

Domestic Homicide Review Panel Induction Pack

The purpose of a Domestic Homicide Review (henceforth referred to as Domestic Abuse Related Death Review – DARDR) is to:

- **establish what lessons are to be learned** from the domestic homicide regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims;
- **identify clearly what those lessons are** both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result;
- **apply these lessons** to service responses including changes to inform national and local policies and procedures as appropriate;
- prevent domestic violence and homicide and improve service responses for all domestic violence and abuse victims and their children by **developing a co-ordinated multi-agency approach** to ensure that domestic abuse is identified and responded to effectively at the earliest opportunity;
- contribute to a **better understanding** of the nature of domestic violence and abuse; and
- **highlight good practice.**

DARDRs should:

- find the **trail of abuse** and identify which agencies had contact with the victim, perpetrator or family and which agencies were in contact with each other.
- articulate the **life through the eyes of the victim** (and their children) and talking to those around the victim including family, friends, neighbours, community members and professionals.
- **explore whether agencies are responding appropriately** to victims of domestic abuse by offering and putting in place appropriate support mechanisms, procedures, resources and interventions

DARDRs **should not**:

- focus attention on how the victim died or who is culpable.
- apportion blame.

The [Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews 2016](#) provides full details of how Community Safety Partnership should conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (referred to locally as DARDRs).

Role of the panel

- Agree terms of reference for the review based on all information available to the panel.
- Engage family members of the victim and ensure they are understood and feel listened to by the panel. The panel should maintain empathy and sensitivity to the case and the purpose of undertaking DHRs.
- Appraise all Individual Management Reviews created as part of the review.
- Identify lessons learnt and support creation of recommendations.
- Review draft versions and arrange organisational sign off of the final DARDR Overview report, executive summary and Action Plan.
- Ensure actions are SMART.
- Promote sharing of learning from the review.
- To always consider equality and diversity issues and comply with the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Act duties.

Role of panel members

It is vitally important that all panel members contribute to the work of the review in such a way that **reinforces a focus on learning and not apportioning blame**. Further, all panel members are responsible for creating **psychological safety** at the panel, where all panel members feel able to express ideas openly, ask questions, recognise mistakes, and challenge others professionally without fear of negative consequences.

- Attend first panel meeting in person
- All panel members agree to work to the purpose and contribute to the role of the panel as set above.
- Each panel member must represent their own agency and share the collective responsibility to support the independent report writer and independent chair of the panel to deliver the review.
- In support of delivering the review all panel members will:
 - Actively participate in the panel's discussions sharing all relevant information.
 - At all times, be respectful of others. We can respect another person's point of view without agreeing with them.
 - Act as a 'critical friend' to other panel members and help encourage reflection of the issues being discussed.
 - Value the learning from different inputs and stay open to new ways of doing things.
 - Be empathetic to the experience of other panel members.
 - Be present in the meeting, and don't attend to non-meeting business. Listen attentively to others and don't interrupt or have side conversations.

- communicate with their chief officer/s and/or senior management team on progress of the review.
- support members of staff from their organisation attending review events (ie. learning events). This includes providing suitable support and briefing before, during and after the event.
- ensure early learning is acted on.

Responsibility of organisations

- Provide participants for panels as required.
- Support the panel member to provide timely and accurate information to the panel.
- Agree to maintaining consistent membership of the panel wherever possible.
- Ensure panel members have access to:
 - Employer support,
 - Supervision, and
 - Independent support.
- Ensure recommendations are acted upon and actions are delivered.

Useful links

[Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews](#)

[Published Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews for Norfolk](#)

[Domestic homicide review - GOV.UK](#)

[SMART Action Planning_0.pdf](#)