



Response to 'Julia' Domestic Homicide Review from the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership has today 9th September published a Domestic Homicide Review which was commissioned following the death of Julia (pseudonym) in February 2017. Julia was killed by her partner, David (pseudonym), who she was living with at the time. David was convicted of Julia's murder in 2018. My thoughts and condolences are with Julia's friends, family and those who have been affected by her death.

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership agreed to commission Deborah Jeremiah, an independent author, to lead on this review. The primary purpose for undertaking Domestic Homicide Reviews 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.

Domestic Homicide Reviews do not seek to apportion blame on practitioners but consider what happened and what could have been done differently. They also recommend actions to improve responses to domestic abuse situations in the future.

The review process unfortunately took longer than we would have liked due to the lengthy trial process, difficulties reaching family members outside of the UK and challenges engaging with David. The COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant further delay.

The review found that Julia had little contact with services in Bristol and focuses on David and the interactions he had with agencies.

The review found three recommendations that could improve the ways in which agencies assess risk and how they support people that do not speak English as a first language. On behalf of the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership, I fully accept the findings of the review. The Partnership has been working with our members and agencies across the city to improve practice and I am pleased that action has been taken across all three recommendations:

- The Partnership developed and rolled out Multi-agency Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Training. This covers information about the need for Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH) risk assessments, who can complete a DASH risk assessment and how this can feed into a referral for a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference. Additionally, agencies have provided assurance to the Partnership that they raise awareness and offer training to their staff about the need to complete a DASH.
- The Integrated Care Board has strengthened their guidance for signposting to GP services outside a catchment area to make sure patients get appropriate support locally. The Partnership has also disseminated this learning in their newsletter which is shared with over 2000 professionals and the public across the city to ensure that patients are signed up to a GP surgery, this is especially important for those whose first language is not English.

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- The Partnership has written to the Home Office Review Panel to request that the new Domestic Homicide Review guidance includes information about when a review should take place following a homicide that involves an acute mental health episode.

If you are being subjected to or have been impacted by domestic abuse, Next Link Plus service offers specialist support for adults and children of all genders and from all communities. Call 0800 4700 280, text 07407 895620, email enquiries@nextlinkhousing.co.uk or online chat via the [Next Link website](#).

You may want to contact the independent charity Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA). AAFDA provide specialist and expert advocacy and specialist peer support to families and friends bereaved by domestic homicide, domestic abuse related suicides and unexplained deaths. You can contact AAFDA online or by calling 07768 386922.



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