

DOMESTIC ABUSE NEWSLETTER

Spring edition



DOMESTIC ABUSE



HEALTHY TEENAGE RELATIONSHIP - Safer Somerset Partnership launched a county wide campaign in December during the 16 days of action period to raise awareness on spotting the signs of unhealthy relationships amongst teenagers. There were two aspects of the campaign; while the first half focused on signs that teenagers should look out for in a relationship, the second one was for parents to spot signs of how their abusive relationship could have an

effect on their teenager. To promote this, a second video was created and advertised on Youtube and Facebook targeting adults between the age group 30 –55 years. The video has received 31,374 views on Youtube and 49,538 on Facebook.. Click [here](#) to watch the video.

DHR LEARNING

Please take a look at these 4 recently published reports/briefings to understand more about the experiences of victims and professionals, and what actions are now being taken as a result of these deaths to help improve responses to those experiencing domestic abuse.

There are some recurring themes from our local DHR's regarding referrals, which we would ask you to consider in your day-to-day work, which are:

1. Completion of DASH Risk Indicator Checklists and Referrals – Please ensure you complete these in full. Recent case reviews have found that although professionals DO have information, they do not always include it in the DASH or any referral. As long as it is relevant to the current situation, please include. Otherwise referrals maybe returned to you, and so lead to a delay in support being offered or MARAC being considered.
2. Timeliness of referrals – Please complete a referral as soon as possible. If a referral is appropriate (according to risk – your professional judgement or actual risk score), then it should be made to the specialist service as soon as is possible. A delay can lead to further abuse taking place.
3. A DASH Risk Indicator Checklist is NOT the referral. Many reviews have shown that professionals are not completing DASH assessments, because the victim has not consented. A DASH is your assessment of the situation. Of course ideally the victim will be fully aware of them being assessed, but you do not need their consent to do this. Their consent is only required for a referral, if they are not high risk. If they do not consent to a referral and they are high risk, then you can still refer them to MARAC. Please see the MARAC Operating Protocol, which can be found online at [Somerset MARAC – Somerset Survivors](#)

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS—PUBLICATION

Two Domestic Homicide Review reports have recently been published. These were:

Case 022 - This DHR concerned Susan, who died in November 2017 as a result of murder. It's understood that Susan and her former partner "Daniel" had been in a relationship for approximately 2 years. They had one son together, and both had children with former partners.

Susan and Daniel both had contact with several local agencies during their relationship and before. Nearly one year before the murder, Children Social Care had taken action to safeguard their child which led to him being adopted.

Case 023 – This DHR was completed as a result of the death of Laura in January 2018, who died as a result of dangerous driving by her partner. Laura was aged 34 years and had only been in a relationship with her partner for a few months.

Both reports can be found online at [Domestic Homicide Reviews – Somerset Survivors](#)

Additionally, two learning briefings have also been published recently as a result of two deaths that didn't meet the criteria for a DHR, but it was decided a multi-agency review meeting would be useful to determine if there were any lessons to be learnt. These are reference 027 and 032, and both can be found online at [Domestic Homicide Reviews – Somerset Survivors](#)

DIGITAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LEARNING - COMING SOON!

SCC has commissioned a suite of 10 e-learning modules for professionals, and an eleventh module for the public, to help raise awareness of the different types of domestic abuse. There will be a focus on perpetrators as well as victims. These are scenario-based and will include a mixture of animation and dramatic video to help provide a rich learning experience. These will be free for agencies working in Somerset, and there will be a charge for organisations who wish to utilise the programme but do not have a footprint in Somerset. Further information will be available in due course, and it's anticipated they will be online in late Spring.

DOMESTIC ABUSE BILL

As many people will know the Government is introducing a new Domestic Abuse Bill for England and Wales. Somerset County Council as the "tier one authority" is leading on implementing many elements of this for Somerset, and is closely working with partner agencies, including district councils and the police to do this. Over £1million has been awarded to Somerset by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government for 2021-22 to help meet the requirements of this bill. A needs assessment and strategy are also being devised as requirements of the bill, and will help inform how the funding should be spent.