



Response to 'Nevaeh' Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) from the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership (KBSP) has today (14 March 2024) published a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) which was commissioned following the tragic death of Nevaeh (pseudonym) in April 2019.

I would like to extend my sympathy to Nevaeh's family and thank them for their contribution to this review. They have shared their thoughts and tributes in memory of Nevaeh attached to the report.

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership agreed to commission Mark Power, an independent author, to lead on this review. The review aimed to use the experiences of Nevaeh to identify learning and to continually improve the way agencies support people who are at risk of and experiencing domestic abuse.

DHRs 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 Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership fully accepts the findings of the DHR and we have been working with our members and agencies across the city to continue to embed the recommendations identified.

The review found three key thematic areas that may have improved the way services were delivered to Nevaeh and which provide the opportunity to improve the way services are provided in the future:

- Multi-agency planning and information sharing
- Housing providers and domestic abuse procedures
- Police response to the reports of domestic abuse

These key areas of learning have been fully considered by the partnership and an action plan was developed to outline how the five recommendations were going to be acted upon. This is included in the appendix of the report.

Since the review was carried out, action has already taken place to implement all of the recommendations put forward.

- NextLink has developed multi-agency working arrangements to better coordinate the provision of services to victims with complex needs who are being supported by a number of agencies regardless of the level of identified risk. A process map for all Next Link staff has been updated to map out the need for wider agency meetings on cases and support the proactive identification of partners.

Postal address	Sally Rowe	Website
Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership (City Hall), Bristol City Council PO Box 3399, Bristol BS1 9NE	Independent Chair	www.bristolsafeguarding.org

- Bristol City Council Housing and Landlord Services have reviewed their domestic abuse policy for supporting victims and have developed a proactive identification of domestic abuse victims and perpetrator toolkit.
- An Independent Domestic Violence Advisor from the commissioned specialist domestic abuse service (NextLink) is now co-located within Bristol City Council's housing service.
- Avon and Somerset Police's Incident Assessment Unit conducts audits to ensure that the quality of investigation and quality of the service provided to victims of domestic abuse are responded to in a victim-focused way.
- Avon and Somerset Police have put measures in place to ensure that student police officers are provided with the knowledge and awareness to identify people who require an Achieving Best Evidence Interview and more specialist officers are trained to conduct Achieving Best Evidence interviews. Specialist investigative staff have been provided with refresher and further enhanced training.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken part in this review process. I am satisfied that we have responded to the recommendations put forward in the DHR and that the changes we have implemented as a partnership will reduce the risk of such tragic events happening in the future.

If you are experiencing or have been impacted by domestic abuse, Next Link Plus service offers specialist support for women, men and children and young people from all communities. Call 0117 925 0680, text 07407 895620, email enquiries@nextlinkhousing.co.uk or online chat via the [Next Link website](#).

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

Postal address	Sally Rowe	Website
Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership (City Hall), Bristol City Council PO Box 3399, Bristol BS1 9NE	Independent Chair	www.bristolsafeguarding.org