

Domestic Homicide Review: ‘Elizabeth – Action Plan

This Action Plan accompanies the Domestic Homicide Review into Elizabeth that was commissioned by Safer Sunderland Partnership – and should be read in conjunction with the Final Overview Report.

The overarching recommendation is to create systems-change in Sunderland’s response to domestic abuse by adopting a strengths-based, needs-led, trauma-informed approach that intervenes earlier with survivors and perpetrators. This will be achieved by delivering on the following supporting recommendations and actions.

Recommendation	Action(s)	Lead Agency	Progress	Outcome
<p>1. Learning Recommendation 1</p> <p>Northumbria Police (NP) should specifically record the concerns of the victim and the measures to provide support and negate the concerns.</p>	<p>NP to manage MARAC though Multi agency partners should contribute with support and any concerns managed.</p>	<p>NP</p>	<p>NP administer MARAC in Sunderland. These are Multi - agency meetings, evidence provided that concerns for victims identified and lead agency is identified for who should manage these.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>2. Learning Recommendation 2</p> <p>The MASH may wish to give further consideration to the screening / triage to reassure themselves all the potential risks have been considered before closing a case with no further action</p>	<p>Multi – Agency Safeguarding Hub to identify any risks and ensure these are managed.</p>	<p>Adult Social Care</p>	<p>From 2021 ASC introduced a full-time experienced social worker as well as the ICB commissioning an experienced CPN to work solely as part of the MASH. All ACN’s are now risk assessed using previous multi-agency intelligence before further work/NFA is considered.</p>	<p>Initial Action Completed and on-going delivery of actions maintained</p>

<p>3. Recommendation / Learning 3</p> <p>All Agencies should recognise the importance of Multi-Agency working and follow agreed protocols around information sharing in order to assess and inform risk.</p>	<p>Strategic Manager for Community Safety & Safeguarding to govern multi agency working following protocols and ensuring Information Sharing Agreements are in place.</p>	<p>ASC</p>	<p>ISA is in place reviewed annually; assurance provided by Community Safety Partnership</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>4. Recommendation / Learning 4</p> <p>All Agencies to disseminate to Professionals the Standing Together Against Domestic Violence (Sharp-Jeffs and Kelly, 2016) guidance, as part of their professional development strategies.</p>	<p>Appropriate training and information should be shared across partners to prevent domestic violence.</p>	<p>Sunderland City Council</p>	<p>In 2021, Sunderland City Council established a Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Executive Board. The Board enables the council to enact its statutory duties in relation to domestic abuse, whilst also supporting strong partnership arrangements across the city to help transform our approach to prevention, early intervention and support in relation to domestic abuse and gender-based violence. This includes contemporary training and guidance.</p>	<p>Complete</p>

<p>5. Recommendation / Learning 5</p> <p>All Agencies should continue to build upon the training to date and support Professionals around identifying and supporting victims who may be subject of coercive control.</p>	<p>Appropriate training and information should be shared across partners to prevent domestic violence.</p>	<p>All partners</p>	<p>Sunderland Safeguarding adults board as well VAWG Group commissions 'Wearside Women in Need' to work with all agencies to ensure multi agency workforces are aware of types of abuse including coercive control and this reflected in all safeguarding work for all agencies.</p>	<p>Initial Action Completed and on-going delivery of actions maintained</p>
<p>6. Recommendation / Learning 6</p> <p>The Safer Sunderland Partnership should ensure an all age Multi-Agency suicide prevention plan is in place. Agencies should ensure training and guidance is provided to Professionals around preventing suicide.</p>	<p>Development of Suicide Prevention Plan</p>	<p>Local Authority Public Health</p>	<p>At start of 2023 the multi-agency suicide prevention action group developed and published its Suicide Prevention Action plan 2023-26.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>7. Recommendation / Learning 7</p> <p>All Professionals, who are likely to come into contact with victims and perpetrators, should be trained in carrying out risk identification and assessment.</p>	<p>Appropriate training for professionals</p>	<p>All partners</p>	<p>All partners are signed up to and adhere to Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board training. This training is regularly quality assured and reviewed by the SSAB QA group.</p>	<p>Complete</p>

<p>8. Recommendation / Learning 8</p> <p>All Agencies should consider routinely submitting a DASH and / or an ACN risk assessment where domestic violence or abuse be identified or suspected, including inter-family violence.</p>	<p>Process for DASH/ACN submission should be clear with regard to domestic abuse</p>	<p>All partners</p>	<p>Assurance has been provided over the last 2 years that risk assessments are being completed with DASH/ACN alerts appropriately being made.</p>	<p>Initial Action Completed and on-going delivery of actions maintained</p>
<p>9. Recommendation / Learning 9 (Linked to 2)</p> <p>MASH Professionals should ensure the history between victim and perpetrator are fully considered in assessing risk and making a referral.</p>	<p>MASH to consider history and refer to Safeguarding if required.</p>	<p>MASH</p>	<p>All ACN's are now risk assessed using historical multi-agency intelligence from mental health trust, Police, Local Authority. Assurance given that appropriate safeguarding referrals are progressed where needed.</p>	<p>Initial Action Completed and on-going delivery of actions maintained</p>
<p>10. Recommendation / Learning 10</p> <p>Northumbria Police Neighbourhood Policing Teams should give further consideration to conducting further in-depth research in order to understand the victim and perpetrator, and their complex issues and consider a problem-solving approach in complex cases such as this.</p>	<p>Police supported to consider complex cases.</p>	<p>NP</p>	<p>Multi Agency Partners agreed and assured that this takes place at MASH conferences with increased use of ACN's or directly referred to MARAC.</p>	<p>Complete</p>

<p>11. Recommendation / Learning 11</p> <p>All Agencies to give consideration to escalating risk and putting in place interventions where there is an increase in the frequency of incidents reported.</p>	<p>Safeguarding triggers to be introduced where there is a frequency of triggers.</p>	<p>All Agencies</p>	<p>SSAB oversees safeguarding performance. Local Authority Safeguarding Team now consider 3 or more single safeguarding concerns regarding the same victim to consider risk and necessary interventions.</p>	<p>Initial Action Completed and on-going delivery of actions maintained</p>
<p>12. Recommendation / Learning 12</p> <p>All Agencies should give consideration to reviewing MARAC cases where the victim has disengaged, or never engaged, where there is potential for escalating risk.</p>	<p>Further consideration of risk at MARAC</p>	<p>All Agencies</p>	<p>Assurance provided that MARAC considers risk appropriately, including where victim is not engaging. The Domestic Abuse Decision makers in Northumbria Police are all highly experienced officers and staff with a background in safeguarding and domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>13. Recommendation / Learning 13</p> <p>The Safer Sunderland Partnership should give consideration to the MARAC demand and the capacity of agencies to manage high risk domestic abuse referrals.</p>	<p>Capacity at MARC</p>	<p>All Agencies</p>	<p>All agencies have given assurance that MARAC is resourced and prioritised. There are no indications that demand outstrips capacity with excellent attendance from all partner agencies.</p>	<p>Complete</p>

<p>14. Recommendation / Learning 14</p> <p>Sunderland ICB should ensure that any referral to MARAC should be followed up with further exploration of the issues and the offer of safeguarding support for the victim of domestic abuse.</p>	<p>GP Awareness of MARAC processes and follow-up</p>		<p>ICB confirmed all GP practices are aware that if a MARAC referral is made then follow up and further exploration is required and this is supported by the Domestic Abuse health Advocate service which is now in place at all Sunderland practices. All practices are trained in this area and have a DA champion in place as well as the support of WWIN when MARAC referrals are made.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>15. Recommendation / Learning 15</p> <p>STSFT should ensure that any frequent attendance at A&E for a similar complaint should be treated as a 'red flag' inviting further exploration and engagement with other agencies around potential domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Identification of any concerns regarding domestic abuse following presentation at A&E</p>	<p>STSFT</p>	<p>The STSFT Emergency Department (ED) has mandatory safeguarding questions which are asked of all patients who enter the department. This is to encourage a disclosure of abuse (if required) and also to enable staff to use professional curiosity to make further enquiry with patients, particularly those who are frequent attenders. A member of the safeguarding adult team attends</p>	<p>Complete</p>

			<p>the frequent attender meeting on both acute sites.</p> <p>STSFT have increased their DAHA resource to support staff to recognise and respond to Domestic Abuse. The DAHA is visible Mon-Friday in the ED department and attends daily ED huddles alongside the safeguarding adults' team. The DAHA and safeguarding team have re-enforced the recommendations within point 15 and 16 at both ED huddle and whilst on ward visibility.</p> <p>The learning from DHR6 has been shared within the safeguarding team annual report, discussed and reflected upon within the ED governance /assurance meeting held August 2022 and the Safeguarding Champion Forum delivered November 2022. Learning from DHR6 was also shared with the Trust Board at a presentation delivered by the Named Nurses in November 2022.</p>	<p>Initial Action Completed and on-going delivery of actions maintained</p> <p>Complete</p>
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<p>16. Recommendation / Learning 16</p> <p>STSFT and ICB should routinely use professional curiosity where a person frequently presents with injury that may have been as a result of domestic violence or abuse.</p>	<p>Professional curiosity should be considered within health settings</p>	<p>STSFT/ICB</p>	<p>Professional curiosity is discussed in L3 training. There is also a dedicated professional curiosity section on the safeguarding Intranet inclusive of professional curiosity guidance and a 7-minute briefing. Awareness of the safeguarding Intranet pages are shared at L3 training.</p> <p>The safeguarding children and adult team continue with their daily ED audit to ensure safeguarding questions are asked and there have been no missed opportunities to safeguard our patients.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>17. Recommendation / Learning 17</p> <p>All Agencies should give consideration to building upon the training to date and improve awareness and understand around the importance of Multi-Agency information sharing in order to promote co-working pathways and holistic responses to domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Information Sharing is in place to ensure effective multi-agency working.</p>	<p>All Agencies</p>	<p>Safer Sunderland Partnership ensures that annual Information Sharing Agreement is refreshed to ensure all partners contribute to pathways and holistic response to safeguarding and domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Complete</p>

<p>18. Recommendation / Learning 18</p> <p>19. As part of the ongoing campaign to support victims of domestic abuse, the Safer Sunderland Partnership may wish to consider raising awareness and understanding of domestic abuse within the Community. Any campaign should raise awareness about the importance of third-party reporting of domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Domestic Abuse Campaign</p>	<p>All Agencies</p>	<p>In the last 2 years there have been multiple domestic abuse campaigns across Sunderland. This has included annual white ribbon events, awareness raising in the local newspaper (Sunderland Echo), work of VAWG group. Work with OPCC and there VAWG group to highlight domestic abuse in locations such as Mowbray Park and events in the night-time economy.</p>	<p>Initial Action Completed and on-going delivery of actions maintained</p>
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