#LearningTheLessons
@STagainstDA

DHR Processes

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Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is legally obligated to undertake a review of all domestic homicide / death cases within the borough, including death resulting from suicide where domestic abuse is known to be present within the relationship.
DHR Purpose

• Learning lessons in a reflective and open environment

• To improve agency practice/policies to improve responses to DA victims and hopefully prevent future similar homicides

• Bringing agencies together to create a more cohesive coordinated community response

• Recognising the victim and understanding their experience

• To provide some resolution/solace to the family
Finding from the 2020 London DHR Case Analysis and Review of Local Authorities DHR Process
Key Themes in borough feedback

- General Feedback
- DHR Chairs
- Intersectionality
- Guidance on process
- Funding a DHR
- Action Plans
General

• Several boroughs found it difficult to retrieve all of their DHRs since 2011
• No complete library of approved DHRs
• No systems currently in place to check for compliance in resubmitting finished DHRs to Home Office after panel decisions.
• DHRs and SCRs should be more linked up around findings and recommendations to compare and reflect on the learnings.

Create a national database of DHRs and their analysis to enable wider learning from the themes and data.
DHR Chairs

- 20 boroughs reported difficulties finding a good chair and/or problems with past or current ones and wanted the Home Office to supply a list of recommended chairs.
- They reported some chairs did not have an understanding of the dynamics of DA/VAWG

DHR chairs should have a code of conduct and a recognised qualification.
Intersectionality

60% of boroughs felt there was a need for more intersectionality and relevant professionals on Panels.

DHR panels should reflect the diversity of the borough and the DHR case and include specialist agencies relevant to the case.
99% of boroughs said they had real struggles funding the DHRs
- The majority of DHRs were funded through the Community Safety budget, some using the dedicated VAWG budget
- The resource implications of action plans are not always thought through, resulting in no action.
- Boroughs wanted funding allocated to carry out the action plans.

Funding for DHRs should be reviewed and more assistance given to boroughs by the Home Office.

Funding of DHRs should be a joint responsibility of the Home Office and all Safeguarding statutory agencies within the local authority.
Action Plans

• In 50% of boroughs, the VAWG lead was responsible for the progress of action plans.
• Only 9 (32%) boroughs provided updates to families about the progress of action plans.
• Some actions were unattainable & a lack of capacity to make organisational wide changes affected the action plan.
• Changes of Health Trusts, CCGs amalgamating, and Probation meant it was harder to get continuity of input from some statutory agencies.

The Home Office should develop a system of reviewing action plans to completion.
Report Recommendations

- Further DHR guidance on complex DHRs
- All boroughs should create a DHR template work plan to provide consistency of process
- Action plans should be reviewed by Home Office for progress
- Intersectionality should be embedded across the whole DHR process
- DHR Chairs should have a code of conduct and recognised qualification
- Funding for DHRs should be reviewed
- DHR panels and chairs should reflect borough diversity
• The full Report and the Executive Summary can be found on the Standing Together website: https://www.standingtogether.org.uk/dhr

Further information on our range of trainings can be found on our website www.standingtogether.org.uk

Please contact Hannah with any questions: DHRadmin@standingtogether.org.uk