



'James' Domestic Homicide Review – 7 Minute Briefing

1	<p>Introduction</p> <p>James was a 56 year old male who was fatally stabbed by his wife. Alcohol misuse and mental illness were identified as factors in the relationship however these were not causal to the domestic violence and abuse which resulted in the homicide.</p> <p>James wife was convicted of manslaughter due to loss of control.</p>
2	<p>Cross-Government Definition of Domestic Violence and Abuse (2013)</p> <p><i>“any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional</i></p> <p><i>Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.</i></p> <p><i>Coercive behaviour is: a continuing act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.”</i></p>
3	<p>Gender Bias</p> <p>James' wife injured him with a knife previously. A key finding from the Review was that the response to James as a male victim was different because of his gender.</p> <p>All victims should be treated equally regardless of gender or other protected characteristic within the provisions of the Equality Act 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation
4	<p>Male Victims</p> <p>Professionals should be aware of the recognised barriers which prevent male victims coming forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men can be socialised not to express their emotions or see themselves as victims - Embarrassment if in a heterosexual relationship - Fear of homophobia / discrimination in a same sex relationship - Concerns regarding not being believed - Pride <p>Professionals should be aware of specialist services for male victims of domestic violence and abuse and their referral pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.mensadviseline.org.uk www.galop.org.uk https://www.survivorsmanchester.org.uk http://www.gmvictims.org.uk/Search/Results?term=male+victims
5	<p>Information Gathering</p> <p>The information gathered for the MARAC meeting contained a number of important misconceptions that were not cross referenced to establish facts.</p> <p>All victims should be treated individually according to their circumstances.</p> <p>Professional should ensure there are no pre-conceived ideas which drive the response and/or support which is provided to victims.</p> <p>Professionals should be aware of the potential for manipulation of services and should fact check information provided by individuals.</p>
6	<p>Learning from the Review</p> <p>Professionals should exercise professional curiosity when dealing with victims.</p> <p>Professionals should feel confident to challenge decision making.</p> <p>Professionals should be competent in the knowledge and execution of the escalation policy.</p>
7	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>Cascade this briefing to partnership colleagues through multi-agency forums and team meetings.</p> <p>Promote the LSCB training offer, which contains specific elements relating to male victim, to all partners across the Borough</p> <p>Ensure there is specific reference and consideration for male victims in the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy and Action Plan</p>