

Report for Domestic Homicide

Appreciative Review

‘Hanna’

Leeds Community Safety Partnership

Date of Death – September 2022

Report for Domestic Homicide Appreciative Review Z (DHRZ)

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Section 1: Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

This Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Report was commissioned by Safer Leeds (the Leeds Community Safety Partnership). The review relates to the murder of an Indian Sikh woman (32) who was killed by her husband (37) in Leeds.

Safer Leeds commissioned Kathy Shaw and Michelle De Souza as joint Independent Chairs and Report Authors to undertake the review using the model of an Appreciate Inquiry. It has been conducted in accordance with the Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews dated December 2016.

The Co-Chairs, Safer Leeds and those involved in this review wish to note their sadness about the murder and offer their condolences to the victim's family, children and friends. The circumstances were tragic, taking the life of a young woman as well as creating devastating loss for her loved ones.

To protect the identity of the victim and family members, pseudonyms have been used. The victim's pseudonym 'Hanna' was suggested by the victim's brother. Other names were agreed by the Review Panel and are similar in meaning to names in the area of India in which the victim's families live.

Person	Name used in the DHR to Protect Identity
Subject of review	Hanna
Brother of the victim	Harbir
Hanna's sister	Japleen
Hanna's friend from Facebook group	Monisha
Hanna's friend from university	Isha
Hanna's employer	Mo
Hanna's colleague	Aree
Perpetrator	Jag
Jag's friend from India	Arjun

The key purpose of undertaking a DHR is to enable lessons to be learned where a person is killed as a result of domestic violence and abuse. In order for these lessons to be explored

as widely and thoroughly as possible, professionals need to understand fully what happened and what needs to change to reduce the risk of such tragedies recurring in the future.

Safer Leeds conducted a scoping exercise to ascertain the nature and extent of agency involvement with Hanna and Jag prior to Hanna's death in September 2022. This indicated that there had been minimal contact with services. Guidance from the Home Office and AAFDA suggests that, in these circumstances, there is still the potential for learning for agencies and that Community Safety Partnerships should consider 'circumstances of particular concern' whereby:

'The victim had little or no known contact with agencies. It is often incorrectly assumed by local areas that no contact with agencies indicates a DHR is not required. In fact, a DHR should probe why there was little or no contact with agencies. For example, were there any barriers to the victim accessing services, e.g. language, cultural, etc? Were the circumstances described in h)¹ below a barrier? Were there particular reasons why local services were not appealing to a victim in these particular circumstances? Could more be done in the local area to raise awareness of services available to victims of domestic violence and abuse? Did contact diminish after initial engagement?'

In light of this, a decision was taken by the Chair of Safer Leeds that a DHR should be conducted using an Appreciative Inquiry model. This strength-based approach focuses on system and service delivery issues and examines responses of key agencies in Leeds to identify strengths and areas of weakness whilst avoiding an overly critical scrutiny of practice.

1.2 Parallel Reviews

The Coroner's Inquest was adjourned until after the criminal trial. Jag was convicted of murder in January 2023. The Coroner accepted the findings of the court and recorded a verdict of murder.

1.3 Timescales

Following formal notification of Hanna's death from West Yorkshire Police (WYP), the Leeds DHR Strategic Group made a recommendation to the Chair of Safer Leeds to conduct a DHR and the Chair accepted this recommendation. Although the Co-Chairs had been commissioned in July 2023, Safer Leeds was keen to ensure the victim's family were given

¹ Home Office Guidance - h) The perpetrator holds a position of trust or authority e.g. police officer, social worker, health professional, and the homicide, therefore, is likely to have a significant impact on public confidence.

formal notice of the DHR process before community networks and services were contacted. A subsequent period of information sharing took place between WYP and Safer Leeds to ascertain the contact details of the victim's parents and brother who live in **REDACTED** in Pune in Western India. This caused some delays in the review process. Further delay was caused by the limited capacity across services in Leeds to respond to demand to participate in other concurrent DHRs, Children's Practice Reviews and Adult Safeguarding Reviews. To mitigate the risks of overwhelming services and over-stretching resources, Safer Leeds staggered DHR start dates over a period of six months. The Home Office Domestic Homicide Review guidance stipulates that an Overview Report should be completed, where possible, within six months of the start of the review. The timescales in this review fall outside of these guidelines as a result of the circumstances outlined above.

1.4 Approach

In July 2023, Safer Leeds commissioned Kathy Shaw and Michelle De Souza as joint Independent Chairs and Report Authors to undertake an Appreciate Inquiry. This approach involved establishing a Review Panel comprising key agencies and individuals with professional expertise and relevant lived experiences. The panel reviewed how accessible community-based support and services may have been to Hanna. The appreciative nature of the review focused on strengths rather than deficits so as to create an open and non-defensive environment to share learning.

1.5 Confidentiality

All parties involved in this review have signed a confidentiality agreement. This agreement clarifies that all information shared in this review must remain confidential. Information has been restricted to participating professionals and their line managers.

1.6 Independent Chairs and Authors

Kathy Shaw has been working as an Independent Safeguarding Consultant since 2012. She is currently employed in a social justice project for the Justice and Peace Commission and is also a Magistrate in Leeds. She has 28 years of project and strategic management experience working at Victim Support, Leeds Women's Aid and Sure Start; including ten years at the NSPCC as a Children's Services Manager. As Manager of Leeds Women's Aid, Kathy was responsible for refuges, outreach, children's services and aftercare. She has no involvement with or influence over any of the services involved in this review.

Michelle De Souza has worked for 30 years in roles in public services, third sectors and NHS. She has worked as a Mental Health Nurse in clinical and community settings. She also worked for 24 years on domestic abuse initiatives and, as Manager of the Safer Leeds Domestic Violence and Safeguarding Team, she was responsible for establishing and conducting DHRs in Leeds. She managed a multi-disciplinary team, delivering operational work, commissioning services and driving best practice. Michelle now works as an Independent Consultant and for a mental health charity. She has no involvement with or influence over any of the services involved in this review.

The review did not involve Independent Management Reports (IMRs) however the independence of members of the Review Panel and those completing self-reflective assessments was established through Safer Leeds. Agencies participating in the review were asked by Safer Leeds to ensure representatives attending learning events were sufficiently removed from any provision or line management of services to the victim and perpetrator. The intention was to facilitate meaningful, unbiased, open and constructive discussions and learning to take place.

Section 2: Contributors to the Review and How the Review was Conducted

Contributors to this review are listed below:

- **REDACTED** - Global Engagement Coordinator, International Student Office International student representative: **REDACTED** University
- **REDACTED** West Yorkshire Police Sikh Association (WYPSA)

2.1 Members of Review Panel

- **REDACTED** - Head of Safeguarding, West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- Chief Inspector **REDACTED** - Partnerships, West Yorkshire Police
- **REDACTED** - Deputy Head, West Yorkshire Probation Service²
- **REDACTED** – Named Nurse and Deputy Head of Safeguarding, Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust
- **REDACTED** – CEO, Leeds Women's Aid representing Leeds Domestic Violence Services
- **REDACTED** - CEO, Sikh Women's Aid
- **REDACTED** - Service Lead for Culturally Diverse Minds, Leeds Mind
- **REDACTED** – Programme Manager, Safer Leeds (Review Lead)
- **REDACTED** – Programme Officer, Safer Leeds (Review Lead)

² Correct at the time of starting the report but is now Probation Service Yorkshire and the Humber

- **REDACTED** - Independent Chair and Report Author
- **REDACTED** - Independent Chair and Report Author
- **REDACTED** – Associate Director of Student Services, **REDACTED** University

2.2 Terms of Reference

The following Terms of Reference were approved by the Review Panel:

- Assess if the victim, perpetrator or children were known to services and if so, were there any concerns or indicators?
- Consider how accessible support services were for the victim.
- Explore if family, friends and colleagues were aware of any abuse.
- Identify any barriers experienced by the victim or family, friends and colleagues in reporting the abuse.
- Acknowledge any missed opportunities for practitioners to identify and respond to domestic abuse.
- Highlight any service improvements or systems changes needed.
- Consider any equality and diversity issues.
- Acknowledge and share good practice.

2.3 Methodology

The Independent Chairs collected and analysed qualitative data to ascertain facts and views about Hanna's and Jag's relationship, whether there were any indicators of domestic abuse and whether any support was given. This ensured the Review Panel had a full and in-depth picture of the context in which Hanna died to help identify missed opportunities, practice issues and lessons learned. Information was gleaned through:

- Analysis of scoping information to identify agency involvement.
- Development and analysis of a Combined Chronology to highlight significant points at which domestic abuse could have begun, escalated or been identified.
- Desk-top review of media reports in India.
- Email exchange and telephone interviews with Hanna's brother as the nominated family contact; interviews with Hanna's work colleagues and friends and interviews with people who knew Jag.

- Consultation with experts with professional and lived experience to gain an understanding of the cultural and/or religious expectations which may have been at play in the relationship between Hanna and Jag; including the Gurdwara in Leeds.
- Telephone and email communication with the West Yorkshire Police Senior Investigating Officer and Family Liaison Officer to ascertain facts arising from the investigation and find out about family involvement.
- Interview with the perpetrator in Manchester Prison.
- Development and completion of a self-reflective tool to enable participating agencies to identify and share good practice points and gaps in their services to Culturally Diverse Communities.
- Using the model of Appreciate Inquiry, two learning events were held in lieu of Review Panel meetings; each providing opportunities to explore Hanna's experiences of domestic abuse, any disclosures, any barriers to services and gaps in provision.

2.4 Agencies who conducted a Self-Reflective Assessment

- Leeds Domestic Violence Service
- Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust (LTHT)
- West Yorkshire Police (WYP)
- Leeds Beckett University
- West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- Probation Service Yorkshire and the Humber

These agencies also participated in two learning events to analyse findings from the self-reflection exercise, share good practice and identify emerging learning. Consultants also attended the learning events to inject expert knowledge on the subject of Sikh communities and domestic abuse.

2.5 Dissemination

After being quality assured by the Home Office, the review Overview Report was disseminated to the following people:

- Review Panel members
- Identified senior managers and Heads of Service signing off the Overview Report
- Safer Leeds Chief Executive
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Home Office

Once the report has been through the Quality Assurance process the lessons learned will be published on the Safer Leeds website.

Section 3: What Happened?

3.1 Background Information

Hanna lived in north-west Leeds. She had married her husband, Jag, in January 2015 and they had separated in May 2022. In the days leading up to Hanna's murder in September 2022, her husband, Jag had loitered outside her flat on four separate occasions. In the previous week, he was captured on CCTV footage entering a supermarket where he purchased a knife. CCTV footage also showed him waiting across the road from Hanna's address between 6.04pm and 6.15pm on the day of her death in September 2022, with a backpack believed to contain the knife. Further footage showed him running from Hanna's flat at 6.24pm. He had travelled to her flat by taxi and stabbed her in her chest on the doorstep.

Officers were called at around 6.30pm and arrived about 10 minutes later to find Hanna unconscious. She was taken to hospital for treatment but was pronounced dead at 7.51pm. A post-mortem examination found she had died as a result of a stab wound to the chest. Jag was arrested on the main road outside his flat at 7.30pm. He said, "I have murdered my wife and I was going to kill myself."

Following Hanna's murder, her friends told police of Jag's controlling behaviour. The Crown Prosecution Service said he had accessed Hanna's phone, believing she lied to him about her movements and that she was engaging in friendships with men. He also blamed her when he began drinking alcohol and for ending the relationship. Jag carried out the murder after his wife's family decided both children should live with them rather than return to him in the UK. He sent a message to the family WhatsApp group which said: "I have to take this step. This cheating and insult was hitting me like hell. The anger was uncontrollable now."

Jag entered a Guilty plea on 8th November 2022 at Leeds Crown Court. He was sentenced on 9th January 2023 and received a custodial sentence of 23 years 4 months (he had already served some time in custody, and this was deducted from a tariff of 25 years).

3.2 Chronology

A combined chronology outlining significant events and points in time can be found at Appendix 2. The narrative below lays out relevant events in the years leading up to Hanna's death.

Hanna and Jag married in India in January 2015. Jag had originally been married to Hanna's elder sister, Japleen, in India. Sadly, Japleen had died in 2013 aged 25. The cause of Japleen's death was attributed to a heart attack. It was reported in the Indian press that Hanna's parents did not raise any concerns to the police in India about her sister's death but that, following Hanna's death, her father wished for Japleen's death to be investigated. The police in the UK established that Japleen had died in hospital and that her death certificate stated she had died of 'natural causes'. The marriage between Hanna and Jag had been encouraged by Hanna's parents in order to provide a family environment for Jag's child (Hanna's nephew). They were married in January 2015 and had a child together in February 2018; within the report both children are referred to as their children.

Hanna received her visa and travelled to the UK to start her course at University 1 in March 2021 with Jag following one month later. They both secured jobs and shared a house with another couple within the first few weeks of arriving. Jag began working evenings in a takeaway from 5pm to 3am. Hanna began a Master's in Business Studies having completed an undergraduate course in computer technology in India in 2012.

Over the next few months, Hanna began to make new friends at university and enjoyed socialising. According to Hanna's family, colleagues and friends, Jag appears to have been a more solitary person and did not like or approve of Hanna's social life. Jag refers to this and his distrust of Hanna in a letter he wrote which was found on him when he was arrested in September 2022. The couple had had numerous arguments which appear to have escalated to verbal and physical abuse from Jag to Hanna over a sustained period of months. In November 2021, Hanna visited their two children in India and reported to family and friends that Jag had hacked her phone and that she was disturbed by his behaviour. During the interview at HMP Manchester, Jag reported that he started drinking alcohol in November 2021 and that the relationship was very tense during the following months. In December 2021, Hanna told Jag that the relationship was over and in March 2022, Hanna moved to live with some friends. At this point, there was an incident of physical abuse when Jag tried to stop Hanna from leaving.

In March 2022, Hanna visited India and brought Child 2 to the UK in April 2022. Between March and June 2022, communication between Hanna, Jag and her parents focused on whether Child 1 should travel to the UK. This resulted in a decision by Hanna's parents (possibly with Hanna's consent) that Child 2 should return to India and that both children would then remain in India. In May 2022, Hanna moved into her own flat and lived alone. In June 2022 Jag appears to commit to harming Hanna, stating in the letter found on him at his arrest that he had come to a decision to take revenge on Hanna; "I decided to send Child 2 back with Hanna so I could take revenge of this cheating & insult but who would have took care of my little child here. So I sent him back with H to India to keep him safe." The couple had been together for 7 years when Jag fatally stabbed Hanna on her doorstep.

Throughout the 18-month period that Hanna and Jag lived in Leeds, there were no known reports or disclosures of domestic abuse to agencies. There had been some routine contacts with health services and the police which are discussed in more detail in sections 6 and 7.

Section 4: Views from Family, Friends, Colleagues and Wider Community

Relevant information from the Home Office DHR leaflet was provided by the Chair to Hanna's family via her brother. Hanna's brother's first language is not English and although he acted as interpreter for the family, his access to written English was limited. Although able to verbally communicate in English, he found the unusual language found in court proceedings a challenge. We agreed to re-word sections from the HO leaflet to maximise the family's access to this information. The family did not access help from a specialist advocate. The family were offered regular updates but preferred to choose when contact was made.

The review recognises the invaluable contributions that family, friends and community networks can provide to DHRs. They often bring to light information that mainstream services are unaware of. They can also offer a picture of who the victim was, presenting them as a real person, fostering a compassionate approach to the review.

Contact with Hanna's family in India was infrequent and included telephone calls and email updates. Translators or interpreters were offered to support access for written material or any verbal communication. It was hoped that the family would feel able to contribute to the learning events in whatever medium they felt appropriate including video calls or sending a written statement. This is detailed in 4.1. but in summary, the family contact was Hanna's brother, he chose to be contacted by phone on occasions, but he preferred emails as this was easier to refer to and to pass on information to his family. Harbir wanted clarity on the criminal proceedings and a response from the senior officer at the Homicide and Major

Enquiry Team was forwarded in November 2023 with a brief explanation of the UK legal process. There was no further contact from the family.

A series of calls and emails from the Chair followed to update the family about the learning event in November 2023 and to identify how we could ensure they had access to the information and review process, including translators, if they chose to join the meeting online but there was no response. A copy of the full report would have been made available if we could confirm how to ensure this was accessible and that the family were happy for this to be sent to them.

Contact was also made by the Independent Chairs with friends, work colleagues and neighbours. The sections below outline views of family and friends and what they knew about Hanna's relationship with Jag.

4.1 Hanna's brother and parents

Prior to this review, Hanna's brother, Harbir, had been the contact person for Hanna's family during the criminal investigation. He acted as interpreter for his parents and was in touch with the police until the end of the criminal proceedings. Hanna's brother and parents live in Pune, India.

In September 2023, Harbir was contacted in writing by Safer Leeds who formally informed him and his family in India that a review would be conducted into Hanna's death. A further email was sent to personally introduce the Co-Chairs and to facilitate further communication. This led to email and telephone contact between one of the Chairs and Harbir who agreed to consult with his parents to see if they would like to be involved in the review. Following this initial exchange, the response from Harbir was limited to one telephone interview and a request for clarity relating to UK legal process. There was no response to enquiries about specific support other than they were happy to be updated after meetings had taken place.

Initially, Harbir expressed some concerns about the level of information the family had received about the criminal and court proceedings. The Chair liaised with the police officer who had been in charge of the case, to relay a number of questions Harbir had posed. These largely related to administrative issues around court papers and were explored by the Chair with the Family Liaison Officer. Responses were then sent by the Chair to Harbir to explain some of the legal administrative processes which had taken place.

The family was given the name and contact details of Safer Leeds officers and Chairs leading the review. The family was also made aware of the learning event on 6th November 2023 however they chose not to be directly involved. The family was kept informed and invited to the learning event in March 2024, with an offer of remotely joining the Panel

discussion or sending any questions or anything they wanted included in writing. There was no response to several invitations and requests about language and interpretation needs. The Chair offered to update the family after the event unless they requested an end to contact and an outline of key learning and recommendations were subsequently sent by email to Harbir after the event, but no comments or amendments were received.

There was no response to the summary of learning points from the events sent in April 2024 or to subsequent updates. As Harbir had not asked us to cease contact, we sent summaries of information with requests for comments to be included.

Before submitting the report to the Home Office, further attempts were made to engage the family and to offer translation online or by telephone. Safer Leeds confirmed they were happy with the efforts made to include a family contribution but felt we should respect their wishes for some form of closure.

In a telephone interview with one of the Independent Chairs, Hanna's brother, Harbir, said family members had known Jag "was violent". Hanna had disclosed this to her friends when she last visited India. Her friends had advised her to tell the police, but she told them she "could handle it". Harbir said his sister shared that Jag could be difficult, but he had no idea he "could do what he did". Jag had warned the family that something bad would happen "but we did not take this message seriously as we should have done, as we never thought even for a moment that he could do this to her". Harbir said her friends knew they were going to separate but no-one expected the relationship to end the way it did.

Harbir said there had been an incident when Hanna was around six months pregnant, when Jag pushed her and said he would "get the baby out of her". Her brother did not know if Hanna disclosed this to any medical professional in the UK, but through contact with agencies we can establish that she did not speak to the police or any health services.

When Jag was married to his older sister there had been concerns that he was controlling. He described both his sisters as "open and independent minded". They wanted to travel and had ideas about things they wanted to do in the future. Once they were married to Jag, they became more reserved and Harbir said this was because of Jag's controlling behaviour. Jag did not want the family to be close to either Hanna or her sister when she was married to him. Jag changed their phone numbers or pretended they had lost their phones so that family could not get in touch with them.

The plan had been for Hanna to live with her family once she was married to Jag but he changed his mind and said they should live as man and wife.

Harbir clearly feels the loss of his sisters and he says he is sad that the family did not intervene to encourage Hanna to “get away from the relationship and to go down the legal route and get help that way.” He does not think that anyone could have intervened with Jag to make a difference, as once he had made up his mind to act, there would have been no changing his mind.

Media reports in India suggest that Hanna’s father witnessed Jag’s controlling behaviour and ‘narrow mindedness’ during the marriage.

4.2 Hanna’s Friends

4.2.1 Isha

An Independent Chair contacted Isha, Hanna’s friend from university, who had been on the same course. In a telephone interview, Isha said she knew Hanna wanted to enjoy her life and talked a lot about her child. She described Hanna as ‘joyful’ and said, “I enjoyed her company and I have nice memories of her”. Isha said she knew that what mattered above all to Hanna was her family, her parents and her children - “she loved them so much”. She said Hanna would send them money and gifts whenever she could. Isha said she knew Hanna and Jag would sometimes argue and that, on one occasion, Hanna told Isha that Jag pushed her. Hanna had then stayed for a few days with Isha but she had been at work so they had not talked in detail about what had happened.

4.2.2 Monisha

Hanna’s friend, Monisha, was interviewed by one of the Chairs. Hanna met Monisha through a Facebook group which Monisha had established after feeling very isolated when she had first arrived in Leeds from India. She said Hanna was a good cook and that she had helped her find some contacts to sell her food. During Covid, they would meet up in the park to socialise as Hanna’s child and Monisha’s daughter were a similar age. Monisha said, “Everything was always good with her, never down”. On one occasion, Hanna told Monisha she would be travelling to India soon and wanted to talk before she went. Monisha was not able to meet at that time and suggested she call round another time. Monisha was upset at the thought that this might have been a missed opportunity - “perhaps if I had been free, I could have talked to her and maybe that might have made a difference, it was my mistake not to be there for her”. Monisha said Hanna never disclosed any cause for concern or fear about her husband or his behaviour - “...she never talked about personal circumstances; we never spoke about her relationship with her husband”. When Monisha heard about Hanna’s death, she called Harbir, who told her Hanna had talked to her best friend in India about the relationship being abusive. Monisha said, “maybe she wanted to talk about these things to

me, the biggest lesson for me is if someone says they need to talk I say, 'Come Now!'. Monisha met Jag once when he came to a gathering in the park. He had sat alone and did not talk to anyone or respond when she spoke to him.

Monisha reported that she talked to Harbir and his father when they came to the UK and that they said they had known what was happening when she came to India and that it had happened when they lived together in India.

Monisha said Hanna did not use social media as Jag disapproved of it. Despite saying Hanna did not share concerns about her marital relationship, Monisha also relayed that Hanna said he was overly possessive without good reason "he would shout and scream abusive language at her and say she was sleeping with people, but all she was doing was selling her food. She didn't do anything wrong. I never had the courage to ask more about it. There was never any sign of what she was going through at home".

Monisha reports that Hanna's child, the youngest child, was only here for a few weeks - "she wanted her eldest child to come here as well but was afraid of the fighting, shouting and screaming. She told her parents she wanted to divorce Jag but was afraid that if he went back to India without her, he might hurt her children". Monisha said, "if she had spoken to me, I would have told her, go to the GP and report what he does, then get them to revoke his visa and send him back, so he is there and you are here with the children". Monisha said she remembers one occasion when Hanna said that Jag had 'laid his hands on her' - "I told her, if you think it will pass, you are blind. Once he raises his hand, he will always do it."

Monisha said there is a lack of knowledge about support services among international students, and they are fearful of police involvement - "that police can help you in this situation is not a concept people might really know or understand". This is explored further in the self reflection from agencies, specifically the learning points from the University Hanna attended (point 8.1.2.4).

Monisha said that Hanna followed the Sikh religion and went to the Gurdwara but also went to the Hindu Temple with Monisha many times. They were both raising children of a similar age and had a connection - "you can describe me as a close friend; I am still connected to the family and always will be". She said Hanna was very discreet and didn't share anything even with friends "what happened at home was private." In order to describe her friend, Monisha said "I wish you had known her, she was so happy, so full of life."

Monisha suggested a brief induction to students at university about support services might be useful to inform them that there is help available.

4.3 Hanna's Neighbour

On the day of Hanna's death, DY (Hanna's neighbour and friend) made a 999 call to the police. DY was traumatised by the incident and reluctant to be a witness. Once he was told he was not needed at a trial, he left the country and the police have had no contact since. The Officer in Charge recommended that, to preserve DY's mental wellbeing, he should not be interviewed as part of the review.

4.4 University

The university was a key source of information. This was one of very few places Hanna had been known to for any length of time. We spoke to the Coordinator at the International Student Office and also to the Lead for Student Wellbeing. This is covered in more detail in Section 8.1.2.4.

4.5 Hanna's Ex-Employer and Colleague

Hanna worked as a Kitchen Assistant in a local restaurant for 20 hours per week for around a year. Her ex-employer, Mo, described her as a good worker and "a really good person, she get on with anyone, always happy and smiling". She had never seemed reluctant to go home, or voiced any concerns about her safety.

Hanna did not share her personal life with the people she worked with and never referred to difficulties in her relationship "only work, came and went home, no social time with friends". Mo knew things did not work out with her husband as Hanna had moved out and got a flat on her own. Mo couldn't identify any friendships with the staff team but said there was one woman who did give her lifts home on occasions before Hanna got her bike.

Hanna had arranged some time off to go to India to collect her child but reported that her husband would not help her with childcare, so she had to take her child back to India. Mo said "her husband didn't like her going out and for him, all women should be under the thumb".

Mo only saw Jag outside the restaurant waiting for Hanna before Hanna bought a bike - "he stayed outside always not coming in". The only time Mo knew anything was wrong was when Hanna said she could not live with him - "only knew it not work out, no problem brought to work, not ask what happen".

Hanna's colleague, Aree, said they did not talk about personal things, but she was very shocked when she heard what had happened. Hanna would join in when there was a party, "she was a good laugh".

Mo and Aree considered whether there was anything that might help women in the same situation as Hanna. They felt it can be hard for an Indian woman to know where to get help if someone is mistreating them and that more information about services would be helpful.

Hanna left the restaurant one week before she died. She had graduated and just received a 2-year visa on the condition that she had full-time employment, so she had found a job in another restaurant nearby.

4.6 Faith Groups

There are over ten thousand people who describe themselves as Sikh in Leeds (Census 2021) and there are five Gurdwara or Sikh Temples. Gurdwara 1 in Leeds 7 is the largest Sikh Holy Place in Leeds with 3-4 other Gurdwara in Leeds 7, Leeds 11 and Leeds 12. All are accessible from the area where Hanna was living but there is no evidence that either she or Jag were regular members of any Gurdwara in Leeds.

- Contact was made via website message with the local Gurdwaras however no response was given.
- Contact was made via email with the Hindu Temple 1 however no response was given.
- Attempts to both were made via telephone but it was not possible to speak to anyone.

Gurdwara 1 supported Hanna's parents when they arrived in the UK following Hanna's death. This Gurdwara provided accommodation and meals for the family during their stay. The Chair interviewed Mr Singh who supports the running of the Gurdwara. Mr Singh identified a gap in provision for people who come from outside the UK in a crisis situation and do not have the knowledge or language to navigate the system. They also relayed that the family were thankful to the police for keeping them updated during the criminal proceedings as well as when they were in India. He said that people in Hanna's circumstances or international students needed information about available help. He said the early weeks of their courses could include information sessions from women's support services.

4.7 People who Knew the Perpetrator

A telephone conversation with a casual friend of Jag in India, Arjun, indicated that Jag had generally presented as a calm and composed businessman. Arjun said he had been shocked to hear about what had happened.

Hanna's friend from university, Isha, described him as particularly traditional in his views. She said he did not like 'modern people' and the way they went out together. She said he knew that Hanna liked to meet people and have fun and that this made him angry.

4.8 Interview with Perpetrator in Prison

The Independent Chairs wrote to Jag via his Prison Offender Manager and Jag accepted the offer of a meeting. Both Chairs visited Jag at HMPP Manchester on 24th October 2023. This section outlines information given to the Chairs by Jag.

Jag began the interview by talking about the difficulties he and Hanna faced when seeking visas and passports. This had some relevance for him as it set the scene for his principal point, which was that he only harmed Hanna because she and her family had denied him access to his children.

Jag described his marriage to Hanna's sister, Japleen, as 'happy and loving'. He married Hanna two years after Japleen's death. He said the reason for this was to help him look after his young child who was only 4.5 months old when Japleen died. He said that Hanna proposed to him and that neither was under pressure to marry. Hanna had lived in Pune with her parents but moved to the Gujarat when she married Jag.

In India, Jag had a mobile phone shop however during Covid lockdown; the business did not go well. Jag said it was a joint decision to come to the UK; they wanted to make a life here to improve opportunities for their children. Jag said he did not initially want to come to the UK without his children, preferring to wait until everyone had the correct documentation and travel as a family, but Hanna had felt it would be a good idea to go together first and get settled and he agreed to this. At this point, the children were aged three and five. They agreed that, as soon as they were settled, the children would come to the UK.

Jag said he was working in a takeaway from 5pm to 3am while Hanna was working and attending university. She made friends with other students who she mixed with socially which they argued about. He said he understood that Hanna wanted to enjoy her life and freedom but expected her to come back before he got home from work at 3am.

He described having no children, no friends, no family and needing support. He said he did not have anyone to talk to other than Hanna "I just talk to her, not sharing with my family or

her family". Jag stated he had never at any time been violent to Hanna in India or when they were in the UK.

Jag hacked Hanna's phone at least three times in the months before her death. He said he felt this was justified and that she was hiding things and telling lies. He said Hanna was drinking alcohol with her friends and that this is when their relationship changed. As tensions escalated in their relationship, he began using alcohol and described an incident where he drank half a bottle of neat alcohol.

Jag had a clear timeline of events and dates relating to the visa and plans for his children to come to the UK. In summary, there was a problem getting a passport for his eldest child as it still had the name of his first wife on it and this caused delays. The original plan had been to bring the two boys together, but they decided to bring the youngest (Child 2) to the UK as he was unsettled and missing Hanna. Child 2 was in the UK for a short time and during this time, the couple separated.

In January 2022, Hanna said she did not want a relationship with Jag any longer but would stay with him for the children. Jag said he was hoping they would get back together. In May 2022, they agreed Jag would take Child 2 back and that the children would live with Hanna's parents however Hanna's father said they should stay in the UK and that Child 1 would be there soon. Jag agreed to stay in UK on the condition that Child 1 would come to the UK with Harbir, Hanna's brother. However, a problem with Child 1's and Harbir's visas caused delays. Hanna's parents then decided that Child 2 should go back to India and Child 1 should also remain there with Hanna's parents.

Jag said he accepted the relationship was over and agreed that the children should live with Hanna's parents in India "If Hanna is not happy with me then we should separate but I will not be separated from my children". He was planning to return to India and live near his children to see them every day. At this point, he had not seen his eldest child for almost a year.

Hanna's father had initially encouraged Jag to stay in the UK to offer a better life to the children. Financially, they had invested a huge amount to come to the UK, over £15,000 in visas and student fees. Jag had folded his business in India so there seemed little point in going back "I would be starting again with nothing". His father-in-law said the best option would be to live separately in two houses and the children could still come to the UK. Jag agreed to stay in the UK on the condition that both children would come as soon as possible.

On 25th July 2022, Jag's father-in-law said he was now not sending Child 1. In the weeks that followed, Hanna took Child 2 to India 'so that he was safe'. It then became clear to Jag

that the children were not going to come to the UK at all and that, if he returned to India, Hanna's parents would prevent him from seeing them. He suggested that he take one child and Hanna have the other. He said this was a decision he could accept "I would go away with the one child and never contact or trouble them again". He said the family lied to him and this was the reason he decided to harm Hanna. He said he had told them clearly that if they prevented him from seeing his children, he would do something bad that they would have to live with for the rest of their lives.

When asked what might have helped him at this time, he said that if his mother-in-law and brother-in-law had not stopped talking to him, things could have been better.

It is unclear when Jag made the decision to physically harm Hanna or if anyone could have influenced or changed his decision. The crime was premeditated over at least a period of days, but Jag did not explore this during our meeting other than making oblique references, "If we had come with the children this thing might not have happened".

It is clear that Jag feels the decision to stop him having access to his children was instrumental in his decision to harm Hanna. He expressed concern that the judge said the reason for the murder was due to jealousy and that he wished to appeal against this comment but not against the length of the sentence.

Section 5: Equality and Diversity

5.1 Gender

Domestic abuse is a form of gender-based violence. It can affect anyone regardless of gender or sex however the available data indicates that domestic abuse is gendered in nature. Women are considerably more likely to experience severe forms of abuse, stalking, harassment, sexual violence, higher levels of fear as well as coercive and controlling behaviours (Myhill, 2017). They are also more likely to experience sustained physical, psychological or emotional violence resulting in injury or even death. Women experience higher rates of repeat victimisation, serious assaults (Walby & Towers, 2017) and are more likely to be killed than male victims of domestic abuse (ONS, 2020). Hanna experienced gender-based violence perpetrated by her husband, Jag.

5.2 Faith and Culture

Hanna was from Pune in India which is near Mumbai. The atmosphere in Pune is more westernised than other parts of India as it is an area where the Bollywood industry is embedded and it is also influenced by the proximity of Goa, where people are largely less

'traditional'. This could explain, to some degree, why Hanna enjoyed socialising, making friends and going out.

Although Hanna's experiences as a Sikh woman were unique to her, it is helpful to consider the relevance of research on Sikh women's experiences of domestic abuse. A report published by Sikh Women's Aid in 2022 entitled *From Her, Kings are Born* (see summary [here](#)), indicates that, of the 839 respondents to a survey conducted on domestic abuse:

- 62% of Sikh Panjabi women and girls reported they had experienced domestic abuse.
- 46% of respondents who experienced domestic abuse had more than one perpetrator.
- 32% experienced sexual abuse with 62% of these reporting that this abuse took place when they were children.
- 70% experienced depression/anxiety.
- 21% experienced suicidal thoughts.

The report recommends:

"Support commissioners to better understand how domestic abuse services should always reflect the demographic profile of the local community. This must include 'by and for' services as appropriate." Sikh Women's Aid (2022)

Whilst 'by and for' services can be hugely valuable in terms of their level of understanding and cultural competency, there are also challenges associated around anonymity for people accessing community-based support and interpreters such as the fear of information being passed to families or social networks.

5.3 Race

Hanna was an Indian woman who had come to the UK to further her studies. She was not familiar with UK systems and appears to have been unaware of which and how services could have helped her. We do not know if she was familiar with domestic abuse terminology or identified herself as a victim of abuse. Hanna decided not to contact the police. Family members suggested this was due to her belief that it could have negatively impacted on her children. This could have related to her children being potentially flagged on systems, attracting unwanted intervention and / or stigmatising her children.

The Sikh Women's Aid research report stated that some Sikh women felt that the police had minimised their experiences and had little understanding of the need to take a trauma informed approach. The report also raised the need to carefully manage Sikh women's expectations of the Crown Prosecution Service; as Sikh Women's Aid were seeing more

negative outcomes than positive ones in the criminal justice system. Sikh Women's Aid's reports that, from their experience of delivering their crisis intervention service, they have observed long delays in getting police statements completed because of delays in getting the correct interpreters and a lack of resources. When evidence is gathered, this often does not meet the threshold for the Crown Prosecution service. Sikh Women's Aid suggests this is due to the lack of awareness, understanding and empathy towards victims. Perpetrators have been found 'not guilty' in court based on lack of evidence, or on some occasion the attitude towards the victim by the judge.

Recommendations in the report relevant to Hanna's death include:

- *“Enable Sikh Punjabi women to develop a better understanding of the criminal justice system and their rights.”*
- *“Ensure the provision of culturally appropriate training and domestic abuse awareness for the police and magistrates.”*

5.4 Honour Based Abuse

The police wanted to press for a tariff of thirty years for Jag, presenting the murder as an honour killing however the judge did not accept that Honour Based Abuse was a feature in Hanna's death.

There is no specific offence of 'honour-based crime' and the term Honour Based Abuse (HBA) is used to encompass various criminal offences that are covered by existing legislation. HBA is recognised by the government as a form of domestic abuse. The Home Office defines domestic abuse as:

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, 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.”

The current police and Crown Prosecution guidance definition of Honour Based Abuse is:

“An incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse) which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and/ or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community's code of behaviour.”

In the year ending March 2022, there were 2,887 HBA-related offences recorded by the police in England and Wales. This was an increase of 6 per cent compared with the year ending March 2021 when there were 2,725 offences. (ONS, 2023)

Violent crimes and controlling and coercive behaviour, including deliberate and pre-planned murder, are often justified by perpetrators who claim that the victim, usually a woman, has brought dishonour or shame on the family.

There is a position that the designation of 'honour' crimes as a distinct form of abuse can negatively impact on particular cultures or religions (Begikhani et al 2015, Siddiqui 2014). Regardless of cultural backgrounds, all individuals possess fundamental human rights, including the right to live free from violence, discrimination and harm. The need for cultural relativism should not overshadow the universality of these rights.

Honour Based Abuse in this review can be clearly identified through a lengthy letter found on Jag at the time of his arrest. His attitudes and values are reflected in the letter which stated he felt his position as a father and husband had not been respected by Hanna or her family.

References included:

"Not at all listening to me, ignoring me and starting to come late in the night."

"Not giving me time, always into friends."

"Wearing as short clothes as she could while going out with her male friends."

"Always speaking abusive and adult language with her friends."

"What should a husband do ... just ignoring and not listening to you totally."

"She found excellent excuse for this (time with friends) as 'Freedom'."

Jag did not like Hanna drinking alcohol. Culturally, women drinking alcohol is largely not permitted and from a religious perspective it is prohibited in Sikh communities.

Honour based abuse appears to be an element of Jag's abuse and motivation to harm Hanna however, despite the police proposing HBA as an aggravating factor in the case, this was not recognised in the judicial processes or in sentencing.

Section 6: Overview

The scoping exercise undertaken prior to this review resulted in six agencies submitting nil returns. These responses involved:

- West Yorkshire Police
- West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service
- Leeds City Council Contact Centre
- University 1

6.1 West Yorkshire Police (WYP)

The police had no record of any reported domestic abuse relating Hanna or Jag. There was a 'dropped' or silent 999 call on 14 April 2021 and a dropped 999 call on 11 May 2021. On both occasions, the caller identified themselves as Hanna and claimed it was an accidental call and apologised. The next contact was when a 999 call was made by Hanna's neighbour in September 2022 to report Jag's attack on her.

6.2 West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (WYICB) (GP Surgery)

Hanna attended her GP surgery with a thumb injury in August 2021. She was not asked about domestic abuse and did not disclose any safeguarding issues.

6.3 Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust (LTHT)

Hanna attended LTHT Emergency Department (ED) for back pain on 19th May 2022. She was admitted to a ward for treatment and when asked if she felt safe at home, denied any domestic abuse or other form of harm. This question formed part of a Nursing Specialist Assessment (NSA) which includes Routine Enquiry about safety at home. The following questions were asked:

Do you feel safe at home? Her answer was "Yes".

Is anyone hurting, controlling or making you feel scared at home? Her answer was "No".

Do you want help? Her answer was "No"

6.4 Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS)

YAS's first and only contact with Hanna and Jag was in September 2021 when Hanna's neighbour called 999 to request emergency services when Hanna was stabbed by Jag.

6.5 University 1

The university Hanna attended had no record of her accessing support services and no record of any disclosure of domestic abuse to academic staff.

Section 7: Analysis

7.1 Hanna

Hanna is described by those who know her as a vibrant, joyful and sociable young woman who was planning to build a future with her husband and children in the UK. She had successfully completed a master's degree at University 1 and clearly had the desire and ability to further develop her life and career going forward.

Hanna enjoyed her friendships and social life however there was disagreement between her and Jag about whether this was appropriate or acceptable. She had disclosed to friends in India that Jag was being abusive but did not share this information with services in Leeds. This could have been due to her being relatively new to the UK and unaware of what help was available or it may have been that she did not feel able or willing to access services. Members of this review's Review Panel felt it was possible that Hanna did not fully understand the police response to domestic abuse in the UK and this may have informed why she was reluctant to report anything to the authorities. Based on some of her comments to friends and family, Hanna appears to have been trying to manage Jag's behaviour. She had taken steps to ensure she could live safely away from him and appears to have sought safety for her children by agreeing to them staying in India with her parents. She told friends that she did not want to create uncertainty for her children's futures.

7.2 Jag

Jag wrote a lengthy letter at some point before he killed Hanna. This was found in his rucksack when he was arrested. The letter gives some insight into his perceptions and thinking in the months preceding the murder. Key themes emerging from this letter and comments he made to the police in his interview appear to reflect the following:

- Jag had a sense of powerlessness in terms of not being able to control Hanna's movements as he wanted.

- Jag blamed Hanna and her family for his actions, both in relation to his behaviour within the relationship and his murder of Hanna.
- Jag appeared to be very isolated. It is not known where he worked and what contact, if any, he had with colleagues. He had no family or known friends in the UK. This is likely to have contributed to his reliance on Hanna to provide him with companionship. It also meant he was not able to share his emotional difficulties with others who may have helped him establish a balanced perspective and develop a healthier and more reasonable response to his circumstances.
- Jag believed he would be unable to see his children once he returned to India.

7.3 Agency Responses

The scoping exercise indicated Hanna and Jag had not disclosed domestic abuse to any services. The scoping responses informed a combined chronology which highlighted some good practice, for example, LTHT implements Routine Enquiry around safety at home which explicitly asks about domestic abuse. The chronology also identifies points of contact with some services where opportunities to intervene could have been missed.

7.3.1 West Yorkshire Police

Neither Hanna nor Jag had communicated with the police about domestic abuse. There had been two silent or 'dropped' calls from Hanna's phone in April and May 2021. These were dealt with in accordance with police protocols and did not appear to relate to domestic abuse. 999 calls are answered by telephone operators from BT who direct the call to the most appropriate emergency service. If suspicious noises are heard, the call will be put through to the police or the caller will be asked to press/dial **55** to route the call to the police Contact Management Centre. This is staffed by skilled operators who are trained in risk assessment and safely seeking information. This response is known as the 'Silent Solution system'.³ Every effort is made to assess the nature of the emergency, but the police will not automatically have details of the location, particularly with mobile phones. The WYP Domestic Abuse Force Policy details responsibilities for call takers where a domestic abuse incident is reported, or previously logged on police systems, including documentation of the rationale for any decisions taken. The police were called out to a 999 call on in September

³ https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Silent_solution_guide.pdf

by Hanna's neighbour and attended within approximately 10 minutes which is within expected timescales.

The Chair spoke to the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Police Community Engagement Officer and Chief Inspector of Partnerships. Both had built positive relationships with the local Sikh community and Gurdwara. The Chair wanted to establish if there was relevant information from a Community Impact Assessment undertaken at the time of Hanna's death and whether Hanna and Jag were known to the local Sikh community. The police reported that there appeared to be no personal knowledge of Hanna, no report of personal impact or take up of support. Following the report of Hanna's murder, the NPT Sergeant began work to improve access to under-reached communities. In August 2023, an event was held in the Buddhist Temple with local partner agencies focusing on reporting mechanisms, local support, prosecution options and issues to consider when leaving an abusive relationship. This was reported to be a successful day.

Whilst there was a high degree of empathy for the family members, there was little identified impact in the community. The police offered a visible presence for people in the Gurdwara and provided signposting to domestic abuse agencies if required. Sikh Women's Aid report that, in their experience, Sikh places of worship may be reluctant to be seen to encourage separation in marriages, and therefore might be unwilling to allow support services to promote their work. WYP will continue to build relationships with the local Sikh community with a view to repeating the signposting and information events.

7.3.2 West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (WYICB)

The WYICB commissions 98 GP surgeries in Leeds. Routine Enquiry is promoted across GP surgeries as good safeguarding practice and as part of the city's Domestic Abuse Strategy and the WYICB (previously the Commissioning Care Group) Safeguarding Team for Leeds have undertaken extensive training to support GP surgeries to conduct Routine Enquiry. However, ultimately, individual surgeries have the autonomy to adopt it or not. Routine Enquiry had not been adopted at the surgery Hanna attended with a thumb injury in August 2021. Had Hanna been asked about domestic abuse, she would have had the opportunity to disclose what was happening and may have been signposted to help. In the United Kingdom, over 90% of the population comes into contact with primary healthcare services within five years. This places primary healthcare professionals in a unique position as they have the most frequent and widest contact with the population of all public services. There is evidence that Routine Enquiry, defined as 'a question routinely asked of all clients by appropriately trained staff', undertaken in a range of healthcare settings, increases disclosure, referrals and take up of specialised support services (Feder et al 2006, Cuthill

2017). NICE guidance (2014) recommends that healthcare services ensure their trained staff ask people about domestic violence and abuse.

Local evidence supports the positive increase in disclosures of domestic violence and abuse when Routine Enquiry is comprehensively implemented by trained professionals.⁴ Professionals report a measurable improvement in knowledge and confidence, an increased ability to recognise signs of domestic violence and abuse and to address the perceived organisational barriers to Routine Enquiry.

7.3.3 Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust (LTHT)

The electronic patient record (EPR) for Hanna's attendance at LTHT Emergency Department (ED) indicates Hanna presented with pain after reportedly bending down to attend to the washing machine. The impression of ED staff was that the pain was likely to be due to a herniated disc, and she was admitted for further assessment and treatment. Whilst on the ward, she was asked when she was alone if she felt safe at home, to which she replied 'yes'. She was also asked if anyone was hurting, controlling or making her feel scared at home and responded with 'no'. She was asked "Do you need any help?" to which she replied no. Routine Enquiry around safety at home is expected standard practice in assessments of all patients admitted onto adult wards. It is not unusual for victims of domestic abuse to not share their experiences with others; however, Routine and Triggered Enquiry at least provide opportunities for disclosure to those who feel ready and able to share their experiences and potentially access help.

Hanna was aware that Jag's behaviour was abusive, but it is not known whether she wanted or felt able to seek help from services. She may not have known which services to contact for help or if they would be responsive to her needs. Her strategy appears to have been to talk to family and friends and to take practical steps to physically separate from Jag by ending the relationship and moving into her own accommodation. At this point, the greatest source of conflict appears to have been over child contact, with Hanna's parents saying to Jag that he would not be able to see the children in India.

Jag reports that this was the key issue for him. He said that he accepted the relationship was over but could not and would not accept that he could not see his children. He had proposed an arrangement which would involve the two children living separately, one with each parent

⁴ Leeds Routine Enquiry (2019) O'Keeffe and Marchant

but Hanna and her family did not agree to this. It appears that Jag felt that Hanna's family controlled where the children lived and who they had contact with and it is unclear as to whether he knew about legal remedies to address child contact disputes in the UK. His feelings of extreme resentment and anger led him to plan an act of revenge on the family, and he gave warnings to them about this. Eventually, he decided to take Hanna's life to punish her and her family. In prison, he appeared to acknowledge what he had done and accepted his prison sentence however he wanted to clarify that he had not been jealous and controlling.

It is clear that neither Hanna nor Jag accessed services unless absolutely necessary. For victims of domestic abuse who have recently moved to the UK and are not familiar with how services work, health services are often one of the few touch points. For this reason, Routine and Triggered Enquiry are important initiatives. Research indicates that victims are more likely to disclose domestic abuse if they are directly asked about it. Evaluation of Routine Enquiry in Leeds has shown increased numbers of patients living with domestic abuse once Routine Enquiry has been introduced. LTHT ED introduced Routine Enquiry for DA in June 2023 in recognition of the potential for identifying those at risk.

Jag was not engaged with any services however, if he were to have sought help for domestic abuse, he would have had little access to help in Leeds. The only available help for perpetrators is Caring Dads which would have required eligibility criteria around involvement of the Children's Social Work Services. A decision has been made recently to end this service as part of the local authority's strategy to manage funding cuts.

Section 8: Practice Issues

8.1 Learning Event 1

8.1.1 Insights from Experts

This review comprised two Learning Events which brought together Review Panel members and 'experts' by profession and experience. Learning Event 1 provided an opportunity for agencies to share their learning self-reflective assessments and to hear from experts working in domestic abuse with specialist knowledge in Culturally Diverse Communities, Sikhism and how domestic abuse might manifest in Sikh communities.

Expert 1 – Sahdaish Pall (BEM), CEO, Sikh Women's Aid.

Sahdaish presented findings from Sikh Women's Aid (SWA) casework and an analysis of themes arising from SWA's survey conducted in 2022. This illuminated a number of domestic abuse related issues affecting Sikh communities and included:

- The progressive and assimilative nature of Sikh communities can mask domestic abuse.
- Bespoke programmes are necessary for Sikh domestic abuse perpetrators.
- Honour Based Abuse (HBA) terminology is not relatable to Sikh communities and descriptions of behaviours are more useful.
- The importance of 'by and for' services.
- Shame and Honour are often integral to domestic abuse.
- Police responses to victims may not be cognisant of indicators of domestic abuse.

Issues Relevant to Hanna and Jag:

Sikh Women's Aid identified a number of explanations given for the murder of Sikh women within a domestic setting. Some of these were present in Hanna's murder and included:

- Wanting a divorce/separation
- Bringing shame on the family
- Telling others about domestic abuse
- Being 'too westernised'

The judge presiding over Jag's trial in the criminal courts rejected the police proposal that Honour Based Abuse was a factor in the case however, when viewed with a deeper understanding of family, cultural and religious expectations in Sikh communities, and considering the points above, it appears that elements of Honour Based Abuse were inherent in Hanna's experience.

Expert 2 – Surinder Rall, Service Lead for Culturally Diverse Minds, Leeds Mind Young People's Services

Surinder presented a summary of practice points relating to promoting good mental wellbeing among young people from culturally diverse backgrounds. Highlights included:

- Sharing personal experiences, empathy and focusing on strengths help clients develop strategies to maintain good mental health.
- Understanding people within the context of their experiences and validating experiences/feelings including the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- Promoting a sense of belonging and purpose among young people.
- Paying attention to reoccurring themes among clients to help tailor service offers and interventions.
- Having knowledge of the area/community including recent traumatic events.

“We often meet young people who have found it difficult to reach out for support. The few times they have felt able to, the experience has not met their expectations.”

Whilst the Culturally Diverse Minds service works primarily with young people from Culturally Diverse Communities, the event allowed participants to consider how learning from this work could be transferred to work with potential domestic abuse victims and perpetrators to help prevent and address domestic abuse. For example, the service encounters parental conflict and is developing a model for family peer support. They also tend to go to gatekeepers of communities to talk to professionals to build trust and confidence among people who have significant influence in communities.

8.1.2 Agencies’ Self-Reflections

The Chairs designed a self-reflection tool to shape the appreciative nature of this review (see Appendix 2). Participating agencies were not restricted to those who had had contact with Hanna or Jag. All those on the Review Panel were invited to complete the tool and assess their agency against a number of areas to identify practice issues and learning. This exercise enabled agency representatives to highlight expected, good and excellent practice as well as gaps, deficits and areas for improvement. The following agencies completed the self-reflective tool:

- Leeds Domestic Violence Service
- Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust (LTHT)
- West Yorkshire Police (WYP)
- Leeds Beckett University
- West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (WYICB)
- Probation Service Yorkshire and the Humber

8.1.2.1 Leeds Domestic Violence Service (LDVS)

LDVS is a service commissioned by Leeds City Council and delivered by 3 partner agencies: Leeds Women’s Aid, Behind Closed Doors and Women’s Health Matters to provide specialist, safe accommodation and community support. LDVS promotes its services through websites, leaflets, posters, social media and collaborative campaigns such as the 16-days of Action and partnership work with third and statutory sector organisations. LDVS’ website uses Google Translate to improve accessibility. In 2022, LDVS supported a diverse range of clients. In Community Services, White Great British (WGB) clients made up 65% of clients with 35% classified as ‘other’ (14% above census data). In Refuge Services, 54% were WGB and 46% were ‘other’ (25% above census data).

Learning: Need to reach out to university, colleges, faith and community groups to increase awareness of domestic abuse in places where international students go.

8.1.2.2 Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust (LTHT)

LTHT provides NHS acute health care services. As a large, statutory organisation, LTHT delivers a comprehensive programme to tackle health inequalities. An Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team works in partnership with a Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Forum to promote services and events through the Trust's communications mechanisms such as websites and social media to reach the BME staff network, BME focus groups, BME allies, BME Champions and Inclusion Ambassadors.

LTHT's Haamla Service, provides specific maternity support for vulnerable, migrant, pregnant women including Asylum Seekers and Refugees. The service has proven to reach the most vulnerable, destitute migrant pregnant women in Leeds through engagement in local antenatal groups or in homes with the provision of independent interpreters.

Strategic responses include a requirement for all reports to the Trust's Board to include an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to highlight any negative impacts to decision makers in order to implement mitigation measures. LTHT has a range of policies and initiatives to employ and promote BME staff, to ensure equality of opportunity and to reflect the city's demographics.

Learning: Consider how to reach under-served client groups, for example, Chinese communities, to increase access to services.

8.1.2.3 West Yorkshire Police (WYP)

WYP recognise there is under-reporting of domestic abuse from BME communities and this is widely corroborated by with research (Interventions Alliance 2021, Siddiqui 2018, Thiara and Gill 2009). WYP have been working to address this through domestic abuse social media campaigns, posters and leaflets as well as promoting the use of the Google Translate function on its website. Other initiatives include local radio campaigns on Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage. In Leeds, WYP work closely with local groups such as Shantona to engage Culturally Diverse Communities. They also launched a 'Cut it out' campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse in local hairdressers to facilitate signposting victims to help. A female Strategic Engagement Officer also attends mosques to speak about domestic abuse and laws in this country.

The Expert Panel discussed the two ‘dropped’ or silent/discontinued 999 calls from Hanna’s phone to identify whether this was relevant to the review. The WYP representative spoke to the Senior Leadership Team and BT to establish if there was any data on accidental ‘dropped’ calls occurring during the period that Hanna’s dropped calls to give context, but only national figures were available.

Learning 1: Consider using the Safer Schools Officers model to provide a universal offer to students, including international students, offering safeguarding advice and signposting to relevant agencies. Need to ensure that police posters and media campaigns are visible around the university and distributed through university communications networks.

Learning 2: Consider how UK Police communications strategies can convey how they respond to domestic abuse when children are involved.

8.1.2.4. University 1

University 1 promotes support services to students via its website, student facing platforms, newsletters, social media, posters, leaflets, display screens, emails, text messages, workshops, teaching staff, merchandise and events. The university has a designated Student Wellbeing Team providing counselling and mental health services and facilitate access to specialist mentors and external services.

For international students, there are specific events and opportunities to socialise and seek information. There is a Global Village Buddy system offering an allocated person who can provide friendship support. There are two Indian Associations however the university has no record of Hanna accessing these.

The university recognises that Asian and Black students are under-reached groups for Student Services. This is a growing challenge as the university is admitting an increasing number of students from India. International students are an under-reached group generally with 6.5% of the home student population accessing the Student Wellbeing Service but only 2.5% of the international student population accessing the service (see Table 1). The university is currently facilitating focus groups with black and global majority female students to inform further support needs, such as services hosting a regular surgery on campus.

Table 1: Ethnic demographics of University 1

University student population in 2022/23	Students accessing Student Wellbeing Services in 2022/23
61% white	76% white

21% Asian	11% Asian
7% Black	4% Black
2% other minority ethnic	1% other minority ethnic

The University has a Support, Report, Respect – support service for those experiencing harassment, bullying, violence and/or sexual violence. Students can opt to disclose anonymously online to access support. A team of Advisers and Counsellors who have received extensive training, including sexual violence training, deliver support and advice.

The university currently promotes Leeds Domestic Violence Service and Karma Nirvana (a specialist charity for victims of domestic abuse and survivors of Honour Based Abuse) and there are plans to include a wider range of support. Each year, the university supports the '16 Days of Activism against Gender based Violence'. A forthcoming memorial event will provide another networking opportunity and Leeds Women's Aid will be at the Student Services conference.

Learning 1: The need to change communications for the Support, Report, Respect support service to make explicit that the service is for those who experience domestic violence and provide drop-in disclosure sessions.

Learning 2: Increase staff knowledge of services, resources and cultural awareness through a conference focussing on sexual harassment, violence and domestic abuse and explore options for reinstating domestic abuse clinics on campus and access MARAC training including the DASH risk assessment.

8.1.2.5 West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (WYICB)

The WYICB is responsible for commissioning GP services and delivers a range of initiatives to promote screening programmes to Culturally Diverse Communities. For example, screening letters with QR codes are used to support language translation and interpretation.

A citywide Interpretation and Translation service is commissioned for surgeries including face to face and telephone interpreting, online/video interpreting, written translation and BSL services.

Learning 1: Need to work with partners to ensure messages about GP registration and the differences between A&E, walk-in clinics and GP care.

Learning 2: Not all GP practices in Leeds implement Routine Enquiry. Uniquely, primary healthcare professionals have the most frequent contact with the population of all public services. Routine Enquiry in GP surgeries may be the only confidential space where victims experiencing domestic abuse can access help. This review recommends that Routine and Triggered Enquiry should continue to be promoted, and new initiatives supported in all GP surgeries.

8.1.2.6 Probation Service Yorkshire and the Humber

Neither Hanna nor Jag was known to the Probation Service however the service conducted the self-reflective tool to identify general practice issues and learning. Research repeatedly shows that Black and Minority Ethnic people are over-represented in the criminal justice system (Lammy review 2017, MOJ 2016). The Probation Service uses interpreting services to ensure people whose first language is not English can fully engage in one-to-one sessions.

Learning 1: The Probation Service works with people who are mandated to engage with them by the courts rather than voluntarily. Agencies and individuals can access Respect⁵ without a court order. Respect is a UK charity developing safe effective work with perpetrators, male victims and young people using violence in their close relationships. The Respect standard offers accreditation and a quality assurance framework for providers (Mapping the Benefits, Durham University 2022). The learning event reinforced the value of quality assurance in work with perpetrators of domestic abuse, recognising that any intervention has the potential to increase harm to survivors if not conducted safely.

Learning 2: The Probation Service works with involuntary clients who are mandated to engage with them either as part of a Court Order or as part of a Prison Licence or Post Sentence Supervision period. In this sense, promoting the service to Culturally Diverse Communities is more complex and focuses on recruiting staff who are representative of communities in Leeds in addition to ensuring that Probation Practitioners are culturally competent and consider the needs across the diverse communities of people on probation.

Learning 3: Discussions at the learning event highlighted the experience of Probation Services of perpetrators of violence who plead guilty but are often justifying their actions and excusing their behaviour.

⁵ www.respect.org.uk

Learning 4: There is a lack of available intervention for perpetrators who want to change.

8.1.2.7 Summary of Practice Issues Identified from Reflective Assessments

- Good practice themes focused on communication, partnership and engagement. Although all participating agencies identified good practice, each also specified the need to build on this to improve its reach into Culturally Diverse Communities. The need to work with grass roots organisations and groups to achieve this was a common thread.
- All agencies evidenced good recruitment and promotion practices to improve representation of Culturally Diverse Communities among their workforces.
- There is a wide range of interpreting and translation options available to promote services although written material is not always appropriate when service users are not literate in their spoken language.
- Two agencies specifically highlighted a gap in meeting the needs of people in the Chinese community. At Learning Event 2 it was acknowledged that the Chinese student population is particularly significant in Leeds.
- The university provided a thorough analysis in their self-reflection and will be undertaking a comprehensive practice review as a result of the learning event.
- The police identified national issues with recording ethnicity whereas locally, LDVS has excellent systems and collate comprehensive data.
- Suggestions to improve practice did not include increased finance or resources but rather by working 'smarter'.

8.1.2.8 Summary of Practice Issues Identified through Interviews

West Yorkshire Police Sikh Association (WYPSA)

The WYPSA is part of a national network established in November 2021 to support Sikh police staff and Sikh communities. It offers peer support, mentoring and assistance to police forces to develop culturally competent practice. It also acts as a link between the police service and the local Sikh community.

The DHR Chair interviewed Parminder Lall, a representative from WYPSA and a trained Family Liaison Officer. Parminder gave her perspective on how officers involved in the criminal investigation could have worked with WYPSA to engage the Sikh community more effectively. Sikh police officers can support investigations by advising investigative officers on cultural and religious expectations, offering links into the Sikh community, identifying contacts for the family and providing language support. This approach may have helped strengthen the evidence of honour based abuse and could have contributed to building confidence and trust between the police and the Sikh community.

West Yorkshire Police (WYP) Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and Local Community Engagement

Community engagement is part of the WYP Neighbourhood Policing Model which is central to current police policy and is outlined in the following Community Engagement Policy Statement in 2021:

“By working closely with our communities and the voluntary sector, faith organisations and partners we can ensure a holistic approach to providing long-term and tailored solutions to crime, anti-social behaviour and individual and community health, well-being and resilience.”

In the days following Hanna’s death, Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs) contacted Gurdwara 1 to offer reassurance and information. The PCSOs were a visible presence for people to approach and were briefed with signposting information to domestic abuse agencies.

The Chair visited the area where both Hanna and Jag were residents. The locality where Hanna lived consists of predominately shared accommodation and student lets with a transient population. As part of this review, the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) were asked if there was any relevant information from the Community Impact assessment undertaken after Hanna’s murder and if any contact had been made with the local Sikh Community. The recommended approach for the wider community had been:

“A generally reassuring communications strategy should be instigated. Local partners and Councilors have been informed. Liaise with community partners in the area regarding the incident.” (Community Impact Assessment September 2022).

The police in West Yorkshire have developed various ways to engage with local communities. Members of the public can act as ‘critical friends’ to influence police interactions and policies through Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs) and Scrutiny Panels in each policing district. A Key Individual Network or KIN is a network of people representing

identified groups or communities whose purpose is to promote the safety and wellbeing of the group they represent.

Section 9: Lessons Learned

The following learning points are informed by individual agency learning, insights from experts, research, evidence-based practice and feedback from family and friends:

- Feedback from some of Hanna's family members, friends and colleagues indicates that Hanna talked to some of them about the abuse. When interviewed by the Chair; family, friends and colleagues all indicated that they had been supportive in response to Hanna's disclosures however, there appears to have been a reluctance to probe and ask her more about the situation. This is understandable as people tend to not want to interfere or pry, but there may be some learning around the social acceptability of checking out whether someone is safe in their home/relationship. Public campaigns tend to focus on promoting services and it would be beneficial to consider how to run effective public campaigns to encourage safe community responses to domestic abuse.
- There is a need to promote services to victims of domestic abuse from less visible groups and isolated groups such as migrant communities and international students who may not be familiar with the UK legal system and services. One effective way of achieving this is through large organisations working in partnership with local groups and 'gatekeepers' to promote trust and credibility among communities. Consistent, key messages using accessible terminology are needed to increase understanding of domestic abuse and available help. All agencies identified this issue early in the review and began to integrate this learning into their Communications Strategies to increase their reach into Culturally Diverse Communities.
- A report from Nicole Jacobs, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner (Safety Before Status, July 2023) revealed that all police forces in England and Wales share migrant victims' data with Immigration Enforcement. This practice potentially stops victims of abuse from reporting to the police or other statutory services out of fear they will be treated as an offender themselves. Amendments to extend the MVDAC⁶ to introduce a firewall between the police, statutory services and immigration enforcement and to prevent

⁶ The Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Concession (MVDAC), previously Destitution Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC), enables certain people to gain access to public funds

sharing migrant victims' data were not accepted by the Government (Domestic Abuse Act 2021).

The Review Panel concluded that sharing data means that there is nowhere that victims could safely report to police without fear of immigration action. The government has a stated commitment to tackling violence against women and girls, and migrant women should be able to rely on the police and other statutory services for help when they seek safety. All victims and survivors of abuse deserve equal access to protection and support and public services have a duty to ensure all women are protected and no perpetrator can evade justice by weaponising immigration status as a way to silence their victims.

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner (November 2023)⁷ is calling on the government to establish a data sharing firewall, preventing the police and public services like health and social care from sharing victims' data with the Home Office. The Commissioner says the change should be introduced as an amendment to the Victims and Prisoners Bill.

The learning from this review and Review Panel discussion highlighted the misapprehension for many service providers that people reporting abuse could do so without fear of their immigration status taking priority over the duty of protection. This was mirrored by Hanna's friends, who asked us to promote and encourage reporting of abuse to the police. The review identified a gap in sourcing a city-wide position statement and response to the directive from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner.

- The negative assumptions relating to Social Care responses to children and reporting domestic abuse may deter some victims from seeking help. Hanna told friends she did not contact the police as she was worried about the impact on her children's futures. City-wide, consistent messaging about how safeguarding children processes work within a domestic abuse context would provide more clarity and reduce misinformation and misunderstanding.
- Students and migrant workers from abroad do not appear to access support services for pastoral or practical help. This could be as a result of mistrust, stigma, language barriers or a lack of accessible information about what help is available or a combination of any of these issues. International students and migrant workers may also fear their visas being revoked and some may rely on an abusive partner for financial support. Separating from them could cause the victim financial insecurity or destitution. It could also lead to

⁷ <https://domesticabusecommissioner.uk/migrant-survivors/>

victims working more hours than permitted and being in breach of their visa terms. More collaboration between higher education providers, the police, specialist domestic abuse services and organisations working with Culturally Diverse Communities could help reduce stigma and provide a more nuanced and joined up offer.

- Routine enquiry in GP settings has been promoted and gradually rolled out across Primary Care in Leeds since 2015; however, some practices choose not to implement this. Routine enquiry in GP surgeries may be the only confidential space that victims experiencing controlling behaviour can access and seek help. Research into routine enquiry has proven helpful in enabling victims to feel more able to disclose. Therefore, work continues to support GP surgeries to initiate and/or continue with this practice. A programme of 'Train the Trainer' was introduced in 2023 to ensure that all practices across the city have at least one member of staff who is trained in Routine Enquiry; this can therefore roll out across their practice with support from the ICB Safeguarding Team. In addition to the Train the Trainer Programme the ICB GP Safeguarding Template Policy and the Best Practice Guidance was amended in 2023 to include information and guidance for practitioners using Routine and Triggered Enquiry in practice.
- The combination of racism, cultural norms, community expectations and 'toxic masculinity' can cause some men from Culturally Diverse Communities to experience poor mental well-being and isolation. There are few opportunities for men from Culturally Diverse Communities to disclose their distress or seek help. In the absence of talking therapies or restorative support, this can potentially lead to domestic abuse going unseen, unchallenged or unaddressed, increasing risk for victims. There are examples of effective work to address this in Leeds such as the Caring Dads work with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic fathers. However, Caring Dads is specifically for men whose children are being monitored by a Social Worker and there are no other services in Leeds for perpetrators of domestic abuse. From April 2024, Caring Dads will be closed down due to financial cuts in the local authority.
- Triggered Enquiry in ED settings can provide opportunities for victims to disclose in a confidential space when staff observes indicators of domestic abuse. LTHT ED implemented Routine Enquiry for domestic abuse in June 2023 alongside Triggered Enquiry and ED staff has received bespoke training on domestic abuse. Domestic abuse training forms part of mandatory Level 3 training and there is also induction training for new ED staff on domestic abuse and enhanced training for Safeguarding Champions.

- It is widely recognised that agencies with ethnically diverse workforces bring value to service offers and promote better equity of opportunity (Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development – CIPD). Inclusion is about how well that diverse workforce feels its contribution, presence and perspective is being valued. As CIPD states, each person, no matter their background, identity or circumstance, should feel able to thrive and perform to their full potential although this point is not directly informed by the evidence in the review, it had been included to reflect the learning event discussions about good practice in ensuring that workforces represent the local communities they serve.
- Honour Based Abuse may be overlooked by criminal justice agencies such as the Judiciary. Training might impact positively by offering a more in-depth understanding of the signs and impact of Honour Based Abuse. An input or discussion with Judges and Magistrates using specialist providers to increase knowledge of how to interpret written case notes could be highly valuable.

9.1. Conclusions

Hanna and Jag came from India to the UK to start a new life for themselves and their children. Hanna's university course allowed her to make new friends and socialise with more freedoms than she may have had in India. Jag struggled with Hanna's independence and autonomy and tensions escalated resulting in his emotional and physical abuse of Hanna. It is impossible to know the true extent of this abuse although Hanna disclosed to friends in the UK and in India that Jag was abusive. She also shared her concerns about Jag's behaviour with her family in India and it appears that the safety of the two children was discussed and influenced family decisions about where the children should live. When it became clear to Jag that the relationship was over and that Hanna's family were planning to restrict or stop his access to the children, Jag made the decision to 'punish' the family. In a letter found on him on the day he killed Hanna, he expressed his feelings and relayed how he warned the family that he was going to 'do something bad' if he could not see his children.

This review has established that none of the agencies scoped knew about domestic abuse however, six agencies participated in a self-reflection exercise using a bespoke template to explore how effective they were in reaching Culturally Diverse Communities. This highlighted good practice as well as gaps in provision and helped identify useful learning. Interviews and information from a range of other sources also contributed to the review to give as full a picture as possible of Hanna's experiences and some of the issues facing international students and migrant workers living with domestic abuse.

Analyses of agency responses, practice issues and lessons learned have informed the following suite of recommendations.

Section 10: Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Service Offers to Migrant Communities

The police, specialist domestic abuse services and organisations working with Culturally Diverse Communities should develop collaborative work with higher education providers to help reduce stigma and provide nuanced and joined up service offers to migrant communities such as international students. As part of this, services involved in this review should identify any under-represented communities in their provision for example, the Chinese community. Steps should then be taken to promote the service to those communities and address any barriers to access.

Recommendation 2: Routine Enquiry for Domestic Abuse

The WYICB should continue to promote and support Routine Enquiry for domestic abuse in GP surgeries. All services involved in the review should consider implementing/continue to deliver Routine and Triggered Enquiry in confidential spaces. Triggered enquiry relies on staff identifying indicators of domestic abuse and then asking questions whereas Routine Enquiry does not rely on this and gives all service users the opportunity to disclose.

Staff needs to be trained and confident in asking the question and how to refer or signpost victims to help.

Recommendation 3: Clarity around Safeguarding Children

All services in this review should promote their provision using consistent, key messages and accessible terminology. This should include clarity around what actions might be taken around safeguarding children when domestic abuse is reported. It should also encourage open dialogue to reduce stigma for those affected, whether as victims or perpetrators.

Recommendation 4: Culturally Diverse Men and Mental Health

Mental health service providers should pilot culturally competent ways of working with men from culturally diverse communities to explore concepts of masculinity, mental well-being, healthy relationships, parenting, and relevance of religious texts with cultural references to domestic abuse.

Recommendation 5: Diversity across the Workforce

All services in this review should work towards/maintain ethnically diverse workforces to bring value to service offers, promote better equity of opportunity among staff and better representation of the communities they serve.

Section 11: Identified Gaps and Issues

1. Collaboration between large Organisations and Community Groups

More collaborative work is needed across services to improve access to help for victims of domestic abuse from less visible and isolated communities such as migrant workers and international students. This could involve large organisations working in partnership with grass roots groups and 'community gatekeepers' to promote trust, credibility, referral pathways and joint working. It could also involve working with commissioners to influence how services are configured and delivered.

2. Training for the Judiciary on Honour Based Abuse

Judges and magistrates need an in-depth understanding of Honour Based Abuse to ensure the signs and impact are fully considered in criminal justice proceedings. The Judicial Training College could benefit from working with specialist providers to ensure Honour Based Abuse and domestic abuse training is informed by experts with professional and lived experience.

3. Services to Perpetrators

Currently, there are no specialist services in Leeds for domestic abuse perpetrators who are not on a court mandated programme. Caring Dads has just been closed down due to insufficient funds within the local authority. This means anyone seeking help to address their abusive behaviour and reduce their risk to others has no options available to them. Any

services delivering work with perpetrators should include an integrated support service for victims to ensure effective risk management to work effectively with victims' services. Commissioning services to perpetrators should not take away the required resources needed for victims' services.

4. 'Safety Before Status'

Service providers and domestic abuse services in Leeds should consider the findings outlined in the report from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner 'Safety Before Status' (July 2023). The report highlights the inability for many women to safely report domestic abuse without fear of immigration enforcement. The Commissioner calls for a data sharing firewall, preventing police and public services such as Health and Social Care from sharing victims' data with the Home Office. A position statement which highlights the commitment of all services in Leeds to safeguard the data of vulnerable individuals, including migrant victims of abuse, would provide assurance to victims that there is a safe pathway to report domestic abuse, and this should be supported by a routine referral from the police to domestic abuse services.

Action Plan Attached as Excel

An action plan has been developed by Safer Leeds to support the delivery of the recommendations in this report. The action plan provides the outcome focus and the measureable timescales required by the Home Office and focuses on scope, lead agency, key milestones, target dates and outcome.

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Appendix 2: Combined Chronology

Combined Chronology – Summary of Key Events from Sept 2019 to Sept 2022

Relevant information is included prior to the review period: anonymised names and initials are used.

	DATE	AGENCY	EVENT
Hanna	March 2021		H came to UK to University 1 on a student visa to complete her Masters in Business Studies, graduating in July 2022.
Jag	April 2021	Letter ⁸	J came to UK on a spouse visa
H	15 th April 2021	WYP	Dropped/silent 999 call, caller identifies as H and says she had called the number accidentally
H	11 th May	WYP	Dropped/silent 999 call, caller identifies as H and says it was an accident
J	15 th May 2021	WYP	A silent discontinued 999 call was received by police from a phone number subsequently used by J to contact the police. Police called the number back but the line was engaged, no record was held of the calling number. The log was closed on the basis that no noise had been heard and there was nothing to indicate that a disturbance was occurring or that any one was at risk.
J	1 st week of July	Letter	"All was good before coming to UK", J wrote, "all started going wrong from 1 st week in July when she made friends with new group of friends with 5 boys and 1 girl.
J	July 2021	Letter	J admits he hacked her mobile phone for the first time
J	August 2021	GP	H attended her GP with pain in her thumb, diagnosis of tenosynovitis, prescribed pain relief and a thumb splint.

⁸ A lengthy letter was found on J at the time of his arrest which describes in detail his state of mind and perception of events.

			<i>Can be caused by repetitive overuse, gripping thumb, lifting a young child, or being hit directly on thumb or wrist.</i>
J	1 st November	Letter	J hacked her mobile phone for the second time
H	3 rd November 2021	Letter	H went to India as she was concerned and disturbed by his behaviour, it appears she found out about the phone hacking, and she wanted to see her children and family.
J	November 2021	Letter	After November J started drinking alcohol. He states he had not drunk alcohol in India or before in the UK, J wrote "after November everything changed"
J	December	Letter	From December J said he was in an inconsistent job and lost money (as a result of his drinking?) "Which affected earnings and savings".
J	December	Letter	J hacked her phone for the third time, he wrote, "things got even worse". "I never ever checked her mobile and in UK also I checked and hacked her mobile when I found that something is going wrong, something suspicious. It is not an immense crime to check spouse phone and I never did with (first wife) or with H in India and only did when required in UK."
H	December 2021		H told J the relationship is now over
H&J	January 2022		The couple moved house, J was against this move due to the cost and felt they had come to the UK to save money. He states "she wanted a private house so she could party with friends at night" which he says she could not do in shared accommodation.
J	Jan-Feb 2022	Letter	During this time there appears to be continual tension in the relationship, "she decided not to speak to me much", and she avoided being in the house at the same time as J.
J	Mid-March 2022	Letter	J states he was trying to reconcile from January, and he continued drinking. J says he begged for reconciliation; he wanted his family back. He suggested they bring their younger child to the UK, (Child 2 age 4) as their older child's passport wasn't ready (Child 1 age 8). H didn't agree and reiterated the relationship was over.
J	March	Letter	H told J she was going to live with her friends, he tried

	2022		to stop her leaving "I holded her tightly ... but somehow she left". He claims he never had any intentions to beat her and only held her to stop her leaving, "never slapped her, no intention to beat her, not here never ever in India too". She stayed at her friend's house for 5 days and returned.
J	End of March	Letter	J went to India to collect Child 2, returning to the UK 7 th April 2022.
J	9 th April	Letter	J spoke to H about reconciliation again, "everything can get better if we both want" but H didn't agree and told him "Never ever in a lifetime this can be done right".
J	1 st week of May	Letter	J states that H decided she would send Child 2 back to India and Child 1 would not be coming to the UK.
H	19 th May 2022	LTHT	H attended the Emergency Dept. at 13.13 with sudden back pain which she said had started when filling the washing machine; she was admitted overnight and treated with pain relief, and had a scan taken. Discharged 20 th May.
J	May 2022	Letter	J says he decided to return to India and get a job and rent a flat near his children. "She's not happy with me and now I have to leave her" (in the UK). Family members told him to stay in the UK, and it was decided they would find separate homes.
J	June	Letter	Child 1 gets passport and visa and was going to come in July."H and family decided not to bring Child 1 in UK" H says it is because she is starting a fulltime job in August 2022. J wrote he believes it is because she wants her freedom and has become so selfish she doesn't want the responsibility and wants to go out every night with her friends. "She was already tied cos I had a 5 days night job and she couldn't do this every night from the time Child 2 came".
J	17 th June 2022	WYP	A silent discontinued 999 call was received by police who called the number back and spoke with the person who gave details of J and confirmed no assistance was needed.
J	June 2022	8-9 weeks before her death	It is significant that J states in his letter he appears to have come to a decision that he will take revenge on H; "I decided to send Child 2 back with H so I could take revenge of this cheating & insult but who would

J		Letter	have took care of my little child here. So I sent him back with H to India to keep him safe. This cheating & insult was hitting me like hell. The anger was uncontrollable”.
H Age 32	Date of death	YAS	999 call made by West Yorkshire Police at 18.40. H was found on her living room floor. CPR was undertaken by police at the scene and H was taken to Hospital 1 arriving at 19.17.

Agencies who reported contact during the period under review (5.9.19 to 5.9.2022) – positive responses were received from the following five agencies:

- LTHT – Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- WYP – West Yorkshire Police
- LCC – Leeds City Council: Customer Services – Contact Centre
- YAS – Yorkshire Ambulance Service
- Leeds ICB – Leeds Integrated Care Board: Safeguarding Team on behalf of Primary Care (GP – General Practitioner). Both parents H and J and Child 2 were registered with a local GP.

Appendix 3: Self-Reflection Template

DHRZ Template – How Accessible is your Service to Black and Minority Ethnic Communities in Leeds?

Self-Reflection

This self-assessment relates to a Domestic Homicide Review (DHRZ). The review was established by Safer Leeds in September 2023. The victim was a 32-year-old Indian Sikh woman. She was killed in September 2022 by her husband a few months after they separated. The DHR is taking an Appreciative Enquiry approach which will focus on what can be done to make things better in the future. On this basis, the self-assessment template has been designed to help you consider how you are currently working to ensure your services are accessible to Black and Minority Ethnic Communities in Leeds. All relevant partners involved in the review will be asked to talk about any key issues and learning points at a learning event. The aim of this event is to foster sharing to enable agencies to exchange analyses and ideas, discuss gaps in provision and identify potential improvements.

Data from the 2021 Census below outlines how communities in Leeds identify their ethnic group. This has been provided to give you background information and context.

Ethnic Groups in Leeds (Census, 2021)

5.6% - Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African category, up from 3.4% in 2011. This was the largest increase among high-level ethnic groups in this area.

79.0% - White category (compared with 85.1% in 2011),

9.7% - Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh

3.4% - Mixed or multiple ethnic groups

2.3% - Other ethnic groups

Service Name	Type of Service Offered	Geographical Area Covered	Comments/Other Relevant Information
Self-Assessment Questions		Responses	
1. In what ways do you promote your service? (E.g. website, leaflets, posters, social media, TV/radio media campaigns)			
2. Have you ever produced or offered to produce information about your services in different languages? If so, did this prove to be successful, or have you found more effective ways to reach people whose first language is not English?			
3. Do you target any specific communities in your service marketing/promotion?			
4. How effectively do you think your services are in reaching Black and minority ethnic clients?			
5. Does your equality monitoring data reflect which communities are accessing your services? (E.g. do your clients represent the racial and ethnic demographic make-up of the communities set out above using data from the 2021 Census?)			
6. Are you a community group or organisation specifically serving Black or minority ethnic groups? If so, could you explain which communities you serve and whether there is more you would do if you had more resources?			

7. Can you identify any gaps in terms of which communities are accessing your services?	
8. Can you share any improvements you are making or planning to make as a result of this assessment and / or learning you have already identified from your involvement in this review?	
9. Do your recruitment processes include any elements that relate to attracting staff to ensure the diverse communities of Leeds are represented in your staffing structure? If so, please explain.	
10. Do you have any areas of good practice you would like to share?	
11. The victim in DHRZ had come to the UK as and international student. She was living in a transient community, potentially with limited understanding of how to access UK services or information about what domestic abuse support was available. Do you have any thoughts on how services can ensure they are reaching people living in these or similar circumstances?	

Safer Leeds – Community Safety Partnership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Appreciative Enquiry (DHR Z) o

“Hanna”

Independent Co-Chair and Authors: Michelle De Souza and Kathy Shaw

Date of Completion: June 2024

V4 DHRZ Final July 2024

Safer Leeds and the Appreciative Enquiry Review Panel would like to acknowledge the enormous impact on the family and friends of “Hanna”, and the difficulties of professional involvement at a time of personal grief and loss. Their contributions have ensured that her voice is heard throughout the report, and helped enormously in our understanding of the events leading up to her death.

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Review Process

This summary outlines the process undertaken by Safer Leeds in reviewing the homicide of an Indian Sikh woman (32) who was killed by her husband (37) in Leeds in September 2022. This Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Report was commissioned by Safer Leeds (Leeds Community Safety Partnership) on receiving notification of the death of “Hanna” an international student who was living in Leeds at the time of her death.

Safer Leeds commissioned Michelle De Souza and Kathy Shaw as joint Independent Chairs and Report Authors to undertake the review in July 2023. It has been conducted in accordance with the Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews December 2016 but using the methodology of an Appreciative Enquiry.

To protect the identity of the victim and family members, pseudonyms have been used. The victim’s pseudonym ‘Hanna’ was suggested by the victim’s brother. Other names were agreed by the Review Panel and are similar in meaning to names in the area of India in which the victim’s family’s live. Hanna had two children, and apart from a brief visit to the UK both children remained in India with their maternal grandparents.

Person	Name used in the DHR to Protect Identity

Subject of review	Hanna
Brother of the victim	Harbir
Hanna's sister (deceased)	Japleen
Hanna's friend from Facebook group	Monisha
Hanna's friend from university	Isha
Hanna's employer	Mo
Hanna's colleague	Aree
Perpetrator	Jag
Jag's friend from India	Arjun

Qualitative data was collected and analysed which included face to face interviews and telephone interviews with all family and friends identified above, interviews with West Yorkshire Police and consultation with experts to gain an in depth understanding of the potential cultural and religious expectations for Hanna or Jag.

In addition to the interviews the Appreciate Enquiry included analysis of scoping information: the development and analysis of a Combined Chronology to highlight significant information; a desk top review of media reports in India; the development of a self-reflective tool for participating agencies; two learning events exploring Hanna's experiences of domestic abuse and identifying barriers to accessing services or gaps in provision.

Safer Leeds conducted a scoping exercise to ascertain the nature and extent of agency involvement with Hanna and Jag prior to Hanna's death in September 2022. All agencies that potentially could have had contact were contacted; this indicated that there had been minimal contact with services. Guidance from the Home Office and AAFDA suggest that, in these circumstances, there is still the potential for learning for agencies and that Community Safety Partnerships should consider 'circumstances of particular concern' whereby the victim had little or no known contact with agencies.

In light of this, a decision was taken by the Chair of Safer Leeds that a DHR should be conducted using an Appreciative Enquiry model. The panel reviewed how accessible community-based support and services may have been to Hanna. The appreciative nature of the review focused on strengths rather than deficits to create an open and positive learning environment.

Jag entered a Guilty plea on 8th November 2022 at Leeds Crown Court. He was sentenced on 9th January 2023 and received a custodial sentence of 23 years 4 months (he had already served some time in custody and therefore this was deducted from a tariff of 25 years).

2. Contributors to the Review

1. Agencies Completing a Self-Reflective Assessment

- Leeds Domestic Violence Service
- Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust (LTHT)
- West Yorkshire Police (WYP)
- Leeds Beckett University
- West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- Probation Service Yorkshire and the Humber

These agencies also participated in two learning events to analyse findings from the self-reflection exercise, share good practice and identify emerging learning. Consultants also attended the learning events to share their expertise on the subject of Sikh communities and domestic abuse.

The scoping exercise identified the following key agencies having no record of any contact with either Hanna or Jag.

- West Yorkshire Police
- West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service
- Leeds City Council Contact Centre
- University 1 – other than course attendance. H did not access any student wellbeing or safeguarding support.

2. Review Panel Members

- Nik Peasgood – CEO, Leeds Women’s Aid representing Leeds Domestic Violence Services
- Gill Marchant - Head of Safeguarding, West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- Chief Inspector Lucy Leadbeater - Partnerships, West Yorkshire Police
- David Hines - Deputy Head, West Yorkshire Probation Service¹

- Louise Barnes – Named Nurse and Deputy Head of Safeguarding, Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust
- Sahdaish Pall - CEO, Sikh Women's Aid
- Surinder Rall - Service Lead for Culturally Diverse Minds, Leeds Mind
- Jo Jones – Associate Director of Student Services, University 1
- Sunita Jhamat – Programme Manager, Safer Leeds (Review Lead)
- Julie Peyton – Programme Officer, Safer Leeds (Review Lead)
- Kathy Shaw - Independent Chair and Report Author
- Michelle De Souza - Independent Chair and Report Author

Other interviews contributing to this review

- Kat Garner - Global Engagement Coordinator, International Student Office International student representative: University 1
- Parminder Lall - West Yorkshire Police Sikh Association (WYPSA)
- Neighbourhood Police teams
- Local Gurdwara

The review did not involve Independent Management Reports (IMRs) however the independence of members of the Review Panel and those completing self-reflective assessments was established through Safer Leeds. Agencies participating in the review were asked by Safer Leeds to ensure representatives attending learning events were sufficiently removed from any provision or line management of services to the victim and perpetrator. The intention was to facilitate meaningful, unbiased, constructive learning discussions.

The Co-Chairs facilitated two learning events in November 2023 and March 2024; members also reviewed and commented on each version of the draft report.

3. Independent Co Chair and Authors

Michelle De Souza has worked for 30 years in roles in public services, third sectors and NHS. She has worked as a Mental Health Nurse in clinical and community settings. She also worked for 24 years on domestic abuse initiatives and, as Manager of the Safer Leeds Domestic Violence and Safeguarding Team, she was responsible for establishing and conducting DHRs in Leeds. She managed a multi-disciplinary team, delivering operational work, commissioning services and driving best practice. For the past three years Michelle has been working as an Independent Consultant and as a senior manager for a mental health charity. She has no involvement with or influence over any of the services involved in this review.

Kathy Shaw has been working as an Independent Safeguarding Consultant since 2012. She is currently employed in a social justice project for the Justice and Peace Commission and is also a Magistrate in Leeds. She has 28 years of project and strategic management experience working at Victim Support, Leeds Women's Aid and Sure Start; including ten years at the NSPCC as a Children's Services Manager. As Manager of Leeds Women's Aid, Kathy was responsible for refuges, outreach, children's services and aftercare. She has no involvement with or influence over any of the services involved in this review.

4. Terms of Reference

The following Terms of Reference were approved by the Review Panel:

- Assess if the victim, perpetrator or children were known to services and if so, were there any concerns or indicators?
- Consider how accessible support services were for the victim.
- Explore if family, friends and colleagues were aware of any abuse.
- Identify any barriers experienced by the victim or family, friends and colleagues in reporting the abuse.

- Acknowledge any missed opportunities for practitioners to identify and respond to domestic abuse.
- Highlight any service improvements or systems changes needed.
- Consider any equality and diversity issues.
- Acknowledge and share good practice.

2. Chronology and Background

A combined chronology outlining significant events can be found in the full report. The narrative below lays out relevant events in the years leading up to Hanna's death.

Hanna and Jag married in India in January 2015. Jag had originally been married to Hanna's elder sister, Japleen, in India. Sadly, Japleen had died in 2013 aged 25. The cause of Japleen's death was attributed to a heart attack. It was reported in the Indian press that Hanna's parents did not raise any concerns to the police in India about her sister's death but following Hanna's death, her father wished for Japleen's death to be investigated. The police in the UK established that Japleen had died in hospital and that her death certificate stated she had died of 'natural causes'. The marriage between Hanna and Jag had been encouraged by Hanna's parents in order to provide a family environment for Jag's son (Hanna's nephew). Hanna and Jag were married in January 2015 and had a son in February 2018.

Hanna received her visa and travelled to the UK to start her Business Studies course at University 1 in March 2021 with Jag following one month later. They shared a house with another couple within the first few weeks of arriving; Jag began working nights in a takeaway.

Over the next few months, Hanna began to make new friends at university; she was working part time and enjoyed socialising. According to Hanna's family, colleagues and friends, Jag appears to have been a more solitary person and did not like or approve of Hanna's social life. Jag refers to this and his distrust of Hanna in a letter he wrote which was found on him when he was arrested in September 2022. The couple had had numerous arguments which appear to have escalated to verbal and physical abuse from Jag to Hanna over a sustained period of months.

In November 2021, Hanna visited their two children in India and reported to family and friends that Jag had hacked her phone and that she was disturbed by his behaviour.

Jag reported that he started drinking alcohol in November 2021 and that the relationship was very tense during the following months. In December 2021, Hanna told Jag that the relationship was over and in March 2022, Hanna moved to live with some friends. At this point, there was an incident of physical abuse when Jag tried to stop Hanna from leaving.

In March 2022, Hanna visited India and brought Child 2 to the UK in April 2022. Between March and June 2022, communication between Hanna, Jag and her parents focused on whether Child 1 should travel to the UK. This resulted in a decision by Hanna's parents (possibly with Hanna's consent) that Child 2 should return to India in June and that both children would then remain in India. In May 2022, Hanna moved into her own flat and lived alone. In June 2022, Jag appears to commit to harming Hanna and states in his letter that he had come to a decision to take revenge on Hanna; "I decided to send Child 2 back with Hanna so I could take revenge of this cheating & insult but who would have took care of my little child here. So I sent him back with H to India to keep him safe." The couple had been together for 7 years when Jag fatally stabbed Hanna on her doorstep.

Throughout the 18-month period that Hanna and Jag lived in Leeds, there were no known reports or disclosures of domestic abuse to agencies and other than routine contacts with health services there was no identified professional involvement.

3. Key Issues

1. View from Family, Friends and Colleagues

Hanna's brother and parents live in Pune, India. Harbir, had been the contact person for Hanna's family during the criminal investigation. He acted as interpreter for his parents, although English is his second language, and was in touch with the police until the end of the criminal proceedings.

The family chose not to be directly involved in the review and did not wish to comment on the draft report or recommendations. Harbir did share that family members had known Jag "was violent". Hanna had disclosed this to her friends when she last visited India. Her friends had advised her to tell the police, but she told them she "could handle it". Media reports in India suggest that Hanna's father witnessed Jag's controlling behaviour and 'narrow mindedness' during the marriage. Harbir clearly feels the loss of both his sisters and he says he is sad that the family did not intervene to encourage Hanna to "get away from the relationship and to go down the legal route and get help that way." He does not think that anyone could have intervened with Jag to make a difference, as "once he had made up his mind to act; there would have been no changing his mind".

Interviews with two friends from Leeds identified that they knew that Hanna and Jag would sometimes argue and one occasion that Jag had pushed her. They both said that Hanna was very discreet and didn't share anything even with friends "what happened at home was private" and "I never had the courage to ask more about it". They suggested a brief induction to students at university about support services might be useful to inform them that there is help available.

Work colleagues and her employer similarly said that Hanna did not share her personal life with the people she worked with and never referred to difficulties in her relationship "only work, came and went home, no social time with friends". She had never seemed reluctant to go home, or voiced any concerns about her safety. They felt it can be hard for an Indian woman to know where to get help if someone is mistreating them and that there needs to be more information about services would be helpful.

3. An interview with the Perpetrator in Prison

Jag described his isolation when he came to the UK, having no children, no friends or other family members and needing support. He said he did not have anyone to talk to other than Hanna "I just talk to her, not sharing with my family or her family". Jag denied being violent at any time to Hanna in India or when they were in the UK, prior to her murder.

Jag described his marriage to Hanna's sister, Japleen, as 'happy and loving'. He married Hanna two years after Japleen's death. He said the reason for this was to help him look after his young child who was 5 months old when Japleen died. He said that Hanna proposed to him and that neither was under pressure to marry. Hanna had lived in Pune with her parents but moved to the Gujarat when she married Jag.

Jag hacked Hanna's phone at least three times in the months before her death. He said he felt this was justified and that she was hiding things and telling lies. His own description of events leading to the homicide would show him as reasonable, accepting the separation from Hanna if it made her happy, but adamant he would not be separated from his children.

The crime was premeditated over at least a period of days but Jag did not explore this during our meeting other than making oblique references, "If we had come (to the UK) with the children this thing might not have happened". It is clear that Jag feels the decision to stop him having access to his children was instrumental in his decision to harm Hanna. He expressed concern that the Judge said the reason for the murder was due to jealousy and that he wished to appeal against this comment, but not against the length of the sentence.

4. Insights from Expert Consultants

Expert 1 – Sahdaish Pall (BEM), CEO, Sikh Women's Aid.

Sahdaish presented findings from Sikh Women's Aid (SWA) casework and an analysis of themes arising from SWA's survey conducted in 2022. This illuminated a number of domestic abuse related issues affecting Sikh communities and included:

- The progressive and assimilative nature of Sikh communities can mask domestic abuse.
- Bespoke programmes are necessary for Sikh domestic abuse perpetrators.
- Honour Based Abuse (HBA) terminology is not relatable to Sikh communities and clear descriptions of behaviours are more useful.
- The importance of 'by and for' services.

- Shame and Honour are often integral to domestic abuse.
- Police responses to victims may not be cognisant of indicators of domestic abuse.

Issues Relevant to Hanna and Jag:

Sikh Women's Aid identified a number of explanations given for the murder of Sikh women within a domestic setting. Some of these were present in Hanna's murder and included:

- Wanting a divorce/separation
- Bringing shame on the family
- Telling others about domestic abuse
- Being 'too westernised'

The judge presiding over Jag's trial in the criminal courts rejected the police proposal that Honour Based Abuse was a factor in the case however, when viewed with a deeper understanding of family, cultural and religious expectations in Sikh communities, and considering the points above, it appears that elements of Honour Based Abuse were inherent in Hanna's experience.

Expert 2 – Surinder Rall, Service Lead for Culturally Diverse Minds, Leeds Mind Young People's Services

Surinder presented a summary of practice points relating to promoting good mental wellbeing among young people from culturally diverse backgrounds. Highlights included:

- Sharing personal experiences, empathy and focusing on strengths help clients develop strategies to maintain good mental health.
- Understanding people within the context of their experiences and validating experiences/feelings including the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences.

- Promoting a sense of belonging and purpose among young people.
- Paying attention to reoccurring themes among clients to help tailor service offers and interventions.
- Having knowledge of the area/community including recent traumatic events.

“We often meet young people who have found it difficult to reach out for support. The few times they have felt able to, the experience has not met their expectations.”

The event allowed participants to consider how learning from this work could be transferred to work with potential domestic abuse victims and perpetrators to help prevent and address domestic abuse. For example, the service encounters parental conflict and is developing a model for family peer support. They also tend to go to gatekeepers of communities to talk to professionals to build trust and confidence among people who have significant influence in communities.

Contact with Gurdwara in Leeds

Gurdwara 1 supported Hanna’s parents when they arrived in the UK following Hanna’s death, providing accommodation and meals for the family during their stay. The Chair interviewed Mr. Singh who supports the running of the Gurdwara. Mr. Singh identified a gap in provision for people who come from outside the UK in a crisis situation and do not have the knowledge or language to navigate the system. He suggested that for international students the early weeks of their courses could include information sessions from women’s support services.

4. Equality and Diversity

4.1 Faith and Culture

Hanna was from Pune in India which is near Mumbai. The atmosphere in Pune is more westernised than other parts of India as it is an area where the Bollywood industry is embedded and it is also influenced by the proximity of Goa, where people are largely less 'traditional'. This could explain, to some degree, why Hanna enjoyed socialising, making friends and going out.

Hanna came to the UK to further her studies; she was not familiar with UK systems and appears to have been unaware of which and how services could have helped her. We do not know if she was familiar with domestic abuse terminology or identified herself as a victim of abuse. Family members suggest that Hanna would not have contacted the police due to her belief that it could have negatively impacted on her children. This could have related to her children being potentially flagged on systems, attracting unwanted intervention and / or stigmatising her children.

There are over ten thousand people who describe themselves as Sikh in Leeds (Census 2021) and there are five Gurdwara or Sikh Temples. Gurdwara 1 in Leeds 7 is the largest Sikh Holy Place in Leeds with 3-4 other Gurdwara in Leeds 7, Leeds 11 and Leeds 12. All are accessible from the area where Hanna was living but there is no evidence that either she or Jag were regular members of any Gurdwara in Leeds.

Although Hanna's experiences as a Sikh woman were unique to her, it is helpful to consider the relevance of research on Sikh women's experiences of domestic abuse. A report published by Sikh Women's Aid in 2022 entitled "From Her, Kings are Born"¹² indicates that of the 839 respondents to a survey conducted on domestic abuse.

- 62% of Sikh Panjabi women and girls reported they had experienced domestic abuse.
- 46% of respondents who experienced domestic abuse had more than one perpetrator.
- 32% experienced sexual abuse with 62% of these reporting that this abuse took place when they were children.
- 70% experienced depression/anxiety.
- 21% experienced suicidal thoughts.

Recommendations in the report relevant to Hanna's death include:

- *“Enable Sikh Punjabi women to develop a better understanding of the criminal justice system and their rights.”*
- *“Ensure the provision of culturally appropriate training and domestic abuse awareness for the police and magistrates.”*

2. So called “Honour” Based Abuse

There is no specific offence of ‘honour-based crime’ and the term Honour Based Abuse (HBA) is used to encompass various criminal domestic abuse offences that are covered by existing legislation. Violent crimes and controlling and coercive behaviour, including deliberate and pre-planned murder, are often justified by perpetrators who claim that the victim, usually a woman, has brought dishonour or shame on the family.

“Honour”- Based Abuse in this review can be clearly identified through a lengthy letter found on Jag at the time of his arrest. His attitudes and values are reflected in the letter which stated he felt his position as a father and husband had not been respected by Hanna or her family.

References included:

“Always speaking abusive and adult language with her friends.”

“What should a husband do ... just ignoring and not listening to you totally.”

Honour based abuse appears to be an element of Jag’s abuse and motivation to harm Hanna however, despite the police proposing HBA as an aggravating factor in the case, this was not recognised in the judicial processes or in sentencing.

5. Identified gaps and issues

5.1 Collaboration between large Organisations and Community Groups

More collaborative work is needed across services to improve access to help for victims of domestic abuse from less visible and isolated communities such as migrant workers and international students.

2. Training for the Judiciary on Honour Based Abuse

Judges and magistrates need an in-depth understanding of Honour Based Abuse to ensure the signs and impact are fully considered in criminal justice proceedings.

3. Services to Perpetrators

Currently, there are no specialist services for domestic abuse perpetrators in Leeds, other than court mandated programmes. This means anyone seeking help to address their abusive behaviour and reduce their risk to others has no options available to them outside of the judicial system.

4. “Safety Before Status”

Service providers and domestic abuse services in Leeds need to respond to the findings outlined in the report from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner “Safety Before Status” (July 2023). The report highlights the inability for many women to safely report domestic abuse without fear of immigration enforcement.

6. Summary of practice issues from agencies

- Good practice themes focused on communication, partnership and engagement. Although all participating agencies identified good practice, each also specified the need to build on this to improve its reach into Culturally Diverse Communities. The need to work with grass roots organisations and groups to achieve this was a common thread.
- All agencies evidenced good recruitment and promotion practices to improve representation of Culturally Diverse Communities among their workforces.
- There is a wide range of interpreting and translation options available to promote services although written material is not always appropriate when service users are not literate in their spoken language.

- Two agencies specifically highlighted a gap in meeting the needs of people in the Chinese community. At Learning Event 2 it was acknowledged that the Chinese student population is particularly significant in Leeds.
- The University provided a thorough analysis in their self-reflection and will be undertaking a comprehensive practice review as a result of the learning event.
- The police identified national issues with recording ethnicity whereas locally, LDVS has excellent systems and collate comprehensive data.
- Suggestions to improve practice did not include increased finance or resources but rather by working 'smarter'.

7. Conclusions and Lessons to be learned

Hanna and Jag came from India to the UK to start a new life for themselves and their children. Hanna's university course allowed her to make new friends and socialise with more freedoms than she may have had in India. Jag struggled with Hanna's independence and autonomy and tensions escalated resulting in his emotional and physical abuse of Hanna. It is impossible to know the true extent of this abuse although Hanna disclosed to friends in the UK and in India that Jag was abusive. She also shared her concerns about Jag's behaviour with her family in India and it appears that the safety of the two children was discussed and influenced family decisions about where the children should live. This review has established that Hanna had not contacted any agency to disclose domestic abuse.

The self reflection and learning events highlighted good practice in agencies as well as gaps in provision. Interviews and information from a range of other sources also contributed to the review to give as full a picture as possible of Hanna's experiences and some of the issues facing international students and migrant workers living with domestic abuse.

The following learning points are informed by individual agency learning, insights from experts, research, evidence-based practice and feedback from family and friends:

- Feedback from some of Hanna's family members, friends and colleagues indicates that Hanna talked to some of them about the abuse. Although supportive to these disclosures, they also expressed a reluctance to ask more about her situation. Public campaigns tend to focus on promoting services and it would be beneficial to consider how to run effective public campaigns to encourage safe community responses to domestic abuse.
- There is a need to promote services to victims of domestic abuse from less visible groups and isolated groups such as migrant communities and international students who may not be familiar with the UK legal system and services. Consistent, key messages using accessible terminology are needed to increase understanding of domestic abuse and available help.
- [A report from Nicole Jacobs, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner](#) (Safety Before Status, July 2023) revealed that all police forces in England and Wales share migrant victims' data with Immigration Enforcement. This practice potentially stops victims of abuse from reporting to the police or other statutory services out of fear they will be treated as an offender themselves. The Expert Panel concluded that sharing data means that there is nowhere that victims could safely report to police without fear of immigration action. The review identified a gap in a sourcing a city-wide position statement and response to the directive from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner.
- The negative assumptions relating to Social Care responses to children and reporting domestic abuse may deter some victims from seeking help. Hanna told friends she did not contact the police as she was worried about the impact on her children's futures. Agencies involved in the review should ensure there is more clarity about how safeguarding children processes work within a domestic abuse context, to reduce misinformation and misunderstanding.
- Many students and migrant workers from abroad do not appear to access support services for pastoral or practical help. This could be as a result of mistrust, stigma, language barriers or a lack of accessible information about what help is available or a combination of any of these issues. International students and migrant workers may also fear their visas being revoked and some may rely on an abusive partner for financial support. More collaboration between higher education providers, the police, specialist domestic abuse services and organisations working with Culturally Diverse Communities could help reduce stigma and provide a more nuanced and joined up offer.

- Routine enquiry in GP settings has been promoted and gradually rolled out across Primary Care in Leeds since 2015; however some GP practices have not implemented this. Triggered Enquiry in ED settings can provide opportunities for victims to disclose in a confidential space when staff observes indicators of domestic abuse. Research into Routine and Triggered Enquiry has indicated that its victims are more likely to disclose if they are asked a direct question about domestic abuse. Therefore work continues to support GP surgeries and other health services to implement and/or continue with this practice.
- The combination of racism, cultural norms, community expectations and ‘toxic masculinity’ can cause some men from Culturally Diverse Communities to experience poor mental well-being and isolation. There are few opportunities for men from Culturally Diverse Communities to disclose their distress or seek help. There are no services in Leeds for perpetrators of domestic abuse other than court mandated programmes.
- It is widely recognised that agencies with ethnically diverse workforces bring value to service offers and promote better equity of opportunity. Although this point is not directly informed by the evidence in the review, it had been included to reflect the learning event discussions about good practice in ensuring that workforces represent the local communities they serve.
- “Honour”- Based Abuse may be overlooked by criminal justice agencies such as the Judiciary. Training might impact positively by offering a more in-depth understanding of the signs and impact of Honour Based Abuse. An input or discussion with Judges and Magistrates using specialist providers to increase knowledge of how to interpret written case notes could be highly valuable.

8. Recommendations from the review and learning events

Recommendation 1: Service Offers to Migrant Communities

The police, specialist domestic abuse services and organisations working with Culturally Diverse Communities should develop collaborative work with higher education providers to help reduce stigma and provide nuanced and joined up service offers to migrant communities, such as international students. As part of this, services involved in this review should identify any under-represented communities in their provision for

example, the Chinese community. Steps should then be taken to promote the service to those communities and address any barriers to access.

Recommendation 2: Routine Enquiry for Domestic Abuse

The WYICB should continue to promote and support Routine Enquiry for domestic abuse in GP surgeries. All services involved in the review should consider implementing/continue to deliver Routine and Triggered Enquiry in confidential spaces. Triggered enquiry relies on staff identifying indicators of domestic abuse and then asking questions whereas Routine Enquiry does not rely on this and gives all service users the opportunity to disclose. Staff needs to be trained and confident in asking the question and how to refer or signpost victims to help.

Recommendation 3: Clarity around Safeguarding Children

All services in this review should promote their provision using consistent, key messages and accessible terminology. This should include clarity around what actions might be taken around safeguarding children when domestic abuse is reported. It should also encourage open dialogue to reduce stigma for those affected, whether as victims or perpetrators.

Recommendation 4: Culturally Diverse Men and Mental Health

Mental health service providers should pilot culturally competent ways of working with men from culturally diverse communities to explore concepts of masculinity, mental well-being, healthy relationships, parenting, and relevance of religious texts with cultural references to domestic abuse.

Recommendation 5: Diversity across the Workforce

All services in this review should work towards/maintain ethnically diverse workforces to bring value to service offers, promote better equity of opportunity among staff and better representation of the communities they serve.

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Hanna) for Leeds Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 26th March 2025. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel commended the strong analysis presented throughout the report and the membership of the panel, which included a wide range of experts. The QA Panel also felt that Hanna's voice was captured throughout the report due to the engagement carried out with her family and friends. Despite the lack of interaction with agencies that is highlighted in the report, the Panel noted that considerable effort has been made to secure information from all possible sources to ensure the analysis is as robust as possible. They also praised the use of learning events to share knowledge across agencies. As a result, the learnings that have been identified in the report are helpful and appropriate.

The QA Panel felt that there are some aspects of the report which may benefit from further revision, but the Home Office is content that on completion of these changes, the DHR may be published.

Areas for final development:

- The report does not follow the Home Office DHR template and should be structured around the statutory guidance format. As currently drafted, the panel found the report difficult to follow at points and some sections of information are missing. For example, there is currently no dissemination section and the timescale dates, number of times the panel met and completion dates are missing.
- The name of the CSP should be titled in full.
- The DHR Overview front page is titled DHR Z. This is somewhat depersonalising. The guidance requires the victim's pseudonym and month and year of death on the title page.

- There are anonymity issues in the report that need to be addressed before it can be published. The anonymity of the children has been compromised by the inclusion of their sex. The report also includes reference to the exact date that Hanna was fatally stabbed and her address. These references need to be removed.
- The report does not currently include any information on whether the family were provided with translators or how they were supported throughout the process.
- The Panel flagged that throughout the report some statements need further explorations to be better understood and to help provide learnings and recommendations. For example, Monisha states that international students are fearful of the police but there is no follow up analysis of why this is the case and what could be done to limit this.
- On page 12, there is a statement that Jag pushed Hanna while she was pregnant and had stated he wanted to 'get the baby out of her'. Further information on whether Hanna was injured and if she sought medical/health support would be useful here.
- The Panel noted that the recommendations made in the report need to be outcome focused and follow a SMART format.
- There are some gaps in the action plan and it currently lacks clear dates. In addition, the action plan does not currently match with the recommendations that are being made in the report. This needs to be updated. Once completed the Home Office would be grateful if you could provide us with a digital copy of the revised final version of the report with all finalised attachments and appendices and the weblink to the site where the report will be published.