



## **Response to 'Tony' Domestic Homicide Review from the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership.**

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership has today (23 July 2024) published a Domestic Homicide Review which was commissioned after the death of Tony (pseudonym).

Tony was killed by his stepson (pseudonym Paul) in June 2017, who was later convicted of Tony's murder in 2018. Tony was described as a kind man who enjoyed seeing friends and visiting the pub. I would like to thank Tony's family and friends for supporting this review and I extend my thoughts and sympathies to them.

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership commissioned Deborah Jeremiah as independent chair of this Domestic Homicide Review. This review examined the responses of all the relevant agencies that had contact with Tony and Paul and considered whether there were gaps in services or wider learning about domestic abuse.

Domestic Homicide Reviews do not seek to apportion blame but consider what happened and what could have been done differently. They also recommend actions to improve responses to domestic abuse situations in the future.

The review process began after criminal proceedings were complete in 2018 and took longer than the independent review chair would have liked due to delays during the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges getting information from agencies.

The review has raised learning points around how the police and probation risk assess when a persistent offender is released on licence considering the spectrum of their offences and the nature of these. The review also raised issues around how agencies work with perpetrators who repeatedly show abusive behaviours toward partners, though the review panel acknowledged that in this case the victim was not an intimate partner.

The report put forward six recommendations for the Partnership and I am pleased that action has since been taken to put all of these recommendations into practice. This has included:

- Avon and Somerset Police's information sharing practices have become more comprehensive and include considering the whole offense history to better understand behaviours and assess the level of risk.
- Training records are now in place for Probation Service staff to ensure they have completed training around risk and risk assessments.
- The Probation Service has produced a step-by-step guide and has carried out briefing sessions for how to use the new national standardised process for issuing letters to those who breach licence conditions on the recall threshold.
- The Probation Service has carried out a guidance review and case audits to ensure that address checks are completed as per guidance, particularly in cases with a known history of domestic violence.

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- The Probation Service has issued staff guidance to ensure that the police domestic abuse history checks are much more specific in relation to the information being sought.
- Avon and Somerset Police has established good information sharing practices with the Probation Service including frequent communication and risk and migration meetings to ensure that impact offender management cases are well managed.

More detail about the recommendations can be found in the action plan included in the Overview Report.

If you are being subjected to or have been impacted by domestic abuse, Next Link Plus service offers specialist support for adults and children of all genders and from all communities. Call 0800 4700 280, text 07407 895620, email [enquiries@nextlinkhousing.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@nextlinkhousing.co.uk) or online chat via the [Next Link website](#).

**Domestic abuse is defined as:**

Behaviour by a person is “domestic abuse” if: (a) Persons involved are aged sixteen or over and are personally connected to each other, and

*Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following:*

- physical or sexual abuse;
- violent or threatening behaviour;
- controlling or coercive behaviour;
- economic abuse
- psychological, emotional or other abuse;

It does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.<sup>1</sup>

[Surviving Economic Abuse](#) has lots of information and support signposting that can help you if you are experiencing economic abuse or supporting someone else who is.

Also, you may want to contact the independent charity Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA). AAFDA provide specialist and expert advocacy and specialist peer support to families and friends bereaved by domestic homicide, domestic abuse related suicides and unexplained deaths. You can contact AAFDA online or by calling 07768 386922.



**Sally Rowe**

**Independent Chair  
Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership**

<sup>1</sup> [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

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