



## **Response to 'Child D' Serious Case Review and Domestic Homicide Review by Bristol Safeguarding Children Board and Bristol Safer Bristol Partnership**

### **Introduction**

This report presents the findings of a joint Serious Case Review and Domestic Homicide Review into the death of a 17 year old boy, referred to as Child D in the report at the request of his family. Child D's older brother entered a guilty plea to the charge of murder and is currently serving a life sentence. This review considers the involvement of professionals with the brothers, both of whom were described by those who knew them as bright, engaging and well-liked in the community. As Chairs of the Bristol Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and Safer Bristol Partnership (SBP) and on behalf of both the Boards, we would like to express our condolences to Child D's family and friends, and thank them for their time and input into this review.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards are required to conduct a Serious Case Review (SCR) when a child dies as a result of abuse or neglect. Community Safety Partnerships should consider conducting a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) when the death of a person aged 16 or over has resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related. The BSCB and SBP decided to undertake a joint review in order to maximise learning, ensure a proportionate and considered response and minimise the impact of multiple reviews on family members. To this end, the Boards commissioned two independent reviewers, Sian Griffiths and Deborah Jeremiah, to lead the review considering both the safeguarding children perspective and the issues related to domestic homicides.

The circumstances surrounding Child D's death challenges us all to reconsider how we understand domestic abuse. The review finds that our professional systems are less robust in response to violence that does not involve partners in intimate relationships and highlights the need for more work and greater awareness raising. This requires the engagement of all professionals and members of the public too.

Child D and his brother's experiences highlight how violence can escalate with truly tragic outcomes. It also emphasises that we must continue give sufficient priority to work that ensures young men who have experienced trauma and difficulties in their childhoods, are supported effectively into adolescence and young adulthood. The two Boards are

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committed to responding to the findings of this review, and working together to protect other families from similar harm in the future. You can find our full action plan below.

**Sally Lewis**  
**Independent Chair**  
**Bristol Safeguarding Children Board**

**Andy Bennett**  
**Chair**  
**Safer Bristol Partnership**



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Recommendation	Scope of recommendation ie local/ regional/ national	Action to take	Lead agency	Key milestones achieved in enacting recommendation	Target date	Date of completion and outcome
<b>The Community Safety Partnership and Bristol Safeguarding Children Board should recommend to the Home Office that guidance, research and strategy relating to a broader spectrum of domestic abuse other than intimate partner abuse is developed nationally.</b>	National	The CSP and BSCB will write to the Home Office as recommended	CSP and BSCB chairs	Joint letter sent	July 2018	
		The needs assessment for the re-commissioning of domestic abuse services to include a needs analysis for services for perpetrators and victims of non-intimate partner violence	Safer Bristol	Analysis incorporated in refreshed VAWG needs assessment	August 2018	
		Safer Bristol and BSCB to review the Bristol Domestic Abuse Strategy to ensure that it is sufficiently robust in reflecting the evidence base for all types of abuse	Safer Bristol and BSCB	Refreshed Bristol Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence strategy adopted	Dec 2018	
<b>Avon &amp; Somerset Police should work with its partners within the Community Safety Partnership and Bristol Safeguarding Children Board to review the effectiveness of its Domestic Abuse Risk-Assessment model and investigative practice regarding non-intimate partner abuse.</b>	Local	Increase use of body-worn cameras by response officers in the force to support the securing of 'golden hour' evidence	Avon & Somerset Police	Rolling programme implemented for training and use by staff  Aim for use 80% in domestic abuse responses where victim consents to use	Oct 2016  Dec 2018	Complete

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		Increase number of officers in the DIT trained in the College of Policing Initial Crime Investigators' Development Programme	Avon & Somerset Police	Training is delivered to identified officer groups	July 2018	Complete July 2018
		Avon and Somerset Police will consider implementing the new risk assessment tool due to be published this year following the College of Policing 2016 report on risk assessment	Avon & Somerset Police	Initial research by the College of Policing informed has informed Avon and Somerset's strategic approach	May 2019	
		Avon and Somerset implement supervisor reviews of the allocation of all domestic abuse cases	Avon & Somerset Police	Performance template launched	August 2017	Complete June 2017
				Supervisor reviews implemented as standard practice	September 2017	Complete September 2017
<b>The Community Safety Partnership and the Safeguarding Children Board should work with partners to develop practice, knowledge and skills across agencies relating to non-intimate partner abuse and to consider whether there is a role for specialist services</b>	Local	The identification of pathways to respond to non-intimate partner abuse to be incorporated into the re-writing of the Threshold document	Safeguarding Business Unit	Threshold document published	May 2018	Completed May 2018
		Development of a coordinated training programme across safeguarding professionals to increase skills in the city at recognising and responding to non-intimate partner violence. Training	Safer Bristol and BSCB Training Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evidence-based training sourced</li> <li>- Training incorporated</li> </ul>	Sept 2018  Dec 2018	

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		offered to be evidence-based targeting professionals who intervene with families where there is interfamilial violence and abuse		and promoted within BSCB catalogue		
		Review the Bristol Domestic Abuse Strategy to ensure that it is sufficiently robust in Bristol's response to non-intimate partner abuse	Safer Bristol	Refreshed Bristol Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence strategy adopted	Dec 2018	
		BSCB to offer briefing learning sessions for multi-agency practitioners using this DHR/SCR to develop knowledge and understanding	BSCB Training Team	Briefings publicised with publication of this review  Briefings held for multi-agency audience	July 2018  Oct 2018	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
<b>Children's Social Care and Youth Offending Team to draw on the learning from this review to identify ways to further develop their approach to and arrangements for joint working</b>	Local	YOT and CSC to develop better access to each other's case management systems to allow for cross-identification of children known to both services	YOT/CSC	YOT to be moved under the same governance and management structure as CSC.  The 'Think Family Database' is now live and all front line practitioners have access to shared, common	May 2018  May 2018	Complete November 2017

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				data sets.		
		Awareness raising to be undertaken with CSC about the role of YOT pre-trial	YOT/CSC	Briefing of CSC Team Manager and Consultant Social Workers to be provided by YOT Manager	Oct 2018	
<b>The Bristol Safeguarding Children Board consider identifying working with male teenagers as a thematic priority in its strategic plan</b>	Local	BCC to ensure that the re-commissioned Youth Service (Targeted Youth Support) is adequate in meeting the needs of young men as fully as young women so there is parity of access	BCC Early Help	BCC to review the newly commissioned provider's outcomes after six months of delivery	Dec 2018	
		BSCB to establish data reporting links from Targeted Youth Support to have oversight of targeted youth provision and equality of access	BSCB	BSCB Data scorecard in respect of safeguarding boys and young men to include outcomes from TYS	Dec 2018	
		BSCB to develop a communications strategy for engaging with the public	BSCB	Initial communications	Dec 18	

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		and professionals about the safeguarding needs of adolescent males		resource specification design out for tender July 2018		
		BSCB to support the development and implementation of a Bristol Street Conflict Strategy led by Safer Bristol	Safer Bristol	Strategy published  BSCB representation on implementation group  Progress review after year one	Nov 2017  Jan 2018  Oct 2018	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2017