



7 minute briefing

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS

What's changed?

Enhanced IDVA support has been provided to staff at Southport & Ormskirk Hospital.

A Domestic Abuse Conference was held for professionals in June 2016, with another planned for July 2017.

Free training on domestic abuse and MARAC is available to agencies across Sefton. For more info contact the IDVA team on 0151 934 4841

What's changed?

SSCP developed a **Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy** to provide a coordinated partnership approach to tackling domestic abuse.

New information and resources are available – <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/behindcloseddoors>

MARAC has been reviewed, with a refresh underway

Common themes

Professionals lacking knowledge about local domestic abuse support and referral pathways.

Lack of professional curiosity leading to missed opportunities.

Lack of routine enquiry about domestic abuse, especially within health services.

Need for greater public awareness and info for family and friends.

Common themes

All reviews identified some areas of expected or good practice – not everything was bad!

Lack of understanding by professionals of non violent forms of domestic abuse – – – jealousy, coercive control, stalking and harassment – and the risks these pose.

Professionals not recognising domestic abuse within familial situations.

Background

A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is carried out when a person aged 16+ dies as the result of violence, abuse or neglect by a partner or family member.

The Sefton Safer Communities Partnership (SSCP) is responsible for DHRs in Sefton. They were made a statutory requirement under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) in April 2011.

Purpose

The purpose of a DHR is to establish what lessons can be learned from the case and for agencies to implement changes as a result of this learning. The aim is to improve service response for victims of domestic abuse and their children and to prevent future deaths.

Reviews will highlight good practice as well as identifying missed opportunities or areas for improvement

Sefton DHRs

There have been 7 DHRs in Sefton involving the death of 9 victims.

None of the cases had children under 18 living in the home.

4 cases involved partners in a relationship.

3 cases involved family members .