



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

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership (KBSP) has today (6th June 2024) published a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) which was commissioned following the tragic death of Diana (pseudonym).

Diana was described by her family as a strong, loyal and caring young woman who would “light up any room she walked into”. Diana was tragically killed by her partner in November 2018 and left behind two young children.

I would like to extend my thoughts and sympathy to Diana’s friends and family and thank them for contributing to this review. They have shared some kind words and tributes of Diana which are included in the review.

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership agreed to commission Gary Goose MBE as independent chair and Christine Graham as independent review author to lead on this review. The review aimed to use the experiences of Diana to identify learning and to continually improve the way agencies support people who are at risk of and experiencing domestic abuse.

Domestic Homicide Reviews 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 abuse situations in the future. A combination of factors including difficulty securing medical records, Covid 19 lockdown, the involvement of family and the Home Office quality assurance process meant that this review process has taken a significant amount of time.

The Partnership welcome the three recommendations put forward in this review and we have been working with our members and agencies across the city to continue to embed the recommendations identified.

Since the review was carried out, action has already taken place to implement the recommendations put forward:

- The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership has reviewed research undertaken by a neighbouring Community Safety Partnership to assess how their findings could inform future practice and policy in Bristol, particularly around barriers to reporting for families and friends. We found that advice for reporting is already communicated well in the Bristol Family and Friends advice booklet but information about this topic will be added to the Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- The Keeping Bristol Safe team has worked with commissioners for domestic abuse services in Bristol and has carried out a social media campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse and violence against women during the 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. Domestic abuse advice on support, professional resources, and training was shared on all social media sites and in the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Newsletter. The Keeping Bristol

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Safe Partnership also hosted a domestic abuse and safeguarding webinar during Stop Adult Abuse Week 2022 which was promoted on all social media platforms.

- Further work is still needed by the Department of Health and Social Care in providing guidance to the Home Office, as part of the statutory guidance, on how Domestic Homicide Review Chairs can access previous GP records when necessary.

We would like to echo one of the Chair's main comments from the review, that we urge staff within agencies to consider whether domestic abuse, in any of its forms, may be present as a backdrop to people presenting in need of support or when behaviours that may appear out "of the norm" arise.

If you are experiencing 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](#).

Also, 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.



Sally Rowe

Independent Chair

Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership

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