



Jonathan

Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)

What has happened since the review?

The UK Government have tightened restrictions on the sale of acid and corrosive substances online

The Poisons Act 1972 (Explosives Precursors) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 has been amended. This change to the law moved sulfuric acid above a concentration level of 15% to the list of regulated substances within the Poisons Act 1972. Since 1 July 2018, members of the public wishing to import, acquire, possess or use sulfuric acid above 15% now require a Home Office licence. Since 1 November 2018, it has also been a criminal offence for members of the public to possess sulfuric acid above 15% concentration without a Home Office licence. Retailers are required to ensure that anyone seeking to purchase a regulated substance has a Home Office licence and there are criminal offences applicable if businesses supply or sell a regulated substance to a member of the public without verifying that they have a licence and that the substance or product at that concentration level is covered by their licence.

More information can be found on the gov.uk website:

[Read the Press Release](#)

[Read the Supplying Explosives Precursors and Poisons Guidance](#)

Whilst this change to the law is not a direct result of the recommendation from the DHR, the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership are assured that there are now further measures in place to make the purchase of sulphuric acid to use as a weapon more difficult.

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership have reviewed services available to male victims of domestic abuse

The Safer Bristol Partnership (now incorporated into the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership) reviewed the services available to male victims of domestic abuse in the locality to ensure

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availability by undertaking a comprehensive Domestic & Sexual Violence Needs Assessment in 2018. This needs assessment has informed the re-commissioning of services from 2019.

[Services available to male victims in Bristol](#)

Victim Support provide support for all men who have experienced domestic or sexual abuse. This includes anyone who identifies as male, who is gay, bisexual or transgender.

BRI Emergency Department, Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVA) Service provides support for male and female victims. This includes crisis intervention, risk assessment and advocacy.

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership have reviewed the information available to male victims of domestic abuse to ensure that they are providing information to men in the most appropriate places.

Alongside publication of this DHR, readers were signposted to support services for male victims of domestic abuse, including ManKind Initiative and Victim Support.

Details of the services available for male victims of domestic abuse have been added to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership website.

[Visit the KBSP website www.bristolsafeguarding.org](http://www.bristolsafeguarding.org)

The Are you OK? campaign throughout the covid-19 pandemic raised awareness across the city of services available to people experiencing domestic abuse, including male victims. The campaign was promoted via social media, posters in libraries, pharmacies and on Bristol buses.

[Visit www.bristolsafeguarding.org/areyouok](http://www.bristolsafeguarding.org/areyouok)



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Public facing agencies in the partnership have reviewed their training for staff and volunteers to ensure that appropriate responses are given to men reporting domestic abuse.

A needs assessment including needs of male victims was completed in 2019.

Multi-agency Domestic Abuse training will be available in 2022 attendance and impact will be measured by KBSP training. This training will be co-delivered by Women's Aid and will cover impact on victims, survivors, children as well as the behaviours of perpetrators and how to navigate conversations with perpetrators about their behaviours.

Avon and Somerset Constabulary have raised awareness with officers about what they are expected to do when a victim declines to engage with a DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment Risk Assessment) and that they are assured that the appropriate rationales are recorded.

In February 2019, the procedural guidance was updated to include what officers were supposed to do in these circumstances. Furthermore, the key lessons learnt were circulated via an internal bulletin 'Good to Know'. The Domestic Abuse Theme Lead attended patrol team's leadership days and key inputs were delivered to the supervisors.

Avon and Somerset Constabulary have ensured that officers are following best practice by clearly recording that they have spoken to both parties separately when attending domestic abuse incidents, even where the Body Worn Video Camera footage shows that this has taken place.

Guidance was updated and circulated in March 2019 and best practice was covered during response leadership days. This was also followed up with a PowerPoint presentation briefing to all staff about priorities in relation to attending domestic incidents.

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Avon and Somerset Constabulary have taken further steps to raise awareness of male victims of domestic abuse and make officers aware of their own possible unconscious bias in circumstances involving male victims. They have also undertaken checks to see whether male victims of domestic abuse are receiving expected standards of service by the force.

Twenty cases were reviewed by the Domestic Abuse Theme Lead. There were no standout themes, however there was one occurrence when an officer assumed the victim was a female, referring to 'her' instead of 'him'. Discussions about unconscious bias and positive action on behalf of male victims took place with Mike Steven who delivers Changing Perception Events across the force. These events follow the journey of a typical victim through to becoming a survivor of a number of crime types.

All GPs in the area have signed up to the IRIS project

IRIS practices receive domestic abuse training delivered to all clinical and non-clinical staff. Practitioners receive relevant prompts on their HARKS system to remind them to ask patients about domestic abuse when they attend with a variety of symptoms that are not obviously connected to violence such as anxiety, depression and stress. This helps GPs to identify patients affected by domestic abuse and refer them to specialist services.

[Read more about the IRIS Project on the University of Bristol website](#)

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