



Response to 'Hassan' Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) from the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership (KBSP) has today (21st June 2024) published a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) which was commissioned following the death of Hassan (pseudonym) in January 2019. I would like to extend my sympathy to anyone affected by Hassan's death and thank those who have contributed to this review.

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership agreed to commission Mark Wolski, an independent author, to lead on this review. The primary purpose for undertaking DHRs is to enable lessons to be learned from homicides where a person has died as a result of domestic abuse, violence or neglect from whom they were in a relationship with, related, or a member of the same household. In this case, the review was commissioned on the basis that Hassan was a member of the same household as the perpetrator Omar (pseudonym).

DHRs do not seek to apportion blame but consider what happened and what could have been done differently. They also recommend action to improve practice and reduce the risk of such an incident occurring in the future.

Regretfully very little was known about Hassan's life and the review found that he had infrequent involvement with agencies. The review focuses on the agency contacts with Omar, who was known to a number of health agencies and police.

The independent author made seven recommendations to the KBSP to improve practice in Bristol. The recommendations are centred around the following key themes:

- The intersection of mental illness, a capability of violence and medication compliance
- The approach to risk management when working with patients who have previously shown the capability of extreme violence
- Engagement with agencies outside primary and secondary care
- Professional curiosity
- Access of police intelligence and medical information
- Intersectionality, discrimination, and cultural barriers in the community

The Partnership has fully accepted the recommendations and we are committed to delivering changes and embedding the key learning within Bristol to reduce the risk of such an incident occurring in future. I also welcome the areas of good practice by agencies that were identified by the independent author in the report.

The Partnership has also published a learning briefing for professionals. This briefing can be used for individual learning, team briefings or individual supervision to ensure that the findings of this review are disseminated widely.

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I am pleased that since the review was carried out, action has already taken place to implement the recommendations put forward. Some of these actions are outlined below and our detailed plan for addressing the recommendations is included in the appendix of the report.

If you are experiencing or have been impacted by domestic abuse, Next Link Plus service offers specialist support for women, men and children and young people from all communities. Call 0117 925 0680, text 07407 895620, email enquiries@nextlinkhousing.co.uk or online chat via the Next Link website. There is a variety of support around mental health for people in Bristol and the surrounding areas. Information about where you can access support if you are struggling with your mental health [Mental Health - Information, advice and support for Bristol residents](#).

BSRC is a community-based organisation which supports people who are socially and economically disadvantaged but not limited to people of Somali origin and heritage living and/or working within Bristol [Bristol Somali Resource Centre | BSRC | Help & Advice \(somalicentre.org.uk\)](#)

Further support services related to this case for the community and professionals can be found in the learning brief.



Sally Rowe

**Independent Chair
Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership**

Recommendation 1: Take steps to ensure that Nilaari and Bristol ROADS (Recovery Orientated Alcohol Drugs Service), with appropriate consent, provide updates about patient referrals to primary care (GP) and referrer (if not GP).

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership will write to Nilaari and Bristol ROADS (Recovery Orientated Alcohol Drugs Service) to share the learning from this review in June 2024. They will review and amend internal protocols to ensure information sharing (with consent) to referring agency. Staff will be briefed and trained on these changes.

Recommendation 2: Review the protocols for risk assessment and management, ensuring that (a) medicine compliance is considered for patients with a history of violence, (b) that post transition assessments are scheduled/conducted for this cohort, (c) fluctuations in patient insight are considered and (d) that this is explicitly documented in the handover between Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership and GP.

Protocols for risk assessment and management have been reviewed and amended. Engagement with GPs has taken place to ensure these changes are implemented and the impact evaluated.

Recommendation 3: Improve the understanding of the specific needs of the local Somali Community in respect of mental health that includes what enables/hinders the community in accessing support and that clearly identifies the gaps in provision.

A needs assessment is due to take place by December 2024 which will evaluate the mental health experience, service need and barriers to treatment-seeking that affect the Somali population in

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Bristol. This is to provide a comprehensive understanding of enablers and hindrances to this community seeking mental health support which will inform improvements to service delivery.

Recommendation 4: That the learning from this review is shared through mandatory safeguarding training to encourage increased professional curiosity when presented with potential client welfare concerns.

Learning from this review has been shared with Bristol City Council and Avon and Somerset Police staff and has been added to staff training.

Recommendation 5: Seek to ensure that staff are aware of how to access medical information out of hours.

KBSP to seek assurance from all agencies that frontline staff are aware of how to access medical out of hours services and obtaining relevant medical information at times of crisis for service users.

Recommendation 6: Avon and Somerset Police to review call handling policy where there are multiple apparent risk factors and implement a systemic approach that mandates these calls being supervised.

Avon and Somerset Police has reviewed and reformed their call handling procedures to ensure that multiple risk factors are assessed and appropriately managed and supervised.

Recommendation 7: Avon and Somerset Police to review their systems of call handling to ensure that intelligence checks are carried out and recorded within the call handling system.

Call handling procedures have also been reformed to ensure intelligence checks are carried out and recorded on the system. A new Customer Relationship Management system is being explored.

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