed with conditions. He eventually pleaded guilty to the assault and was sentenced to a Residency order for 18 months and ordered to pay £50 compensation to (ALISON).
21/10/07		Child Health Record/ DV notification.	AR		DV Notification incident between Alison and Donald verbal argument, female reports partner hit her in the face with bag containing a drink can. Male arrested, female pregnant. Action discuss at Domestic Violence Pilot on 24.10.07 Hospital
					Cause for concern received related to same incident.

08.11.07		MARAC	MARAC Admin	Alison and Donald	<p>Victim: Alison Assailant: Donald-</p> <p>Children: Child</p> <p>Summary: The Police report 4 incidents in 12 months; Alison is wanted as he failed to appear at court on 29th October after an incident on 21st October. These violent incidents have escalated since February 2007 and the Police believe Alison and her ex-partner Donald to have had a violent relationship.</p> <p>The case is open to Children’s Services and is going to Case Conference on 10th November. Education reported that Child attends Primary and has 100% attendance.</p> <p>Helena Housing reported Alison as having joint tenancy with Colin since July 2004 but he left the property May 2005. They say there are allegations of Donald being involved in drugs on the estate. Alison can’t be re-housed due to re-charges but Helena are allowing this due to DV and are re-housing Alison Under one Roof. She is currently staying at her parent’s house and she wants to move to this area. Helena Housing will see if they can do an exceptional hold on a property in this area.</p> <p>Shap Ltd reported knowing Donald and stated he is a paranoid schizophrenic. They stated that he has been known not to be taking his medication and living in terrible conditions. He has been sectioned in the past.</p> <p>The IDVA has completed an initial assessment over the phone and believes Donald not engaging with Mental Health Services and not taking medication. It</p>
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					<p>is believed he is taking drugs and is said to be involved with dealers on the estate. This is why Alison is now staying at her mothers.</p> <p>Midwifery reported Alison's due date 25 April 2008.</p> <p>Children's Services reported that Donald has been diagnosed with schizophrenia, he does spend a lot of time at Alison's home, he is a risk to children and a written agreement has been made so that he must never have unsupervised contact. They believe Donald to be abusing drugs and alcohol and not taking his medication.</p> <p>Actions: LOI markers to be put on, IDVA to offer support, Children's Services to continue support, Police to progress the arrest of Alison and to up the case to gold. Police to review the DV alarm situation and see if one can be put in Alison's and her mothers address. Crime Reduction Officer to visit Alison's parents address.</p>
09/11/07		CP Minutes – Child Health Records	AR		Child Protection conference for sibling Child and unborn child. Child added to child protection register, category emotional abuse.
13/11/07		Child Health Record	AR		Case conference – Child's name added to the child protection register under the category of emotional abuse.
06.12.07	13:00	DV Database DVIC	DV S/W	Alison	<p>Police report Male absconds from hospital, no contact made with female but believed this may have been his intention, absconded 13:30, returned 14:00hrs.</p> <p>Female is 5 months pregnant.</p> <p>DVIC Meeting: 19.12.2009 - Open case to C&F team.</p>

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		Child Health	AR	Alison	DV incident 6/12/07 – Alison and Donald ex-partner absconded from hospital.
20/12/07		Record			No contact made with female. Female is 5 months pregnant. Action Taken Project been to MARAC 8.11.07
16/01/08		Child Health Record	AR	Alison	Home visit Child seen in care of Alison Strength and Difficulty questionnaire completed by mother as per safeguarding plan. Score 12
22/01/08		Child Health Record	AR		Child Protection meeting, child remained subject to Child Protection Plan under category of emotional abuse
17/04/2008		CYPS			Child 2 born
21/04/08		CYPS			Pre discharge meeting held.
30/04/08		Child Health Records	AR	Alison	Home visit by health visitor. General health advice given and maternal health discussed
14/05/08		Child Health Records	AR		No access for pre-arranged visit
21/04/08		CYPS			Review CP Conference. Child removed from CP register. To be reviewed at CIN at Level 3b.
21/05/08		Sibling Faye Child Health Record	AR		Child Protection meeting. Removed from CP Plan. To be monitored under CIN procedures.

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17/06/08	19.58	Merseyside Police Systems: Altaris Log 0806171205	PC(LP)	Alison and Donald	(Donald) made a report by telephone to the police of a domestic incident at his home address between himself and his ex- partner (ALISON), who was refusing to leave. A patrol attended the incident. The log was closed with the result that it was a verbal argument only regarding access to their new born child. Advice given.
17.06.08	20:00	DV Database DVIC	DV S/W	Alison and Donald	Party 1 Alison Party2 Donald
					<p>Verbal argument over contact, Child 2 is 9 weeks old, child lives with Party1, Party 2 showing no interest in the child, believed to be involved in drugs by Party 2.</p> <p>From Call log: Ex-partner Donald 22 years old is refusing to leave the address, she is XXX and shouting in the background and has been taken out by her friend.</p> <p>Alison sounded XXX although denied having had a drink when asked further call from informant stating the female has now returned and is refusing to leave. Heard some vague arguing/shouting in the background verbal only between ex partners over access to new born child, Child not at the address.</p> <p>DVIC Meeting: 25.06.2008 open case to SE C&F team.</p>
17/06/08		CYPS			DV incident between Alison and Donald. Alison attended Donalds address and refused to leave. Verbal.

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24.6.08.		Case Record	Court Appearance		Donald made subject to an 18 month Community Order for an offence of S39 Assault. 18 months supervision and mental health treatment required and residence requirement.
30/06/08		CYPS			CIN meeting – no issues.
7.7.08.		Case Record	LK Offender Manager (OM)		CI informed that Donald was at Whiston Hospital under a Mental Health Act Section.
09/07/08		Child Health Record	AR	Alison	Home visit Child not seen as at nursery. Alison reports she feels Child's behaviour is difficult to manage when she has visited her father. Alison feels strategies she is trying at home are not being carried on when Child goes elsewhere. Advised to discuss with Child's father and paternal grandmother any strategies she is using and come up with a mutual agreement. Alison also

					reports Child is shouting in her sleep "daddy don't shout" and west the bed when returned from contact. Plan health visitor to contact social worker and to visit in 6-8 weeks query emotional wellbeing tool to be repeated. 14.00 contacted social worker unavailable message left.
19/07/08		CYPS			Home visit conducted following the report of a DV incident. During the visit worker notices a man hiding in bathroom believed to be Donald. Not challenged regarding this during the visit however Alison asked regarding contact with Donald and stated that she would stab him if he came near her or her children. Alison asked if anyone in the house who shouldn't be but stated there was not.
06/08/08		CYPS			CIN meeting. No concerns for school or health re Child, no health concerns re Child 2, Health to assume lead role.
23/09/08		Child Health Record	SB now SD		Notes transferred to school nursing service

29/08/08		CYPS			Case to close to CYPS.
8.10.08.		Case Record	LK Offender Manager		Donald Discharged from Whiston
19.10.08	23:46	DV Database DVIC	DV S/W	Alison and Colin	<p>Party 1 – Alison</p> <p>Party 2 – Colin</p> <p>Female contacted Police regarding her daughter who was staying at fathers address.</p> <p>Daughter is currently ill and mother wanted her back, no offences disclosed. Daughter in bed safe and well. Mother advised.</p> <p>Call Log, Caller Alison.</p> <p>Informant reporting her ex-partner Colin has neglected to take 4 year old daughter to hospital appointment. Male is now refusing to bring daughter back to</p>

				<p>informant.</p> <p>Informant stated doctor had phoned her as daughter had not attended.</p> <p>Male won't speak with the informant, previous for violence, informant's mother has spoken with him, he has refused to bring her back but said she is settled.</p> <p>Informant is going by taxi to address to try and get female, requesting police to assist to prevent BOP, informant believes male will be under the influence of alcohol.</p> <p>00:07 – further call from informant – she is now in a taxi on her way to the above location.</p> <p>01:11 – Spoke to both parties, daughter Child has been safe and well asleep in bed. No offences disclosed. Child will spend the rest of the evening at the above location which is her grandparents address to prevent disturbing her at this time of night.</p> <p><u>DVIC Meeting:</u> 29.10.2008 – case open to SE C&F team.</p>
19/10/08		Child Health Records	AR	Domestic Violence incident notification form. Incident between Alison and Donald. Referred to DV project on 29/10/08.
17.11.08.		Case Record	LK-OM	CI informed that ALISON sectioned and admitted to Ward 17.11.08.

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18/11/08		MARAC List	JW	Alison	MARAC list There are no IDVA client notes in relation to this as Helena did not manage the IDVA service at this time. There is no evidence on Helena systems of Alison living at
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					Alison was known as at this time.
03/02/09		Child Health Records	AR	Alison	Home visit – seen in the care of Alison clean and well presented. Domestic violence incident discussed and the impact this can have on the children.
3.3.09.		Case Record	LK-OM		Informed that Donald has been discharged from Taylor Ward.
17.3.09.		Case Record	SD (OM)		Donald readmitted to Ward.
10/07/09		Child Health Records	SW	Alison	Routine 1 year development check completed. No concerns
18/09/09		Child Health Record	SB now SD	Alison	Conducted pre-arranged home visit to discuss Child's behaviour. Alison informed school nurse she feels Child displays negative behaviour once she has been at her fathers. I advised Alison to discuss boundaries, discipline with him. Alison informed school nurse that there has been a lot of hostility between herself and her ex-partner and that she feels Child is reacting to this. Will contact Alison in the next few weeks to see how Child's behaviour is.
23.12.09.		Case Record	SD (OM)		Case record indicates that Donald remained hospitalised until the order expired 23.12.2009.
14/07/10		Child Health records	SW	Alison	Routine 2 year development check completed. Concerns expressed by Alison re: Child behaviour.

27/08/10		Documotive	LB	Alison	<p>Letter from Colin to confirming details for transfer of tenancy to remove Colin from tenancy at.</p> <p>This was signed by Colin .</p> <p>Approved by (Neighbourhood Manager) 27/08/2010.</p>
17/12/10		Letter from Lisa Bennison Documotive	LB	Alison	<p>A letter was sent to Alison and Colin confirming the commencement of 4 weeks' notice to remove Colin from the tenancy permanently.</p> <p>The letter confirms that tenancy will be reinstated in the name of Alison .</p>

		Term of joint tenancy			
27/12/10	23.11	Merseyside Police Systems: Storm Log MP-20101227-1462	DC(SA)	Alison and B	<p>Ben called the police for assistance, reporting that his partner had just woken him and thrown him out of the house. He was only wearing a T-shirt and trousers. (Ben) further stated that she had been drinking, was violent and he'd never seen her like this. It was about family issues from over the Christmas period. A patrol attended and recorded that this was a verbal argument only. No offences disclosed. No allegations. One child seen safe and well asleep in bed. The other child was with relatives.</p>

27.12.10	23:11	DV Database DVIC	DV S/W	Alison and Ben	<p>Party 1 – Alison</p> <p>Party 2 – Ben</p> <p>Couple engaged in a verbal argument over family issues, Ben leaves at the request of Alison and goes to stay with his mother.</p> <p>No offences disclosed, no allegations.</p> <p>Verbal argument only. Child 2 seen asleep in bed, Child 1 sleeping out at aunties home.</p> <p>Party1 & 2 Had consumed some alcohol but was not drunk.</p> <p>Call log: Call to Police made by Alison.</p> <p>Informant stating his girlfriend “has just woke me up and threw me out”, informant is currently outside wearing only t shirt and trousers. Informant said “she has totally gone off the rails; don’t know why she threw me out”.</p> <p>Informant states his girlfriend has been drinking, she is “violent, I have never seen her like this before” Informant states this is all over family issues over Christmas”, informant is wanting patrols to attend so he can go back into the</p>
					<p>location and gather belongings, car keys and mobile, informant has called the police on his neighbours phone.</p> <p>DVIC Meeting: 12.01.2011 – pre assessment completed by DV S/W at meeting agreed Monitor, Health for info.</p> <p>Scored 1</p>

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27/12/10		Child Health Record/ DV notification	SB now SD		DV notification – verbal argument between Alison and Ben Action taken Project 12.01.11. Pre assessment completed by DV social worker
27/12/10		CYPS			Verbal argument between ALISON and Ben. Ben stating Alison has been drinking and has locked him out, states she is violent.
16/01/11		IBS Tenancy Record		Alison	Tenancy in the names of Alison and Colin ended.
17/01/11		IBS Tenancy Record		Alison	New Tenancy Started 17/01/2011 in the name of Alison .
19/01/11	00.21	Merseyside Police Systems: Storm Log MP-20110119-0020	PC(SA)	Alison and Ben	(ALISON) made a 999 call to the police reporting that she had just had an argument with her ex-partner (Ben). She had concerns for his safety. When he left her house in his vehicle he had stated that he intended to drive his car off a nearby bridge. Details of both (Ben) and his vehicle were circulated. A patrol was deployed to the address. The vehicle was discovered nearby, secure and undamaged. A short time later (Ben) returned to the house where he was spoken to. This was resulted as a verbal argument only. (Ben) was given the benefit of a formal warning for possession of cannabis. The incident log records that both had been drinking but the attending patrols result that only (ALISON) had in fact been drinking
19.01.11	00:10	DV Database DVIC	DV S/W	Alison and B	<u>Alison & Alison.</u> Male and female in a relationship, female has two young children to separate

					<p>men (not in touch).</p> <p>Officers attend at the address after argument where male had threatened to drive motor vehicle off a bridge.</p> <p>On police arrival at house, domestic dispute had taken police and male returned shouting after. The domestic is an argument only and male found in possession of cannabis, which he was later given a caution for.</p> <p>2 children in house checked safe and well.</p> <p>DVIC Meeting: 02.02.2011</p> <p>Closed 2008 Child ex CP. DVIC Pre assessment completed by</p> <p>At project decision – Monitor: Health for info Scored 3.</p>
19/01/11		Child Health Record/ DV notification	KG		DV notification – verbal argument between Alison and Ben . Action taken Project 02.02.11, pre assessment completed by DV social worker
19/01/11		CYPS			Verbal argument between ALISON and Ben. Ben threatening to drive car off a bridge.
20/01/11		Documotive		Alison	<p>New Tenancy agreement signed in name of Alison .</p> <p>Also listed at address: Child1 and Child 2</p> <p>Alison is sole tenant.</p>

02/02/11	00.00	Merseyside Police Systems: PROtect log		Alison and B	The domestic incident reported by (ALISON) on 19/01/11 was discussed at the DVIC Project.
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05/02/11	09.16	Merseyside Police Systems: Storm Log MP- 20110205- 0514	PC(RB)	Alison and B	(ALISON) called the police to report a domestic incident. She stated that she had an altercation with her partner (Ben the previous evening resulting in him leaving. His sister Frances had attended at the premises this morning and was causing a disturbance at the front. A patrol was deployed and upon their arrival (Ben) and Frances had left the area. Whilst the police were in attendance both returned and (Ben) was permitted to remove his belongings. This was resulted as a verbal argument only.

05.02.11	09:10	DV Database DVIC	DV S/W	Alison and B	<p>Children were recorded as present in the kitchen.</p> <p><u>Incident details:</u></p> <p>Been together 7 months, male moved into property due to his being damaged. Split up on 04.02.2011. Male left and returned on 05.02.2011 top collect stuff. Verbal argument.</p> <p>Female threw party 2 out last night and ended the relationship; party 2 had tried to go round this morning to collect his items. Verbal argument, party 2 has then gone to Frances house telling her that Alison had thrown all his items out the front (which she hadn't)</p> <p>Sister of Alison then went around to female's house, demanding her brother's items, banging and shouting on the door. Verbal argument.</p> <p>Call log: Victim Alison called Police.</p> <p>Alison advised she threw Ben out last night as there has been an altercation between the two of them; Frances is at the door at present and is banging constantly on the door, call operator confirmed hearing banging on door and female shouting through letterbox.</p>
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					<p>Informant has her 2 year old Childt the property, they are arguing through the letter box.</p> <p>Result Patrol attended All quiet on arrival, verbal argument only</p> <p>DVIC Screening completed by.</p> <p>DVIC Meeting: 16.02.2011 – Monitor, Health for info.</p> <p>This was the last incident recorded on the DV Database. Scored 6 MeRIT</p>
05/02/11		Child Health Records	AR		Domestic Violence incident notification form. Incident between Alison and Ben . Pre assessment completed by DV social worker
05/02/11		CYPS			Police called due to reports of Frances banging on ALISON door and shouting through door.
16/02/11	00.00	Merseyside Police Systems: PROtect log 373451	DC(ED)	Alison and B	The domestic incident on 05/02/11 involving (ALISON), (Ben) and his sister Frances was discussed at the DVIC Project.
03/03/11		Child Health Record/ DV notification	KG		DV notification received incident occurred on the 5/2/11 between Alison and Ben . Pre assessment completed by DV social worker

07/03/11		Child Health Records	AR	Alison and B	<p>Home visit – Child 2 seen in the care of Alison. New partner seen cooking lunch in the kitchen. Visit was to discuss 2 incidents of domestic violence received since Christmas 2010.</p> <p>Domestic violence incident discussed and Alison said she had called the police.</p>
					<p>She didn't discuss the incident and she acknowledged the impact upon the children.</p> <p>Relationship about 8 months old and they have lived together for last 6 months.</p>
06/04/11		Child Health Records	AR		<p>Telephone call from CYPS regarding referral made from NHS direct re: concerns for the safety of 2 children.</p> <p>Alison called NHS Direct, stating she was concerned for her own health as she had slept for 16 hours straight without waking up. An ambulance was suggested but declined by Alison. NHS Direct passed over to GP out of hours to contact.</p> <p>Alison also reportedly stated whilst on the phone that Child 1 was a god send as she would make breakfast for herself and Child 2 and looks after them.</p> <p>CYPS provided with information from health notes.</p>

27/05/11	23.48	Merseyside Police Systems: Storm Log MP- 20110527- 1918	PC(MC) PSS(JO)	Alison and B	The 999 Operator contacted the police to report an abandoned call requesting the non-emergency police. When it was explained that it was an emergency line, the caller hung up. The operator provided contact details and the police rang the number and spoke to (ALISON). She said her partner Ben would not leave the house. He had not been violent. There was no one else in the house, they had an argument and he had left. She stated that as he was leaving she told him that she intended to call the police. He picked up the phone and dialled 999 and handed her the phone and walked out. (ALISON) stated that she did not want to see the police and was going to bed. She was informed that it would be passed on for consideration of deployment; however no patrol was ever dispatched to see her and the log was resulted as 'drunken couple advised'.
22/01/12	23.44	Merseyside	DC(SK)	Alison and B	A 999 call was made by the mother of (ALISON). She was reporting that her
		Police Systems: Storm Log MP- 20120122- 1568			daughter was being assaulted by her partner (Ben) and that he was shouting and screaming at her. A patrol was deployed; on their arrival (ALISON) stated that she was unhappy that the police had been called. She said she had not been assaulted; it was a verbal argument only after they had both been drinking. Her partner (Ben) had left on foot.

22.01.12		Police PROTECT	Police admin	Alison and B	<p>DV S/W not for DVIC (01.02.2012) Bronze</p> <p>Alison and Ben have been drinking and became involved in a verbal argument – Alison then said he was leaving so Alison went to the car to get items out of the vehicle.</p> <p>Alison reversed the car with Alison stood close to the vehicle – Alison states that she was not harmed and that Alison had apologised. They continued to argue and Alison returned to his home address in the area – Alison states her mother called the police and she did not want them there.</p> <p>Alison signed the PNB (Pocket Note Book) stating that no assault had occurred NOD (No offences disclosed) and advice given.</p>
19/07/12		Child Health Records	TS & SW	Alison	<p>Pre-arranged home visit following correspondence received from GP re: Child 2 challenging behaviour and inability to sleep through the night. Discussed various sleep routines with Alison who appeared receptive to advice given.</p> <p>Alison to attend workshop at Sure start for sleep routines. Leaflet given.</p> <p>Alison to contact service if no improvement.</p>
23/08/12	02.42	Merseyside Police Systems: Storm Log	PC(SG)	Alison and B	<p>(ALISON) called the police to a domestic incident at her address, stating that her partner (Ben) was being aggressive. The operator noted on the log that shouting could be heard in the background. The line then cleared. A patrol was deployed. (ALISON) phoned the police again and said that (Ben) had</p>
		MP- 20120823- 0152			<p>assaulted her and had now left the house. When the officers arrived at the address and spoke to (ALISON) she stated that it was a verbal argument only. She had no visible injuries and she made no complaints. Both had been drinking.</p>

23.08.12		Police PROTECT	Police admin	Alison and B	<p>DV S/W not for DVIC (29.08.2012) Bronze.</p> <p>Male and female had both been drinking – Male reportedly drunk – verbal argument has ensued – Male has wanted to leave, female would not let him.</p> <p>Some 50/50 pushing then male has left prior to police attendance – no assault reported.</p> <p>No signs of assault, female un cooperative.</p>
30/10/12		Trust Maternity Record		Alison	<p>Booked at Whiston Hospital for ante natal care at 10 weeks gestation, expected due date recorded as 30/05/2013.</p> <p>Partner details recorded as Alison residing at.</p> <p>No safeguarding / social concerns noted at this time.</p> <p>Noted to smoke but refused cessation support.</p>
27/11/12		Child health records	LP		<p>School Nurse received notification from GP dated back 27.06.12 concerning Child 2 behaviour and it says no contact was received by parents. The Health Visiting team did complete a home visit for support. School nurse plan - to speak to school and Alison to see if they have concerns with Child 2 behaviour</p>
29/11/12		Child Health record	LP		<p>School Nurse spoke with Child 2 teacher, teacher reported she did have concerns and knows that a CAMHS referral has been declined recently. School Nurse plan to contact Alison and see if she would like a referral to the community paediatrician.</p>
29/11/12		Child Health record	LP	Alison	<p>School Nurse contacted Alison via the telephone and asked if she would like any support regarding Child 2 behaviour. Alison reported that Child 2</p>

					behaviour at home has improved. Alison is aware of schools concerns about Child 2 behaviour. Alison reported Child 2 has an appointment with Dr – community paediatrician on the 2/5/2013. School Nurse will try and get an earlier appointment for Child 2 and Alison consented for school nurse to speak to school and use their report to aid the referral. Alison gave consent. School Health advised Alison that she could contact the school nurse at clinic if she needs any further support/advice.
03/12/12		Child Health record	LP		Child 2 teacher emailed school nurse a report about Child 2 behaviour which will aid Child 2 referral to the community paediatrician. A copy of the school report filed in records and copy sent to the community paediatrician
24/12/12	00.19	Merseyside Police Systems: Storm Log MP-20121224-0025	SPC(F)	Alison and B	(ALISON) called the police to report that her ex-partner (Ben) was at her premises and he was refusing to leave. A patrol was deployed. (ALISON) told the operator that she was pregnant and that she had been drinking. The operator noted that shouting could be heard in the background. (ALISON) also stated that she had a 4 year old Child the house. Patrols attended and (Ben) was allowed to leave. This was a verbal argument about him not being allowed to smoke cannabis. Both parties had been drinking and both parties live at the address.

24.12.12		Police PROTECT	Police admin	Alison and B	<p>DV S/W not for DVIC. 08.01.2013 Bronze.</p> <p>(Taken directly from Police recording of incident)</p> <p>Female 4 months pregnant, twice previously, 9 months ago. Same circumstances. Female has answered yes to Q21 BUT DOES NOT WANT TO DISCLOSE FURTHER DETAILS.</p> <p>Male and female live at the address with her two children. Both parties had been drinking. Verbal argument due to the male not being able to smoke cannabis for</p>
					<p>two days.</p> <p>4 year old seen safe and well, other child not at the address as staying with her father.</p> <p>NOD, no allegations made.</p>
28/12/12		Trust Maternity Record		Alison	<p>Information received from Merseyside Police to midwifery Safeguarding Team, relating to a domestic abuse call out.</p> <p>Incident described as a verbal argument between Alison and Ben in relation to his cannabis use. Information entered into patient records, also shared with Community Midwife, G.P and Health Visitor.</p>
03.01.13		Child Health record	TS		<p>Paediatric liaison form detailing the bereavement of maternal uncle and an incident between Alison and Ben during pregnancy whereby the police were called and alcohol was a trigger by both parties. Information also includes that the verbal argument started due to Ben not being able to smoke cannabis.</p>

09/01/13		Child Health record	LP		School Health Contacted the community paediatrician team and no appointments can be brought forward at present due to staffing levels with the doctors. School nurse to contact Alison.
19/02/13		Trust Maternity Record		Alison	Alison attended the Delivery Suite with a 24hr history of back pain. Recorded by midwifery staff that she appeared to be intoxicated. She admitted to having a few drinks, stating that her brother had died the previous day. Denied usually drinking during pregnancy
23/03/13		Trust Maternity Record		Alison	Alison attended with partner Ben complaining of back / abdo pain. Observations normal diagnosed probable muscular pain. Alison was noted to possibly smell of alcohol.
15/04/13		Trust Maternity Record		Alison	Alison attended ante natal clinic, she was seen by the Alcohol Specialist Midwife. Alcohol issues were discussed, Alison admitted to having a couple of cans of lager over the Xmas and New Year period following arguments with her

					partner. She had then started drinking more regularly following the death of her brother. Denied any drug use, stated her partner occasionally smoked cannabis in the past. Alison also disclosed that she had been having problems with her partners' family and asked specifically that they were given no information when she was admitted to hospital. Currently being treated with steroids due to possible intra uterine growth retardation (small baby for dates)
01/05/13		Trust Maternity Record		Alison	Alison brought by ambulance following anti partum haemorrhage (currently 34 weeks gestation), had also experienced cramping pains. Observations normal, monitored in maternity department, no further bleeding noted

11.05.13		Child health record	TS		Child 3 was born at Whiston Hospital. Born via normal delivery and her birth weight 1.89kgs (low birth weight as less than 2.5kgs which increases risk to babies) at 36 weeks gestation. Birth notification received along with a paediatric liaison form.
?		Trust Maternity Record		Alison	Following discharge Alison received routine Community Midwife follow up. It was noted at this time that Alison and partner Ben were both residing at. Care was handed over to the Health Visitor, transfer form completed, no concerns recorded.
16/05/13		Documotive.	GM	Alison	A 'Notice of Seeking Possession' was served to Alison by Rent Intervention Team due to outstanding rent arrears.
17/05/13		Documotive -Income and Expenditure Form		Alison	<p>Alison completed and returned an income and expenditure form requested from the rents team. This is standard practice when a Notice of Seeking Possession is served.</p> <p>Alison declared a weekly income of £196.49 and a weekly expenditure of expenditure £180.46. Leaving Alison with £16.03 per week disposable income.</p> <p>Alison signed using as surname and the document was signed in this name.</p>

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30.05.13		Child health record	TS	Alison	Initial health visitor contact at home following Child 3 birth. Child 3 seen with her mother and two older siblings. Child 3 presented as generally well, breastfeeding well on demand with top ups of formula feeds. Good weight gain at 2.10kgs. Child 3 was due to have an audiology update due to unclear neonatal responses. Alison presented as having a nice bond with Child 3 and Child 3 presented as well cared for. Routine inquiry regarding DV took place and Alison reported that it had been a difficult year due to her bereavement however she had a good relationship with Ben and he helps with the care of the children when he is home from work at the weekends. HV plan was to see Alison and Child 3 on 3 rd June 2013 for follow up and breastfeeding support.
19/06/13		Child Health record	LP		For universal school health services as being assessed by appropriate professionals and no contact from Alison
27.06.13		Child health record	TS	Alison	HV home contact as planned to monitor Child 3 weight. Child weighed 2.6kgs and which evidences a good weight gain. Alison continues to offer some breast milk with top ups of formula milk. Dad not present. EPDS score carried out and outcome score was 4. Indicative of low need and no interventions required. Alison reports feeling tired but has a supportive partner and her older child spends time at paternal grandfathers. HV plan to see family on a universal basis and Alison to bring Child 3 to well-baby clinic.
04/08/13	05.46	Merseyside Police Systems: Storm Log MP-20130804-0404	PC(LB)	Alison and B	(ALISON) made a 999 call to the police to report a domestic incident at her address. She stated that she had asked her partner (Ben) to feed their 12 week old daughter () who had woke up. He had started punching the walls and shouting. He had been drinking home brewed vodka the previous evening. Patrols attended and all three children seen safe and well. No offences disclosed. Recorded as a verbal argument only.

04.08.13		Police PROTECT	Police admin	Alison and B	<p>DV S/W - DVIC 14.08.2013 – discussed at DVIC allocated to Health. Bronze.</p> <p>(Taken directly from Police recording of incident)</p> <p>Child 12 weeks old, police have attended address previously, couple in relationship and have 12 week old at the property when it woke up she told Alison to feed it. He had been drinking all night and took him bridge to this and started punching walls.</p> <p>Female called police and had to restrain male until arrival of patrols.</p> <p>Alison left premises to calm down.</p> <p>No offences disclosed.</p> <p>Children seen safe and well.</p>
14/08/13	00.00	Merseyside Police Systems: PROtect log 543646		Alison and B	<p>The domestic incident reported by (ALISON) on 04/08/13 was discussed at the DVIC meeting.</p>

05.09.13		Child health record	TS	Alison	HV contact at home as HV allocated as lead professional following a domestic abuse incident that took place at the family home between Alison and Ben . Child 3 seen well at the contact and weighed 5.1kgs which was a good weight. The DV incident discussed and Alison reported that she had awoken him after he had used alcohol. Pre CAF completed and no progression to full CAF required. Continue with universal health services.
2/12/13		CYPS			Referral from School. Colin had advised that Ben had smacked Child. Also concerned that Alison was drunk. Child reportedly told dad that she had to stay in bed until 12pm at weekends and didn't always get fed or bathed. Police visited – Alison appeared drunk but not incapable. Ben was sober, calm and compliant. IA agreed. Completed NFA.
02/12/13	01.08	Merseyside Police Systems: Storm Log MP-20131202-0061	PC(MA)	Alison and B and C	(Alison) called the police to report that he had received a call from his ex-partner (Colin) requesting that he attend at her address and collect their daughter He expressed reluctance to attend and explained that Child had earlier that day alleged that (Ben) had hit her and called her a name. (Colin) stated that he had concerns for (Child) welfare and that of the other children at the address. The log intimated that (Child had been woken by (ALISON) and this had distressed her. Officers were deployed and all parties were seen. (ALISON) stated there were ongoing issues with (Colin). All children seen asleep in bed. (Ben) was given a formal warning for possession of cannabis. It was noted that (ALISON) had been drinking but was capable of looking after the children.

10/12/13		Child Health record	LP		School Nurse contacted Social Worker as received a request for health information. School Nurse reported that Child 2 is under the community paediatrician and had an appointment on the 2.5.13 due to behavioural concerns. Health information shared
10/12/13		Child Health Record	LP		Contacted social worker as received a message for health information. School nurse reported that Child is up to date with immunisations, passed vision screening, and failed a hearing screening but no follow up recorded and no parental concerns on health questionnaire. Registered with a dentist and Alison reported having an inhaler for a cough on reception health questionnaire. Alison received support from school health concerning Child's behaviour in 2009.
07/05/14		Child Health record	GL		Behaviour support team contacted school health requesting information about community paediatrician appointments. Worker had consent from Alison for information sharing. Records checked no information regarding attended community paediatrician appointments in records. Telephone contact with appointment secretary at Alder Hey Hospital, Child 2 did not attend appointment on the 14.2.14. Two invite letters have been sent out since. Alison has not requested another appointment. School Nurse advised that if Alison contacts appointments line urgently another appointment will be given in August/September 2014. Child 2 last seen 28.5. 13, a copy of the letters to be forwarded to school nurse team. Above information shared with behaviour team worker. Behaviour worker to ask Alison to arrange another appointment.

16/07/14		Child Health Records/community paediatrician letter	GL		Community Paediatrician clinic letter received. Date attended clinic not on the letter. Letter reported social communication difficulties and behavioural difficulties. Achenbach questionnaires to be sent out to home and school and referral also to be made to speech and language therapy with special emphasis on looking at social communication issues.
14/08/14	09:52	CRM	Rent Intervention Team	Alison	<p>Rent Intervention Team spoke to Alison regarding Housing Benefit issues.</p> <p>Alison stated that her partner (Ben) had moved in and that he was dismissed (from work) due to ill health.</p> <p>Advice was provided to Alison re: ensuring reinstatement of Housing Benefit.</p> <p>Alison known to Helena at this point as Alison .</p>
14/08/14	00.05hrs	Trust Health Record			<p>A&E Department attendance.</p> <p>Child 3 brought by Alison , after sustaining a facial injury.</p> <p>She had been attempting to pull herself up on a plastic toy; she had fallen and banged her mouth on the toy. Fall witnessed by Alison.</p>
					<p>Seen by A&E medic, noted on examination to have a small laceration to her lip, no other injury noted. Wound required no treatment or intervention.</p> <p>Child 3 was discharged home with Alison.</p>

17/10/14	22.31	Merseyside Police Systems: Storm Log MP-20141017-1669	PC(DO)	Alison and B	(Alison) called the police stating that she had been assaulted by (Ben) and that during the struggle she had struck him on the head with a set of keys. He had left the house. A patrol was deployed and prior to the officer's arrival (Ben) also called the police to report that he had been the victim of a domestic assault and (Alison) was the perpetrator. Upon the officer's arrival they spoke to both parties. On entering the house they saw that two of the children were visibly upset. (ALISON) explained what had occurred and made a statement of complaint. As a result (Ben) was arrested. When later interviewed he stated that he had acted in self-defence. It was noted by the officers that both parties had been drinking. The advice of the CPS was sought and their decision was to refuse the charge as there was insufficient evidence.
17.10.14		Police PROTECT	Police admin	Alison and B	Case discussed MARAC
20/10/14		IDVA referral spreadsheet and IDVA Client File 632. VPRF1	CK	Alison and B	Referral processed and added to referral spreadsheet as identified as GOLD victim. The referral was in relation to Alison – however the tenancy at is in the name of Alison . Alison was not previously known to IDVA service since the service has been managed by Helena).
21/10/14		IDVA Client Notes	CK	Alison	IDVA attempted phone call. No answer.
21/10/14		CYPS			Management oversight - PR. Male referred to is Ben , father to Child 3. This Physical DV incident which

					<p>involved Alison being strangled and then stabbing Ben in the head with her keys causing him to bleed, was witnessed by all three children. Police log is pending but has been seen, and indicates verbal aggression throughout the incident, and the children could be heard in the background distressed and upset. The threat towards the children by Alison is unconfirmed but will need to (be) investigated.</p> <p>Given that this was a physical DV incident witnessed by the children, progressed through as a CP referral.</p>
21/10/14		CYPS			<p>Referral from Police – Alison and Ben both allege they have been assaulted by the other. Females states he has strangled her, he alleges he’s been hit with car keys. Both parties had been drinking. Ben arrested for S39 assault.</p> <p>Single assessment completed. Referral to Addaction and HELP for Ben and Freedom for Alison – NFA.</p> <p>Case closed 24/11/14</p>
22/10/14		IDVA Client Notes	CK	Alison	Home visit completed by IDVA. No access provided.
23/10/14	09:00		JO	MASH Meeting	MASH meeting held in relation to concerns for children in property. Update provided regarding involvement, including that no males are currently listed at the address.

28/10/14		CRM and IDVA Client Notes	CK	Alison	Contacted by telephone and spoke with Alison. Alison was reluctant to talk. Alison provided minimal information to IDVA regarding incident advising IDVA that Ben is back at the property and the couple are 'working through their issues together'. IDVA discussed safety options however Alison declined support from the IDVA service. Alison confirmed to IDVA that she had received information sent out from MARAC.
28/10/14		CRM and IDVA client notes	CK	FCIU	IDVA informed FCIU by telephone that Alison has resumed relationship with Ben and declined IDVA service.
28/10/14		CRM and IDVA Client notes	CK		IDVA informed duty Social Work Team by telephone that ALISON has resumed relationship with Ben and declined IDVA service.

28/10/14		IDVA Referral Spreadsheet	CK		Case Closed to IDVA; ALISON declined the service and stated that she was resuming her relationship with Ben .
31/10/14		Child Health Record	GL		Request for MARAC information received – form completed.
05.11.14		Child health record	VE		Health information provided for MARAC that was due to take place 06.11.14. DV incident had taken place 17.10.14 whereby police had been called as Alison alleged Ben had pinned her against the wall strangling her. Ben alleged that Alison becomes violent following alcohol
06/11/14	00.00	Merseyside		Alison and B	The police referred both parties to this MARAC meeting as a result of the
		Police Systems: PROtect log 636574			incident that had occurred on 17/10/14. The incident was outlined and discussions took place between all agencies in relation to the history of (ALISON), (Ben) and the children.

06.11.14		MARAC Data base	MARAC admin	Alison and B	<p>Brief summary of referral (to include recent incident and history plus any additional factors that may be relevant)</p> <p>The Police referred this case on 20th October 2014. Alison scored 90, GOLD on the MeRIT checklist.</p> <p>On 17th October 2014 both called the Police alleging they had been assaulted by the other. Alison said Ben pinned her against the wall strangling her. She had allegedly hit his head with car keys. She was drunk.</p> <p>Ben stated she is violent when drunk, Alison said she is scared of Ben and hoped he didn't return to the property. She alleged Ben threatened one of her children to chop her hands off. Child didn't mention this when questioned.</p> <p>Ben was arrested on suspicion of assault.</p> <p>Police reported the incident has been decided no further action on the advice of CPS.</p> <p>Bridgewater sent the following, received after MARAC: Both children are fully immunised and have accessed all their development assessments.</p> <p>Child initially failed her reception hearing; there is no follow up documented and no parental concerns note on the reception health questionnaire.</p> <p>There were concerns with Child 2 behaviour in school and a referral was made</p>
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				<p>to the Community Paediatrician. Child 2 attended the assessment in May 2014, further assessments to be undertaken. There has been good engagement with Health.</p> <p>There is a history of domestic violence with several partners. Child was briefly subject to Child Protection plan in 2007, for emotional abuse due to issues with domestic violence. Cassie is up to date with her immunisations and has had her one year development assessment which was satisfactory.</p> <p>There have been no A and E attendances that Health are aware of. There have been no concerns with compliance. Following the birth of Child 3, Health completed 4 home visits as Child 3 was milk intolerant. Alison was receptive to advice given and was in for all visits that were arranged.</p> <p>Child 3 has now settled regarding her milk intolerance on the appropriate milk formula and Alison has introduced some dairy products to Child 3's diet successfully. The family are placed in Universal visiting. Health visited last September (2013) to complete a pre-caf, following DV incident. Alison reported at the time Alison had been drinking 'home brew' with a friend and became confused and disorientated when he was drunk which resulted in the incident. She stated that Alison does not usually drink. Both parents live in the family home.</p> <p>Walk In Centre attendance for Alison: 21st May 2012 soft tissue injury to elbow post alleged fall.</p> <p>Nil else of note, for Child: 2007 fell hitting head on glass panel cutting head, 2006 fell down the stairs, nothing significant since (child hood illnesses), for Child 2 21st July 2014 fell off roller skates and sustained a soft tissue injury, 14th January 2012 lac to face near left eye, walked in sister who was carrying a plate</p>
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				<p>IDVA reported Alison declined any support and confirmed that she is back with Alison.</p> <p>Helena Partnerships reported Alison has been a sole tenant since 2011, no issues with the tenancy.</p> <p>Education Welfare Services reported both elder children attend Primary, attendance is 100%. School were aware due to Operation Encompass and will provide the children with a wraparound service.</p> <p>Probation reported case not known.</p> <p>Children's Services reported that Alison has minimised the incident, the children have said that Alison has said he would slap them in jest. Children have described how Alison and Ben fight and shout and that felt frightened. Child has said she would be happy if the relationship ended. He has lawfully chastised them in the past isn't sure as to how the case will progress.</p> <p>Whiston Hospital reported that Ben attended in August 2014 alleging he was going to stab himself. Issues with cannabis and he had lost his job. He didn't wait to be seen</p> <p>MARAC/DV Coordinator raised concerns regarding Alison's minimisation of the DV, risks to children and her history of violent relationships.</p> <p>Are all agencies in agreement with the discussion that has taken place within the MARAC and that all concerns have been raised and addressed? Yes</p>
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				<p><u>Risks</u> Alison Repeat DV victim Alleged strangulation Stated she is scared of Alison</p> <p>Alison Alleged violence</p> <p>Children Child stated “Alison scares me” Alleged threats against the children</p> <p><u>Safety Plan/Actions.</u></p> <p><u>Police</u> LOI marker placed on address St Helens FCIU has made Police Neighbourhood aware</p> <p><u>Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust</u> Health to continue support and to address children’s health needs as and when identified</p> <p><u>CYPs</u> Children’s Services to continue support and to assess needs of children</p> <p>Refer Ben to Addaction and possibly look at Breaking the Cycle</p>
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					<p>To complete a joint visit with Police</p> <p>Update MARAC/DV Admin as to the outcome of the case.</p> <p><u>Helena Housing</u> Helena Partnerships to continue support and to update MARAC/DV Admin should any further issues arise</p> <p><u>IDVA</u> Alison to be updated as to the actions from MARAC</p> <p>To again attempt to offer support re DV</p> <p>MARAC updates: 18.11.14 Update from Children's Services: CYPS will be closing the case, as the threshold does not meet child protection, and the family do not wish for support. Alison and step dad had been referred to Freedom and Help Project and are willing to engage. Children will be referred to Changing Lives by school to address their feelings. 24.11.4 Feedback from IDVA: case closed to IDVA</p> <p><u>Views of the child:</u> Children's Services to ascertain children's wishes and feelings</p>
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06/11/14		IDVA Client Notes/client files	CK	MARAC Meeting	<p>IDVA reported to MARAC that Alison declined any support and confirmed that she is resuming her relationship with Alison .</p> <p>From IDVA perspective the case was closed to IDVA due to Alison declining the service and resuming a relationship with Ben and ongoing social worker involvement.</p> <p>It was understood by IDVA that MARAC actions would be fed back to ALISON by social worker due to their involvement.</p>
19/11/14		CYPS			<p>C&F Assessment completed. Parents meeting all of children's basic needs. Discussion with Team Leader – agreed NFA.</p> <p>Referrals completed for Freedom and Help Project. Changing lives referral to be completed by School.</p>

07/12/14	01.14	Merseyside Police Systems: Storm Log MP-20141207-0100 Custody Record Mg15 Record of interview with (ALISON).	PC(BL) DC(IH)	Alison and B	Ambulance control informed the police about a reported stabbing incident at (Address 1). Alison had contacted the emergency services stating that she had stabbed Ben Patrols were deployed to the area. Upon their arrival the officers found Ben lying on the floor in the doorway of a nearby house. (ALISON) was crouched over him screaming and in distress. She was removed from the immediate vicinity as she was hysterical. While at the scene (ALISON) admitted to the officers that she was responsible and directed them to the knife she had used. She was cautioned and arrested for wounding (ALISON) and conveyed to a Police Custody Suite, where she was detained. Ben was removed from the scene by ambulance and received treatment in hospital for his injuries, a single stab wound. However despite their efforts Ben died a few hours later. (ALISON) was re-arrested on suspicion of murder while still in custody. During her interviews she maintained that she had acted in self-defence, as (Ben) had grabbed hold of her by the throat. The advice of the
		Niche Crime Record			CPS was sought and authority to charge her with murder was given. (ALISON) appeared at court the following day and she was remanded into custody.
07.12.14	01:16	Police PROTECT	Police admin	Alison and B	Ben Victim Alison Suspect. At about 01:15am on Sunday 07.12.2014 Police and ambulance attend location, report of a male being stabbed. Female partner found at scene stating she stabbed him because he had his hands around her neck. Male taken to hospital and later died of a single stab wound. FLO (Family Liaison Officer),

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