

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

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership* (KBSP) has today (27 February 2020) published a review commissioned following the tragic death of Jonathan (pseudonym). The Partnership wishes to extend their sympathy to Jonathan's family and friends and is very grateful to those who have contributed information to this review.

As the authors, Christine Graham and Gary Goose, have stated: 'This review has been conducted in an open and constructive manner with all the agencies, both voluntary and statutory, engaging positively. This has ensured that we have been able to consider the circumstances of this incident in a meaningful way and address with candour the issues that it has raised.'

DHRs do not seek to apportion blame but consider what happened and what could have been done differently. They also recommend actions to improve responses to domestic violence situations in the future.

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership fully accepts the findings of the DHR and we have been working with our members and agencies across the city and beyond to continue to embed the recommendations identified by the reviewers.

The review highlighted the need to continue to work at a local and national level to change the attitudes to male victims of domestic abuse, and to improve the services available.

- The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership recognises the importance of appropriate information and services being available for men. Bristol City Council commissions Victim Support to provide a service to support male victims and further details of this service and the national helpline for male victims can be found below.
- The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership will be asking its member agencies to confirm that training is delivered to ensure that appropriate response and support are given to men reporting abuse. This will be carried out as part of a full review of domestic abuse training across the partnership over the next six months.
- We have been reviewing the publicity with our current service provider in order to increase awareness of the support available for male victims.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken part in this review process. We are committed to responding to the recommendations of the DHR in the hope that we can reduce the risk of such tragic events happening in the future.



Ivan Powell, Independent Chair of the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership

*The DHR was originally commissioned by the Community Safety Partnership known as Safer Bristol. Since that time, safeguarding arrangements in the city have changed and Safer Bristol has now become part of the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership.

The Overview Report and Executive Summary of the DHR can be found on:
<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/policies-plans-strategies/domestic-homicide-reviews>

Further details of Victim Support's Bristol service for male victims of domestic abuse can be found here: <https://www.wellaware.org.uk/organisation/bristol-mens-domestic-abuse-project/>

National helpline for male victims of domestic abuse:
Mankind Initiative 01823 334244