

**Kirklees Communities Board
(incorporating the Kirklees Community Safety Partnership)**



Domestic Homicide Review Overview Report

'Terry'

Died: January 2017

*Paul Johnston
Independent Domestic Homicide Review Chair and Report Author
April 2018*

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PREFACE

Terry is not the real name of the victim in this case. The pseudonym was chosen by the review panel; none of Terry's family nor the perpetrator or her family have accepted invitations to participate in the review. Of Terry's friends and work colleagues, only one agreed to take part and the review panel would like to express its gratitude to him for his contribution.

The Kirklees Communities Board (Community Safety Partnership) Domestic Homicide Review Panel would like to express its profound condolences and sympathy to Terry's family.

The key purpose of undertaking a Domestic Homicide Review is to enable lessons to be learnt when someone is killed because of domestic abuse. For these lessons to be learnt as widely and thoroughly as possible, professionals need to be able to understand fully what happened in each homicide, and most importantly, what needs to change to reduce the risk of such tragedies happening again. Terry's death met the criteria for conducting a Domestic Homicide Review under Section 9 (3)(a) of the Domestic Violence, Crime, and Victims Act 2004, in that his homicide was committed by someone to whom he had been in an intimate relationship with (that person later pleaded guilty to Terry's murder).

The Home Office defines domestic violence as:

'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional.'

Controlling behaviour is: *'A range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.'*

Coercive behaviour is: *'An act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.'*

The term domestic abuse will be used throughout this report where possible, as it reflects the range of behaviour encapsulated within these definitions and avoids the inclination to view domestic abuse in terms of physical assault only.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This is the Report of a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) following the death of Terry in January 2017; he was murdered by his partner, Adult A. It provides an independent overview of the service provided to Terry and to Adult A by agencies that had contact with them. The key purpose for undertaking DHRs is to enable lessons to be learned from homicides where a person is killed as a result of domestic violence and abuse. In order for these lessons to be learned as widely and thoroughly as possible, professionals need to be able to understand fully what happened in each homicide, and most importantly, what needs to change in order to reduce the risk of such tragedies happening in the future.

1.2 The review has not sought simply to examine the conduct of professionals and agencies. To illuminate the past to make the future safer, the review has been professionally curious and has sought to find a trail of abuse and to identify which agencies had contact with the victim, perpetrator or family and which agencies were in contact with each other. The aim was to recommend solutions to help recognise abuse and either signpost victims to suitable support or to design safe interventions.

1.3 In an effort to view events through Terry's eyes so as to understand the reality of his situation, the review sought, with very limited success, to involve those around him including his family, friends, neighbours and those in the community as well as professionals.

2 TIMESCALES

2.1 The police notified the Kirklees Communities Board of the circumstances of Terry's death in January 2017. Agencies were asked to undertake a review of their records to identify any information they held about Terry and about Adult A; they were also asked to secure their records.

2.2 Following a period of correspondence and consultation with the Home Office, the partnership formally commissioned this DHR in June 2017 and notified the Home Office accordingly. The review commenced in August 2017 and concluded in April 2018.

3 CONFIDENTIALITY

3.1 The pseudonym 'Terry' was chosen by the review panel with a view to protecting his true identity. He was in his 40s when he died, and his self-defined ethnicity was White British. Adult A is also White British and she too was in her 40's when she murdered Terry.

3.2 Until the report is published it is marked: *Official Sensitive Government Security Classifications 2018*.

4 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

4.1 After careful consideration, the review panel determined it appropriate to review each agency's involvement with Terry and with Adult A between January 2015, when they first began their relationship, and the date of Terry's murder in January 2017.

4.2 The review addressed whether:

- The incident in which Terry died was an isolated event or whether there were any warning signs and whether more could be done to raise awareness of services available to victims of domestic violence
- There were any barriers experienced by Terry or family/friends/colleagues in reporting any abuse in Kirklees or elsewhere, including whether they knew how to report domestic abuse should they have wanted to
- Terry had experienced abuse in previous relationships in Kirklees or elsewhere, and whether this experience impacted on his likelihood of seeking support in the months before he died
- There were opportunities for professionals to 'routinely enquire' as to any domestic abuse experienced by Terry that were missed
- Adult A had any previous history of abusive behaviour to an intimate partner, a relative or a co-habitee and whether this was known to any agencies
- There were opportunities for agency intervention in relation to domestic abuse regarding Terry and Adult A or to dependent children that were missed
- There were any training or awareness raising requirements identified that were necessary to ensure a greater knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse processes and/or services in the region
- There were any barriers to Terry accessing advice and support around domestic abuse, given he was a male victim
- There was anything apparent in Adult A's historic risky behaviours and choice of partners that could have indicated her likelihood of abusive behaviour towards her partners.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 This overview report has been compiled from analysis of the multi-agency chronology, the information supplied by agencies that had been involved with Terry and with Adult A and an interview with two of Terry's friends. The findings of previous reviews and research into various aspects of domestic abuse have also been considered as well as other relevant references including the Home Office guidance for conducting domestic homicide reviews.

5.2 Agencies that had been involved were asked to produce Individual Management Reviews (IMR's) and summary reports. They were also asked to include a comprehensive chronology that charted the involvement of the agency during the period determined by the DHR panel, to include a summary of the events that occurred, intelligence and information known to the agency, the decisions reached, the services offered and provided to the victim, the perpetrator and their families and any other action that was taken. Further, the IMRs were to be completed with the review 'Terms of Reference' in mind and consider not only whether procedures had been followed, but whether, on reflection, they had been adequate.

Comment: *The aim of an IMR is to look openly and critically at individual and organisation processes and practices and to provide an analysis of the service they provided.*

- 5.3 IMR authors were also asked to arrive at a conclusion about the service provided by their own agency and to make recommendations, where appropriate. Agencies with knowledge of Terry and/or Adult A before the dates set for the review, were asked to provide a summary of their involvement. In addition, they were asked to include information that came to light after Terry's death that might identify learning for the future.
- 5.4 The IMR's produced during this review were quality assured by the original author, the respective agency and by the Panel Chair. Where challenges were made, they were responded to promptly and in a spirit of openness and co-operation. The standard of the IMR's submitted was good.
- 5.5 The panel determined that matters concerning Terry's family, the public and media would be managed by the review chair before, during and after the review.
- 5.6 The review panel took account of coroners or criminal proceedings (including disclosure issues) in terms of timing and attempting to contact Terry's family and friends to ensure that relevant information could be shared without incurring significant delay in the review process or compromise to the judicial process.

6 INVOLVEMENT IN THE REVIEW

6.1 ADULT A

- 6.2 Adult A did not respond to an invitation to participate in this review.

6.3 FAMILY, FRIENDS AND WORK COLLEAGUES

- 6.4 Through the police Family Liaison Officer, Terry's father, brother and his two teenage children were invited to participate in this review. They were provided with the Home Office leaflet for family members about domestic homicide reviews (which contains details of support services available to them), but they declined the invitation. Terry's former wife was also invited to participate in the same way, and she too chose not to be involved in the process.
- 6.5 Two of Terry's friends, one of whom was also a work-colleague, were the only ones to agree to participate in the review. His friend and work-colleague had known Terry for several years and he said he still misses him every day. He said he also knew Adult A, although not very well.

6.6 NEIGHBOURS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

- 6.7 Media coverage at the time of Terry's murder mentioned people who appeared to have known both Terry and Adult A. Although they were named in the press, enquiries conducted by the police on behalf of the panel to identify them with a view to participating in the review, were unsuccessful.

6.8 OTHER AVENUES EXPLORED

6.9 Former partners of Adult A were also asked to take part in the review, but none were prepared to do so. They had been reluctant witnesses during the police investigation, due to the sensitive nature of their evidence and their personal situations.

6.10 CONTRIBUTORS TO THE REVIEW

6.11 As is standard practice, on notification of a potential domestic homicide, a multi-agency scoping exercise was undertaken to ascertain whether agencies had any record of involvement with Terry or with Adult A and only four had. West Yorkshire Police and Kirklees Children’s Services were asked to produce IMRs, and summary reports were provided by Greater Huddersfield Clinical Commissioning Group and Locala Community Partnerships CIC (providing NHS community services within Kirklees). The authors of all four documents were independent in that they had no previous involvement with Terry or with Adult or any line-management responsibility for staff that had been involved with them.

6.12 THE REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS

6.13 The review panel consisted of the following, all of whom were independent in that they had not previously been involved with Terry or with Adult A or had line management responsibility for anyone who had:

Paul Johnston Chair and Report Author	Johnston and Blockley
Saf Bhuta Head of Adult Safeguarding and Quality	Kirklees Council
Alexia Gray Service Manager, Domestic Abuse & Safeguarding Partnerships	Kirklees Council
Seth Robinson Detective Inspector	West Yorkshire Police
Clare Robinson Head of Nursing and Safeguarding (Adults)	Greater Huddersfield Clinical Commissioning Group and representing NHS England
Sarah Carlile Safeguarding Adults Board Partnerships Manager	Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board
Clare Groves Services Manager	CGL, delivering CHART in Kirklees (substance misuse agency)
Rebecca Hirst Director	Pennine Domestic Violence Group

6.14 The panel met on the following dates:

21st February 2017
28th March 2017
1st June 2017

9th August 2017
2nd November 2017
26th March 2018

6.15 REVIEW CHAIR AND AUTHOR OF THE OVERVIEW REPORT

6.16 The Kirklees Communities Board appointed Paul Johnston to undertake the roles of Independent Chair and Overview Report Author for the review. He is completely independent of all the agencies and individuals that have been involved in the review. He was once a member of the West Yorkshire Police, but retired from that organisation 14-years ago; he has not been employed by the police in any capacity since that time.

6.17 Paul is a leading authority on homicide review and investigation. He is a former police senior investigating officer who successfully led over 70 murder investigations, many of which were domestic homicides. After being head of homicide review and then head of the criminal investigation department, he took on a senior management role in the review and investigation of over 3,000 deaths in Northern Ireland relating to 'The Troubles'. He has now been involved in numerous domestic homicide reviews and has been an advisor to organisations that provide domestic violence and sexual abuse services including male perpetrator programmes. He is a member of an international investigation facility into sexual and gender-based violence in conflict zones and is a consultant to an independent European Human Rights advocacy service for whom he is an expert witness in cases before the European Court of Human Rights involving abduction, murder and domestic abuse femicide.

7 PARALLEL PROCESSES

7.1 There was a thorough police investigation into the circumstances of Terry's death and subsequent court proceedings which resulted in the conviction of Adult A for his murder.

7.2 Terry's death was referred to the Coroner, who opened an inquest and then adjourned it because Adult A had been charged with his murder. To date, the inquest has not been re-opened.

8 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

8.1 There has been nothing during the review to suggest that Terry, Adult A or their respective families were treated less favourably on any protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010 or that any protected characteristics had a detrimental impact on contact and response to the reported domestic abuse incidents.

8.2 Terry's first language was English and there is nothing to suggest other than what is outlined in this report, that his gender precluded him from asking for or receiving services.

8.3 No agency held information that indicated Terry or Adult A lacked capacity and there is no indication from the material seen by the review panel that a formal assessment of capacity was ever required for either of them.

8.4 There are some references in this report of the use of alcohol (by both Terry and Adult A), and the use of illegal drugs (by Terry), but they are statutorily excluded from the definition of disability under the Equality Act.

9 DISSEMINATION

9.1 Whilst key issues identified by the review will be shared appropriately, the report will not be disseminated until clearance has been received from the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel. The IMRs will not be published. The DHR report will be made public and the sole recommendation will be acted upon by the police. The content of the report and executive summary is anonymised in order to protect the identity of the victim, perpetrator, relevant family members, staff and others, and to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The report will be produced in a form suitable for publication after any Home Office approved redaction has taken place.

Comment: Specifically, the report will be shared as follows:

- Terry's family will be written to in advance of publication telling them of the date and place it is to take place
- Terry's work colleague
- Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire
- Adult A's Offender Managers from HM Prison and Probation Service
- Kirklees Communities Board
- Kirklees Children's Services
- West Yorkshire Police
- Greater Huddersfield Clinical Commissioning Group
- Locala Community Partnerships CIC (providing NHS community services within Kirklees)

10 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

10.1 Terry and Adult A had been in an 'on-off' relationship for about 16-months prior to his murder, sometimes living together and at other times living separately. Adult A's teenage child also lived at the address. (Terry had two children with his former wife who were both teenagers at the time of his murder; they did not live with him).

10.2 Terry was in his 40s when he died. Adult A, who was five-years older than Terry, was arrested for his murder. She told the police that she had been cutting a jacket potato with a knife when Terry "Gave her a hug and a kiss" and that she had accidentally stabbed him with the knife.

10.3 Nevertheless, when Adult A appeared at Leeds Crown Court on in June 2017, she pleaded guilty to Terry's murder. She was sentenced to life imprisonment with a recommendation that she must serve 13-years before she becomes eligible for parole.

10.4 When sentencing her to life imprisonment, the Judge said [the stabbing had taken place] *"in a flash of temper with fatal consequences"..."This was an utterly unprovoked assault with a knife on your innocent partner,"..."In a sudden outburst of unreasoned anger you deliberately stabbed him once and with very considerable force, causing him almost immediate death."*

10.5 INFORMATION DISCOVERED BY THE POLICE DURING THE MURDER INVESTIGATION

10.6 The investigators spoke to several men with whom Adult A had been in a relationship in the past; they described Adult A's violent tendencies, both in public and at home. A previous partner said that in March 2015, Adult A had poured boiling water onto his chest and stomach while he was in bed after she had received a text message from a former girlfriend of his. The other incidents included Adult A inflicting injuries by hitting her male partners over the head with bottles and glasses or punching them in the face. Alcohol was a common denominator

and she had been barred from two-public houses. None of the incidents had been reported to the police or to any other agency.

10.7 Investigators discovered that In July 2016, Terry and Adult A had been abroad on holiday. While there, Terry posted on social media “[Adult A] has finally got back to hotel then broke my nose again [expletive] for all inclusive.”

10.8 A friend of Adult A disclosed that one afternoon around October 2016, Adult A had made an unprovoked attack upon her. She had pulled her hair and slapped her. The incident was not reported to the police nor to any other agency.

10.9 It was also discovered that in December 2016, Terry and Adult A fell-out over Terry’s drinking after he had been at a funeral. Adult A had apparently thrown Terry out of the house and Terry had to ask a friend to put him up for the night.

10.10 Terry sent a text-message to a close friend in December 2016 stating, “Been punched in the eye LOL”. The following day, he sent another message about going to work with a black eye and one to Adult A which stated, “OK don’t punch me”. The next day, he sent her another text message asking her not to end their relationship.

10.11 In the weeks before his murder, there were several text messages between Terry and Adult A, which indicated they kept falling-out over his excessive drinking and wasting money. However, things were fairly amicable between them after the fall-outs, with kisses being exchanged after their respective messages to each other.

10.12 BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM TERRY’S FRIENDS

10.13 The friends said that Terry did not have an ounce of malice in him. He was a big drinker and would often get drunk, but he was not the sort of person who would become aggressive when under the influence of alcohol; they described him as being a “Happy-drunk” and someone who was “Placid and an appeaser” by nature.

10.14 The work colleague recounted several occasions when the two of them had been in a delivery lorry together, with the friend driving. He (the friend) was prone to ‘verbal road-rage’, something that amused Terry immensely. When it happened, Terry would just laugh at him and throw a crisp packet or a sandwich in his direction, telling him not to be a “Silly [expletive]”. He said that Terry just ‘made light’ of every situation and calmed things down, usually through humour.

10.15 He added that the only thing that caused Terry anxiety was in respect of issues he had with other family members over money. He had fallen out with most of them after he had been accused of stealing money from the family business. He had since parted company with the business and was “As happy as Larry” with his work as a delivery driver and with his life in general.

10.16 He added that he had repeatedly warned Terry about Adult A because he knew she had previously stabbed another friend of his in the neck and that she had also been the reason behind another friend trying to take his own life by jumping off a viaduct. He added that she had “Just got into his head”, and that he was so desperate and unhappy that all he wanted to do was to end it. He said he also knew of another occasion when Adult A had poured boiling water from a kettle over the groin of a man who she thought had been cheating on her.

Comment: *The murder investigation team spoke to a witness who said that Adult A had tormented the man to the point that he threw himself off the viaduct. The incident was reported to the police by Adult A, but she was never a suspect in the enquiries that followed. The man survived the fall but died several years later of an unrelated illness.*

- 10.17 He said that Terry knew about all of those previous incidents and that he (the friend) had told him at least 40-times that she would end up killing him. Terry would just laugh, turn his head away and then change the subject. His attitude was that the *“Bad things about her”* would just pass and then everything would be good again. When he did speak about Adult A Terry would say he loved her and *“It’s just her way, it’s just how she is, it’ll Just blow over”*, again making light of the situation.
- 10.18 Terry was open with his friends about the violence he suffered from Adult A. He told them about previous incidents between them when Adult A, usually while intoxicated through alcohol, would hit him and verbally abuse him, but soon afterwards, she would apologise and promise it would not happen again. Terry sent the work colleague text messages about being assaulted and having a black-eye, but typical of him, he did it in a jocular fashion, playing down the seriousness of it. When asked by the chair of this review, the friend said he did not think for a minute that Terry sending such messages was in any way a cry for help. He said that Terry didn’t really care about the violence and that to him it was just part of his life with her. He said the texting was just typical of Terry’s ‘banter’ and he wasn’t even embarrassed about it. Everything had a humorous side to it as far as Terry was concerned.
- 10.19 He added that under no circumstances would Terry have reported what Adult A had done to him either to the police or to anyone else. Terry was quite open about Adult A’s violent nature, so his not reporting what was happening had nothing to do with embarrassment or ‘machismo’, or anything to do with a dislike or a distrust of the authorities. He said, *“Terry was Terry, happy-go-lucky and a bit of a clown, but a harmless and lovely bloke”*.
- 10.20 The review chair told the friends that when Terry was arrested in 2015, he was told that should he be arrested again for anything to do with domestic abuse, the police would seek a Domestic Violence Protection Notice against him. Terry’s friends said they had never heard Terry mention it and that despite having been arrested on more than one occasion, Terry was actually a supporter of the police; in the friend’s opinion, there were no barriers to Terry reporting abuse to the police had he wanted to.
- 10.21 The friends also said they would never have considered reporting the abuse on Terry’s behalf; it just wouldn’t have entered their heads to do so. They finished by saying that even now, given same circumstances, they wouldn’t report it. There was no particular reason and it certainly wasn’t male pride on the part of the work colleague or even fear of getting involved and risking losing a friend or even a dislike of police and other agencies; it is just something they would never do.

11

CHRONOLOGY OF RELEVANT AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

11.1

TERRY		
Police	12/2014	Terry's teenage child had intervened in an argument between the parents. Terry punched the child and damaged a laptop computer.
Police	01/2015	Terry was involved in a verbal argument with his wife. (Note: this was not Adult A)
	01/2015	Commencement of relationship between Terry and Adult A
Police	03/2015	Terry was arrested for a common assault on his wife. Comment: This was not Adult A
Police	11/2015	Terry was involved in a verbal argument with his wife and he was deemed to have been the victim. DASH risk-assessment was standard. Comment: This was not Adult A. <i>The Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour Based Violence (DASH) Risk Identification, Assessment and Management Model is a national tool created through extensive research of domestic abuse. The aim is to make an accurate and fast assessment of the danger a person is in, so the right help may be provided as quickly as possible.</i>
IDAT	11/2015	Verbal argument between Terry and his wife who were separating. Comment: This was not Adult A
Police	12/2015	Terry was arrested for drink driving.
Locala	01/2016	An assessment was requested by 'On Trak' alcohol service after Terry's appearance at court (thought to relate to drink-drive mentioned above).
Police	08/2016	Terry contacted the police on behalf of Adult A to discuss making a complaint about how they had dealt with the investigation into an arson attack on their house and car. After a discussion, he said he did not wish to pursue a complaint.
ADULT A		
Police	12/95	Adult A struck her husband with a glass in nightclub. No further details available.
Police	12/1997	Adult A was assaulted by partner and had her vehicle damaged. She declined to make a complaint, but the perpetrator was convicted of criminal damage.
GP	1998	Medical records were flagged in 1998 that Adult A had experienced domestic abuse. No further details recorded.
Police	01/1998	Adult A and her partner had an argument during which slight damage was caused to a door and he was arrested.

GP	01/1998	A flag was placed on Adult A's medical record detailing that she had suffered domestic abuse.
Police	01/2002	During an argument, Ault A slapped her former partner who slapped her back. The former partner was arrested but he later made threats to kill her. He then broke into her house and set fire to a bed.
	01/2015	Commencement of relationship between Adult A and Terry
Police	08/2016	Adult A reported that her car had been set on fire and that someone had thrown a petrol bomb at it. She named a man that she believed was responsible. He was the ex-partner of her best friend and she had seen him earlier that day and he had given her a horrible sneer. (The offender(s) were never caught).
GP	10/2016	Adult A told the GP that she had suffered an arson attack two-weeks previously in which her house and car had been damaged. She said she felt 'snappy' and that she was unable to sleep.
GP	12/2016	Adult A booked a phone call with the GP and said she was under a lot of stress and had vibrations in her head and intermittent headache.

12 AGENCY OVERVIEW

12.1 TERRY

12.2 The next part of this report will detail what each agency knew about Terry and about Adult A. An analysis of agency involvement will follow this section.

12.3 The police were not aware of any domestic abuse incidents between Terry and Adult A until they conducted the investigation into Terry's murder.

12.4 In December 2014, the police were contacted by a relative of Terry's wife to say that during the previous evening he had been threatening to punch his wife and that he had smashed his teenage child's laptop.

12.5 The child's school made a referral to children's social care about the same incident

The duty manager commented:

'The young person did not sustain any injuries, therefore a medical examination is not required. Due to limited staff over Christmas period, case to be allocated and dealt with on a planned basis next week.'

'There is no history of previous involvement, the school have no concerns and can offer additional support if needed. [The child] presents well and states that [gender] feels safe and well cared for in the home and states that this was an isolated incident. [The child] had no visible injuries following the assault and the police are taking no further action. No other support needs were identified, contact details and appropriate advice has been shared. [School Year Head], states that she will re - refer if further concerns are identified.'

- 12.6 The police took a statement from the child who said that Terry was a bully and that he would arrive home drunk and would start arguments. The child had 'stuck-up' for its mother and had sworn at him before going upstairs. Terry then went upstairs, kicked open the bedroom door, punched the teenager and stamped on the laptop.
- 12.7 When Terry was arrested he exercised his right to say nothing during interviews with the police. They determined there to be insufficient evidence to charge Terry with any criminal offences and his wife was notified accordingly.
- 12.8 In January 2015, Terry telephoned the police, but when the call was answered, he said "*It doesn't matter at the moment*". He went away from the phone but did not clear the line and the police operator heard a man shouting at a woman. The police called back and spoke to Terry again. He said his girlfriend had been shouting at him, but that everything was fine. The call handler asked to speak to the female, but she would not come to the phone. Terry could be heard encouraging her to speak to the police and she could be heard saying that everything was okay. Terry told the call handler that his girlfriend had been trying to attack him, but that it had really been no more than an argument.
- 12.9 A police supervisor then telephoned Terry who explained there had been a verbal argument only, after his wife had threatened to 'kick him out'. The police went to the address, but Terry had already gone. A 'standard' DASH risk of harm assessment was made, which was later escalated to 'medium' because Terry was separated from the wife, but they were still living together.
- 12.10 In March 2015, Terry's father telephoned the police after being told that his son was engaged in a domestic dispute with his wife. Terry was arrested for assault; he was also found to have some diazepam tablets on him.
- 12.11 When he was interviewed, he said he had not assaulted his wife. Although she made a written statement of complaint, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) advised that there was not enough evidence to provide a realistic prospect of securing a conviction. It was determined that it was not in the public interest to pursue a prosecution in respect of the diazepam. Terry was told that should he be arrested again for a domestic related incident, the police would serve him with a Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN). While Terry was in custody, he had tested positive for cocaine. He was served with documentation prior to leaving custody which required him to attend a drugs assessment, four-days later.

Comment: *Consideration of a victimless prosecution tends to be made when the victim is not cooperating, but there is otherwise sufficient evidence to prefer a charge. In this case, although the victim was cooperating, the assessment of the CPS was that there was insufficient corroborating evidence to provide realistic prospect of securing a conviction.*

Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders are aimed at perpetrators who present an on-going risk of violence to a victim with the objective of securing a coordinated approach across agencies for the protection of victims and the management of perpetrators.

A DVPN is the initial notice of immediate emergency protection that is issued by a police force. It can only be issued by a police officer of the rank of superintendent or above. Within 48-hours, an application for a DVPO must be heard at a Magistrates court.

A DVPO is an order made by the Magistrates court after a DVPN has been issued. The protective conditions available to the Magistrates court include provisions to prohibit the perpetrator from molesting the person for whose protection it is issued. This would encompass the perpetrator using or threatening violence, intimidating and

harassing behaviour and restrictions on coming near or entering the victim's premises, even if co-habiting. A DVPO may be in force for between 14-28 days, beginning on the date it is made by the Magistrates court.

- 12.12 The matter was referred to the Kirklees Children's Social Care Integrated Domestic Abuse Team (IDAT) and their assessment and conclusion was as follows:

'[Date] School spoken to. No concerns but [Child] is late arriving at school quite often. [Date] 'I visited the family home. [Wife] said that the couple are splitting up. She is looking to move out of the family home with her 2 children. Terry's parents are supporting [wife] and Terry's dad is going to be her guarantor for the house that she is going to rent. She is a [Occupation redacted] and knows she will manage to run the house. At the family home Terry used to pay the bills but he has not been doing that for a while but he had not told [wife] he had stopped. [Wife] doesn't know what he has been doing with his money. Terry has been accused and is in Court charged with theft from his family firm. They have been together for 25 years and it was totally out of character for Terry to hit [wife] and keep secrets. She said he doesn't even remember the incident due to him been out drinking the night before and consuming a lot of alcohol. I spoke to [wife] about the effect the DV and the home situation could have on the children. I left information sheet and leaflets for both [wife] and Terry. I also left leaflet for Terry re counselling. no further role for 'IDAT'.

Comment: *The IDAT later wrote to the couple offering further support should they need it. The IDAT was disbanded after an internal service review. However, Kirklees still has domestic abuse case workers placed within Adults and Children's Services.*

- 12.13 Terry telephoned the police in September 2015 to say he had arrived at his house with a woman he had just met and that his former wife had been there collecting some of her clothing. He said he regretted calling the police and that he had just panicked, thinking there was going to be an argument.

Comment: *It is not known whether the female was Adult A or another woman.*

- 12.14 Terry telephoned the police again in November 2015 to say that his former wife was at the house because it was up for sale and viewings were taking place. They had argued because he was in a new relationship, so he had telephoned the police because he did not want matters to escalate, especially as their son was upstairs. Everything was quiet when the police got there and no further action was required.

- 12.15 The following month, Terry was arrested for drink-driving. There was a request for an assessment by 'On Trak' (alcohol service) in January 2016 from 'Court Probation'. Terry did not attend his appointment, nor another one a week later, saying he couldn't afford the bus fare. The only appointment he did keep was in February 2016, but because he was 40-minutes late, he could not be seen. He was then discharged from On Trak because of his persistent failure to attend appointments and was therefore never assessed by the service.

- 12.16 **ADULT A**

- 12.17 Adult A had nine-contacts with the Dewsbury Hospital Emergency Department between 1993 and 2005 for routine medical matters. There were two-attendances, in 1993 and 2003 that related to alleged assaults, although there is nothing in the records to suggest they were related to domestic abuse. Routine questioning was not in place at either time.

12.18 In 1995, Adult A assaulted her then husband by hitting him over the head with a glass in a nightclub.

Comment: *Due to the police recording systems in use at the time, very little information about the incident is available now.*

12.19 On Christmas Eve of 1997, a former boyfriend of Adult A assaulted her and damaged her car. Adult A declined to make a complaint, but nevertheless the man was arrested and was subsequently convicted of causing criminal damage. On New Year's Day 1998, the same man damaged a door during an argument with Adult A.

12.20 Adult A's GP records indicate she was suffering from anxiety and depression in 1997 but that she did not require regular anti-depressant medication. (Routine domestic abuse enquiry was not in place in 1997 and the records do not provide any indication as to whether domestic abuse was discussed).

12.21 The GP records also indicate that in June 1998, Adult A disclosed that she had been the victim of domestic abuse. (No further details are recorded in the notes).

Comment: *Since these attendances at the GP practice, there have been significant changes within health settings such as Routine Enquiry about domestic abuse, the co-location of Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) and enhanced training around domestic abuse and signposting within GP practices.*

IDVAs work with both men and women who are 'high-risk' victims of domestic abuse. They are specially trained to provide unbiased advice and information and to work in partnership with other agencies to increase safety for individuals experiencing domestic abuse. Their aim is to reduce the risks of further incidents by carrying out risk-assessments and safety planning. They provide signposting and access to other services, such as health, substance misuse and mental health.

12.22 In March 2002, Adult A was recorded as suffering from 'depression', 'being stalked' and that her house had burned down.

Comment: *The incident involved a former partner who was subsequently sentenced to 18-months imprisonment.*

12.23 In August 2015, Adult A reported to the police that her car had been set on fire and that someone had thrown a petrol bomb at it. She named a man that she believed was responsible. He was the ex-partner of her best friend and she had seen him earlier that day and he had given her a horrible sneer.

Comment: *Although Adult A named a suspect for the attack, the police were never able to establish who had committed the crime. There was no suggestion of the attack being linked to domestic abuse.*

12.24 In December 2016, Adult A had a telephone consultation with the GP about the possible side-effects of the anti-depressant medication she had been prescribed after the arson attack in which her house and her car had been damaged. The GP advised her to stop taking the medication.

12.25 The police recorded six-domestic incidents between Adult A and a different man during 2001 and 2002. Their relationship was described as 'turbulent' and the indications were that Adult A was the victim of violence and abuse rather than a perpetrator of it. The man was eventually convicted of assaulting her and was sent to prison.

12.26 Adult A was given an official police caution in 2003 after she had smashed some windows with a house-brick and was again cautioned in 2011 for assaulting a woman at a barbeque and for resisting arrest. (She had punched the woman several times and had bitten her thumb).

13 ANALYSIS OF AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

13.1 The Kirklees Safeguarding Unit investigated the December 2014 incident initially, but because it was a violent crime involving a child, they made a referral to Children's Social Care. The investigation was then transferred to the Neighbourhood Policing Team, something that would not happen today because investigations of that nature are now retained and investigated by the Safeguarding Unit.

13.2 The Safeguarding Unit did however retain ownership of the safeguarding aspect of the case. There was good liaison between them and Children's Social Care and a strategy discussion and an assessment took place which recommended the case be closed to Children's and Young Persons Services (CYPS).

Comment: Some inconsistency in the Safeguarding Unit providing information to victims in standard and medium risk verbal domestic abuse incidents was identified during the review. This was caused by a training issue in respect of a particular clerical officer that has since been addressed through the provision of additional training for all of the clerical officers in the unit.

13.3 The police response to the March 2015 incident, including subsequent investigations, completion of the DASH risk-assessment, referral to Children's Social Care and the referral for a drugs assessment complied with policy and expected standards of practice at the time.

13.4 There was however, a missed opportunity to apply for a DVPN and subsequently a Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO), which would have provided immediate emergency protection for Terry's wife, whilst she considered and explored the options available to her.

13.5 There was a missed opportunity to complete a DASH risk-assessment in relation to the call Terry made to the police in September 2015 after he had arrived home with another woman. In hindsight, the police accept that because there was a history of domestic abuse and potentially escalating risk factors such as drugs, alcohol, separation, minimisation of abuse and reluctance to engage with police and other support services, on the part of both Terry and his wife, one was required. The opportunity to check on the welfare of their children was also missed.

13.6 Although the service was not available at the time, since December 2015, low and medium-risk domestic violence perpetrators can be referred to the Choices Service (a domestic violence perpetrator programme). Choices work with perpetrators aged 16 and above who are concerned that they are or have become abusive in their relationship, within any intimate relationship and/or families. The service offers one-to-one and small-group interventions alongside a structured group work programme.

Comment: The Choices Perpetrator Programme was commissioned by the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner but the contract ceased in November 2017. Discussions are currently underway to consider future commissioning of a regional Perpetrator Programme.

13.7 At the time of their involvement with Terry there was an inconsistent regime by the police of sending letters and information about safeguarding measures and advice. The theme was identified in previous domestic homicide reviews and as a result, the Safeguarding Central Governance Unit took the lead in developing district-specific domestic abuse leaflets. They

contain contact details of domestic abuse support services, information about what domestic abuse is and some safety advice for domestic abuse victims. Plans are afoot to enable electronic versions of the leaflet to be sent by officers via hand-held devices while they are at the scene of an incident.

- 13.8 Safeguarding Clerks across the force area now have quarterly group meetings chaired by the Detective Inspector from the Safeguarding Central Governance Unit. The aim is to achieve consistency in practice in all districts and to ensure that expected standards are met. In addition, a safeguarding induction pack is given to all new Safeguarding Unit staff which is also available on the force intranet.

14 ADDRESSING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 14.1 ➤ *Whether the incident in which Terry died was an isolated event or whether there were any warning signs and whether more could be done to raise awareness of services available to victims of domestic violence.*

When, in July 2016, Terry posted on social media that while on holiday with Adult A, she had broken his nose 'again', there was an obvious inference that he had been assaulted by her previously.

- 14.2 It was only after Terry's death that information came to light that he had been assaulted by Adult A in December 2016. His text messages to a friend on both days mentioned being assaulted and having an injury to his eye. One to Adult A was a request that she didn't punch him and one the following day was a plea that she did not end their relationship.
- 14.3 These warning signs that Terry was being abused were not reported to the police or any other agency, despite the fact that Terry was comfortable sharing with his friend by text message that he was the victim of abuse at the hands of Adult A. The friend is sure that Terry's motive in doing so was not that he hoped the friend would report it on his behalf.
- 14.4 Previous Domestic Homicide and Child Serious Case Reviews have identified a common theme where third-parties had knowledge of or suspected domestic abuse and/or child abuse, but rarely made a report to the police or sought help for the victims from other agencies. Fear of the perpetrator, alienation of the victim if they interfered or simply that 'it was none of their business' are the most common reasons put forward for not becoming involved.
- 14.5 In an attempt to address this issue, West Yorkshire Police launched a campaign to encourage third-party reporting of domestic abuse including controlling and coercive behaviour in November 2017. Bespoke posters were also created for Christmas and Valentine's Day to highlight the issues together with social media activity which is still ongoing.
- 14.6 ➤ *Whether there were any barriers experienced by Terry or family/friends/colleagues in reporting any abuse in Kirklees or elsewhere, including whether they knew how to report domestic abuse should they have wanted to.*

Terry knew how to report domestic abuse, in fact he did so on two-occasions in 2015 when his wife had been verbally abusive towards him. His own family had also reported incidents to the police in the past. Terry was content to share with his best friend the fact that he was being abused, but the friend has told this review that on no account would Terry have even

considered reporting the abuse to any agency, adding that he loved her and that he always thought it would “*Just blow over.*”

- 14.7 Because of a lack of engagement with the review by Terry’s family and several people who potentially could have offered useful information, it is difficult to judge whether there were any barriers to further reporting, and the review panel has considered the possibility that Terry’s previous arrests for domestic abuse and his being accused of stealing from the family business may have adversely shaped his views about the police. The friend that did participate in the review was specifically asked for his view about this. He was emphatic that Terry’s previous involvement with the police would have had no bearing on whether he would report abuse to them, in fact he (Terry) had ‘no problems’ with the police whatsoever.
- 14.8 When he was arrested on 8th March 2015, he was told that should he be arrested again for a similar matter, the Police would seek a Domestic Violence Protection Notice against him. Although he was the alleged perpetrator on that occasion, the warning could have played on his mind to such an extent that he did not want to be associated with domestic abuse at all, even as a victim. On 26th September 2015, Terry reported an incident involving his wife, but later said he regretted involving the police. Similarly, he reported a domestic abuse incident on 8th November 2015, but declined to give his consent to information being shared with support agencies. Terry’s friend said he was not aware of the prospect of Terry being made subject of a Domestic Violence Protection Notice but added that it would not have created a barrier to Terry reporting abuse to the police had he wanted to.
- 14.9 Terry had a strained relationship with his family because of the allegation he had stolen a large sum of money from the family business and the relationship with his teenage child was not at all amicable. It appears therefore that he may not have had many family members with whom he could confide, had he wanted to, about abuse he was suffering.
- 14.10 Isolation from family and friends is often a common phenomenon for victims, because inevitably it increases their vulnerability¹
- 14.11 ➤ *Whether Terry had experienced abuse in previous relationships in Kirklees or elsewhere, and whether this experience impacted on his likelihood of seeking support in the months before he died.*

Terry had certainly reported experiencing abuse in his relationship with his wife, who had made similar allegations against him. For the reasons already outlined, it is impossible to say for sure whether the experiences impacted upon the likelihood of him seeking support, but when he presented as a victim in November 2015, he was not signposted to support agencies. An assumption had been made by the police at the time that signposting was not necessary because he had been involved with the police eight-months earlier, and he would have been made aware at that time of services available.

Comment: *On that occasion, Terry was the alleged perpetrator, so any signposting (other than to male-perpetrator services), would have been made to his wife rather than to him.*

The inconsistency in the provision of safeguarding signposting by a clerical officer was addressed by the force through further training. From December 2015 to November 2017, low and medium risk domestic violence perpetrators were referred to the Choices Services (Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme). Choices worked with perpetrators aged 16 and above who were concerned that they were or were likely to become abusive in their

¹ Holly, K. (2011, November 6). Isolation and Domestic Abuse: How Abusers Isolate Victims. <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/what-is-domestic-abuse/women->

relationship, within any intimate relationship and/or families. The service offered one to one and small group interventions alongside a structured group work programme.

Although the Choices Programme ceased in November 2017, there are discussions underway to consider the future commissioning of a regional perpetrator programme.

- 14.12 ➤ *Whether there were opportunities for professionals to ‘routinely enquire’ as to any domestic abuse experienced by Terry that were missed.*

The police missed an opportunity to complete a DASH risk-assessment when Terry reported a domestic abuse incident involving his wife in September 2015. Insufficient account was taken of the previous history of domestic incidents between and the potential escalation of risks associated with it.

- 14.13 ➤ *Whether Adult A had any previous history of abusive behaviour to an intimate partner, a relative or a co-habitee and whether this was known to any agencies.*

Although it was not known to agencies at the time, Adult A had a history of violent and abusive behaviour towards previous male partners.

- 14.14 She had told friends that she had broken Terry’s nose, but it was not until the police spoke to the friends during the murder investigation that evidence of Adult A’s violent behaviour came to light. The police discovered that the violence had not just been directed at Terry; she had done the same to other partners. Terry’s friend warned him repeatedly about Adult A’s propensity to violence and suggested he would be better off staying away from her, but Terry made light of the situation, even though he acknowledged Adult A was violent towards him.

- 14.15 Adult A married her former husband in 1995 and during the same year it was alleged she hit him over the head with a glass in a nightclub and the argument then spilt over to their home address. Due to the crime recording system used at the time, there are no further details of the incident now available, other than all parties were given advice. Nowadays, such an incident would involve the police completing a comprehensive DASH risk-assessment, a crime complaint would be recorded, it would be investigated, and Adult A’s husband would be signposted to domestic abuse services.

- 14.16 ➤ *Whether there were opportunities for agency intervention in relation to domestic abuse regarding Terry and Adult A or to dependent children that were missed.*

There were no opportunities for any agency to intervene in relation to domestic abuse between Terry and Adult A.

- 14.17 ➤ *The review should identify any training or awareness raising requirements that are necessary to ensure a greater knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse processes and/or services in the region.*

The only training issue identified was in respect of the provision by the police of information to victims in standard and medium risk verbal domestic abuse incident. This was caused by a training issue in respect of a particular clerical officer in the Safeguarding Unit that has since been addressed by the delivery of additional training for all of the clerical officers in the unit.

- 14.18 Also identified was a need to continuously raise public awareness of domestic abuse (including third party reporting). A campaign launched by West Yorkshire Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in November 2018, specifically focused on third party

reporting and previous local campaigns have all included imagery of people with protected characteristics and male victims to encourage a wider understanding that anyone can be affected by domestic abuse.

- 14.19 ➤ *Whether there were any barriers to Terry accessing advice and support around domestic abuse, given he was a male victim?*

The panel is mindful that there are many known barriers to reporting domestic abuse and some that are specific to male victims. Many are based on gender stereotypes of masculinity and femininity and how individuals should behave according to their gender. Male victims often consider their masculinity would be called into question if they admit to having been abused by a woman. The Mankind Initiative website www.mankind.org.uk includes a wealth of research that looks specifically into males who are experiencing domestic abuse and the barriers that they can face, such as feeling they may not be believed or the social stigma that may be attached to this. The number of men reporting domestic abuse has seen increases in recent years and it is for this reason that the Kirklees Domestic Abuse Partnership considers the needs of male victims just as much as female victims to ensure they can access services as easily as possible. The largest local provider, Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership (PDAP) has always employed male workers (including an IDVA and an Outreach Worker) so that male victims have a choice of who to work with. PDAP figures also show that they worked with over 100 male victims over a three year period since 2015 which demonstrates that men are accessing their services. In addition this, the local perpetrator programme is Respect accredited and all partnership training highlights that men can be victims of domestic abuse and how to signpost, with the Male Advice Line being well publicised on Council and partner websites. Whilst outside the scope of this review, it is notable that the West Yorkshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner held a workshop specifically to consider the needs of male victims and regional provision in 2019 which further demonstrates an ongoing commitment to raise awareness that domestic abuse can affect anyone, regardless of gender. Terry though, sent text messages to his best friend saying he had been assaulted by Adult A, which also suggested it had not been an isolated incident, in fact the friend knew they were not isolated incidents because Terry had told him about similar incidents in the past. The text messages appear to have been framed in a 'light-hearted' manner, and the friend said it was typical of Terry minimising the abuse through humour, but that he was not at all embarrassed by it. Terry did not report the abuse to the police or to any other agency, according to the friend because he loved Adult A and that he was prepared to put up with her behaviour because he knew her anger would pass.

- 14.20 The lack of input in this review of others that knew Terry and Adult A has inevitably had an impact upon the richness of information available to the review panel.

- 14.21 ➤ *Whether there was anything to be seen in Adult A's historic risky behaviours and choice of partners that could have indicated her likelihood of abusive behaviour toward her partners?*

Adult A had one previous conviction for assaulting a woman at a barbeque. She did not have any other previous convictions for violence, but there was an historic domestic abuse incident recorded in 1995 where she hit her husband on his head with a glass; she was not prosecuted for it.

- 14.22 She had a 'violent' warning marker on police computer systems from September 2011 after she had resisted arrest and had lashed out at police officers and it was known that she had a

history of alcohol misuse. Her safeguarding record shows she had been a victim of domestic abuse during previous relationships. There was nothing recorded that would have indicated that Adult A posed a serious risk of harm towards anyone she was in a relationship with. However, the World Health Organisation's *'Intimate Partner Violence and Alcohol' factsheet, 2006*, recognises that alcohol consumption can be a contributory factor in domestic abuse in that alcohol can directly affect cognitive and physical function; reduces self-control and leaves individuals less capable of negotiating a non-violent resolution to conflicts within relationships. In addition to this, excessive drinking by a partner can exacerbate financial difficulties, childcare problems, infidelity or other family stressors which can then create tension and conflict, increasing the risk of violence occurring between partners. The Home Office's 'key findings from analysis of domestic homicide reviews', 2016 also identified that alcohol, along with other complex needs was a feature and/or an escalating trigger in a number of domestic homicides. Even though there was nothing to suggest that Adult A posed a serious threat to anyone she was in a relationship with, the research does act as a further reminder of the need to continue strong multi-agency working.

15 CONCLUSIONS

- 15.1 There was no obvious build-up to the incident that cost Terry his life and only Adult A can say why she murdered him. She has not responded to an invitation to participate in the review.
- 15.2 Both Terry and Adult A had reported incidents of domestic abuse while in previous relationships, but agencies did not have knowledge of any issues of abuse in their relationship with each other.
- 15.3 Terry told his best friend that Adult A assaulted him on more than one occasion, but the friend says that under no circumstances would he have reported the matter to agencies. He added that Terry was content with his life and that he was prepared to put-up with Adult A's violence towards him.
- 15.4 Although there is little in the way of specific agency learning from Terry's case, the review clearly highlights the issue of awareness raising of third-party reporting of domestic abuse, something that is already being addressed by the Community Safety Partnership as a result of recommendations emanating from a recent DHR.

16 LESSONS TO BE LEARNT

- 16.1 The only agency to identify key learning from this review was the West Yorkshire Police. They found there to have been a lack of safeguarding training for a clerical officer who was required to review standard and medium risk domestic abuse incidents and a need to launch an awareness raising campaign about third party reporting of domestic abuse; both have now been completed.

Comment: In respect of safeguarding training for West Yorkshire Police Safeguarding Clerical Staff, the following actions were taken to address training needs:

A Safeguarding Induction Pack was developed for all staff within Safeguarding, which includes all useful information on each area of business and links to key documents and ilearn/training packages. This was disseminated in April 2017. In addition, a training package was developed and delivered to safeguarding staff on domestic abuse, stalking, and harassment in September 2018. WYP15 has attended and completed safeguarding clerk training including domestic abuse, stalking and harassment offences, CDI and Disclosure (July 2018, October 2018 and September 2019). They have also undertaken the mentoring of new safeguarding clerks, providing training, advice and support.

In addition, quarterly safeguarding clerks meetings, chaired by a Detective Inspector in the Safeguarding Central Governance Unit, are held where training needs and lessons learned are discussed.

West Yorkshire Police now has an Organisation Learning Strategy for the continuous professional development of all employees. The vision set out in the Organisational Learning Strategy is that West Yorkshire Police will be innovative and implement what works and evidence-based practice in order to continuously improve and deliver the best policing services they can to the communities they serve. There is now an Organisational Learning Portal, accessible by all employees, where information and research on What Works/Best Practice, Knowledge & Continuous improvement, Research & Innovation and Lessons Learned from DHRs and other Reviews including National Reviews is available to facilitate continuous professional development. At the time of publication, West Yorkshire Police were also undertaking a programme of upskilling Bitesize symposiums which will be available to all employees via live streaming through ilearn. These include: DASH Completion – links to MARAC and Social Services Referrals; Stalking & Harassment and Domestic homicides / 8 Trigger points/ DHR process.

To further ensure continuous improvement has been embedded into practice, multiple domestic abuse related audits are undertaken by the Safeguarding Central Governance Unit. These include:

- Domestic Abuse Audit - Audit in conjunction with other departments looking at call handling - grading, was background history obtained. Attending officers - DASH quality. Crime allocation. Risk assessments.
- Clare's Law Audit
- Domestic Incidents for each Division - Looking at domestic incidents held in opens. Audit when the call was received; when officers dispatched and dealt with the incident; THRIVE rationales and whether suitable for a standard response. Considering whether the call was originally an Emergency / Priority grading and whether this was downgraded; looking at a timeliness/rationale for any delays and to assess whether safeguarding risks had been identified.

Comment: In respect of 3rd Party reporting, the link to some of the materials used in this campaign can be found at: <https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/news-appeals/domestic-abuse-theres-no-excuse-1>

- 16.2 The review panel acknowledged that domestic violence and abuse is typically more gendered towards women than men. After much debate though, the panel came to the conclusion that there was no additional learning to come out of this review concerning male victims.

Comment: The Mankind Initiative website www.mankind.org.uk includes a wealth of research that looks specifically into males who are experiencing domestic abuse and the barriers that they can face, such as feeling they may not be believed or the social stigma that may be attached to this. The number of men reporting domestic abuse has seen increases in recent years and it is for this reason that the Kirklees Domestic Abuse Partnership considers the needs of male victims just as much as female victims to ensure they can access services as easily as possible. The largest local provider, Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership (PDAP) has always employed male workers (including an IDVA and an Outreach Worker) so that male victims have a choice of who to work with. PDAP figures also show that they worked with over 100 male victims over a three year period since 2015 which demonstrates that men are accessing their services. In addition this, the local perpetrator programme is Respect accredited and all partnership training highlights that men can be victims of domestic abuse and how to signpost, with the Male Advice Line being well publicised on Council and partner websites. Whilst outside the scope of this review, it is notable that the West Yorkshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner held a workshop specifically to consider the needs of male victims and regional provision in 2019 which further demonstrates an ongoing commitment to raise awareness that domestic abuse can affect anyone, regardless of gender. *Kirklees has recently produced its new three year Domestic Abuse Strategy (2019-21 and which has adopted the SafeLives model). This makes it clear that the approach Kirklees will take when dealing with domestic abuse is to consider that anyone can be affected by the issue (including men, women, children and those with protected characteristics). The aim is to see the whole of the individual's circumstances and move away from incident focussed responses so that services and signposting are equitable for all. There is also a strong emphasis on preventative measures, including raising awareness within communities for all groups of people:* <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/domestic-abuse/pdf/domestic-abuse-strategy.pdf>

- 16.3 The police also recognised a missed opportunity to complete a DASH risk-assessment in relation to the call Terry made to the police in September 2015 after he had arrived home with another woman. The opportunity to check on the welfare of their teenage children was also missed. There was also a missed opportunity to apply for a DVPN and subsequently a Domestic

Violence Protection Order (DVPO), which would have provided immediate emergency protection for Terry's wife, whilst she considered and explored the options available to her.

16.4 Both of these issues have been addressed by the force by way of internal briefings.

17 RECOMMENDATIONS

17.1 The only agency recommendation from this review is as follows:

WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

- To review the training requirements of Clerical Officers in the District Safeguarding Units.

(This has since been completed as follows):

In respect of safeguarding training for West Yorkshire Police Safeguarding Clerical Staff, the following actions were taken to address training needs:

A Safeguarding Induction Pack was developed for all staff within Safeguarding, which includes all useful information on each area of business and links to key documents and ilearn/training packages. This was disseminated in April 2017. In addition, a training package was developed and delivered to safeguarding staff on domestic abuse, stalking, and harassment in September 2018. WYP15 has attended and completed safeguarding clerk training including domestic abuse, stalking and harassment offences, CDI and Disclosure (July 2018, October 2018 and September 2019). They have also undertaken the mentoring of new safeguarding clerks, providing training, advice and support. In addition, quarterly safeguarding clerks meetings, chaired by a Detective Inspector in the Safeguarding Central Governance Unit, are held where training needs and lessons learned are discussed.

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