DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW (DHR)

LEARNING BRIEF - TONY

Domestic Homicide Review

The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) defines a Domestic Homicide Review as a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse, or neglect. This multi-agency process seeks to identify lessons to be learnt from the death and prevent harm from happening in similar circumstances in the future.

More information on the DHR process can be found on the **KBSP website**.

Background Information

Tony (pseudonym) was in his 60s when he was murdered at home by his stepson, Paul (pseudonym) in June 2017. Tony had limited involvement with agencies other than his GP where his longstanding neurological condition was being managed. Paul was in his 30s and had an extensive history of offending. At the time of the murder, Paul had just been released on license from Prison.

Key themes: financial abuse, disability, physical abuse, inter-familial harm, and non-intimate partner abuse.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: *After arrest and start of investigations, the whole offence history is to be considered as far as possible to better understand behaviors and level of risk and where appropriate this information should be shared with other agencies.*

Information sharing practices have become more comprehensive since this review. An assurance activity was commissioned to ensure that whole offense history is considered to better understand behaviors and assess levels of risk.

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Recommendation 2: *Probation risk assessments should include all current and historic information relevant to risk. This may include convicted and un-convicted matters.*

All staff have undergone mandatory training which covered Risk Assessments to include the Risk of Serious Harm summary and Risk Management Plans. This is being continually assessed as part of the Assessment Quality Assurance.

Recommendation 3: *Probation services should ensure that enforcement decisions are clearly recorded on case management systems and risk assessed. In particular, if a decision is made not to recall following a breach, the rational should be clearly recorded.*

A step-by-step guide has been developed and briefing sessions have been carried out for how to use the new national standardised process for issuing letters to those who breach license conditions on the recall threshold.

Recommendation 4: *Probation should ensure that address checks are completed as per guidance particularly in cases with a known history of domestic violence.*

The Probation Service have carried out a guidance review and case audits to ensure address check requirements are being met.

Recommendation 5: *Domestic abuse history checks should be done by probation on all cases where there is knowledge of previous domestic abuse to ensure that the individual being released on license is not going to be accommodated by a person potentially or actually vulnerable.*

Guidance has been given to staff to ensure that police domestic abuse history checks are specific in relation to the information being sought, as well as in a particular time frames.

Recommendation 6: *In Impact Offender Management cases, police Offender Managers ensure that all recorded information related to the individual being processed is passed to the probation Offender Manager to inform risk assessments.*

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.

Support

Domestic Abuse

The Next Link Plus service offers specialist domestic abuse support for women, men and children and young people from all communities (including LGBTQ+ and black and minority ethnic).

Call 0800 4700 280, text 07407 895620, email enquiries@nextlinkhousing.co.uk or online chat via the Next Link website.

Immediate Danger

Call 999 if a crime is happening now or you're in immediate danger.

If you can't speak, and the operator can't tell what service you need, they'll transfer you to the Silent Solution system. This runs a 20 second automated message, and that will ask you to press 55, to be put through to the police.

Economic Abuse

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.

Where to find us:

KBSP@bristol.gov.uk

@KBSPartnership

www.bristolsafeguarding.org