



Domestic Homicide Review Jessica's Action Plan

Recommendation One: Coercion and Control:			
The desired outcome from the recommendation			
To build a skilled workforce in partner agencies that can effectively identify and respond to coercion and control, ensuring all domestic abuse victims receive necessary support and protection.			
Ref	Action		
1.1	Enhanced Training for Front Line Staff in Understanding Coercive Control: Practitioners in various sectors to have access to comprehensive training to identify and respond to coercive control, including its nuanced manifestations and the substantial risks associated with them.		
Agency	Key Milestones	Target Date	Completion Date and Outcome
Adult Social Care (ASC)		Completed	Addressed through our Quality Assurance Framework
Royal Berkshire NHS FT (RBH)	Domestic abuse awareness training forms part of Level 3 full-day training.	Completed	Commenced Nov 2023.
	Domestic abuse awareness training is programmed into a level 3 yearly update programme.	Completed	Ongoing
	Domestic abuse is mentioned in face-to-face level 1 and level 2 safeguarding Adult and Child protection training.	Completed	Ongoing
	Safeguarding training data is reported monthly internally and when requested externally.	Completed	Ongoing
Cranstoun Domestic Abuse Service	Training, awareness and updates on policy/ protocol/ procedure form an ongoing part of Cranstoun roles. Recognising and responding to coercive and controlling behaviour is embedded in all domestic abuse training for staff.	Completed	Ongoing
Cranstoun Substance Misuse Service	All staff complete mandatory Domestic Abuse Awareness training as part of their probationary period, this is refreshed every	Completed	Ongoing

	2 years. Additional IDVA training is available on an annual basis for selected staff members who are allocated to take on this role.		
GP Practice	GP training includes identification and how to respond	Completed	<p>GP practices are independent businesses with internal policies that refer to the wider safeguarding policies and procedures in the Berkshire area. The GP surgery have seen the action plan and responded to actions</p> <p>From Jessica's GP practice: Safeguarding L3 including DA update for all clinical staff was run on 1st March 2024, repeat session is planned for 7th March 2025. Safeguarding L1 including DA update for all non-clinical staff was run on 5th March 2024 All practice staff have access to the BGP Safeguarding policy via the Intranet; the List of Safeguarding Contacts and Actions Steps is on the noticeboard in each consulting room and reception. Updates to both documents are communicated to all teams as required, and Safeguarding is a standing item on the Clinical meeting agenda and clinicians are encouraged to keep up to date with the local Safeguarding cases</p>

			<p>and reflect. The surgery are sent training option via the ICB from Wokingham LA and have GP forums that include focus on domestic abuse and coercion control and access to advice.</p> <p>Since the date of this report, training has been rolled out across the force in relation to the dangers of strangulation, even when no visible injury is apparent. Section 70(1) DA Act 2021 inserted Section 75A into Part 5 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 creating an offence of strangulation or suffocation. There is no legal definition of strangulation and it should be given its ordinary meaning.</p>
	Local Medical Committees (LMC) have agreed to make a drop-down list available in practices for domestic abuse support services to help prompt primary care to signpost people.	TBC	This action sits with the ICB BOB Domestic abuse network and is part of their work programme. Ongoing
	The LMC has joined the sexual safety charter and will cascade to GP practice to consider signing up for the charter in the future.	TBC	This is with the ICB BOB Domestic abuse network action and ongoing but agreement to join is completed
Smart CJS	All staff undertake domestic abuse training, including how to identify coercive control.	Completed	Domestic Abuse training delivered for all staff, including within induction for new staff members.
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS)	SCAS from April 2025 will have part time Domestic abuse lead in post.	Completed	Domestic Abuse Training is delivered to all L2 and L3 staff. Domestic Abuse is also a topic covered in safeguarding

			<p>supervision which is facilitated to all front line staff.</p> <p>This is completed and SCAS have oversight of training compliance.</p>
Thames Valley Police (TVP)	All staff have domestic abuse training and refresher courses. There are further courses provided to DA specialist teams and DA Champions who work in a variety of roles across the Force.	Completed	<p>TVP has well established policies and Operational Guidance for all staff dealing with domestic abuse. These are updated on a regular basis, including as a result of learning and recommendations from DARDs.</p> <p>Domestic abuse investigations are a core role of policing. The College of Policing produces Approved Professional Practice which governs the policing response to domestic abuse and the training provided. All front line officers and staff receive regular training updates. TVP will soon move to using the 'DARA' model to replace the current DOM5 risk assessment which is based on DASH. This will reflect national best practice and is believed to enhance the identification of coercive control.</p>

Ref	Action		
1.2	The review has emphasised the necessity of consistent follow-up and routine enquiries, as domestic abuse is often concealed. Front Line Staff should have access to training to conduct routine enquiries effectively, establishing a secure environment for victims to disclose abuse.		
Agency	Key Milestones	Target Date	Completion Date and Outcome
Adult Social Care (ASC)		Completed	Addressed through our Quality Assurance Framework
Royal Berkshire NHS FT (RBH)		Completed	Nov 2024 - Domestic abuse policy updated to include routine enquiry.
	The electronic patient record (EPR) has a question on admission to remind and assist staff in asking appropriate, sensitive questions for inpatients.	Completed	Actioned 2023- sensitive question prompt on EPR
	Monitoring the use of sensitive questions is to commence.	Ongoing	Dec 2024—It has not yet been possible to get a breakdown of how well the sensitive question prompt is used for admitted patients. Feb 2025 it has still not been possible to get a breakdown of how this is used March 2025 – it is unclear when we will be able to understand if this sensitive question is being used. We will continue to monitor
	To review selective/routine questing in ED. To explore how this can be undertaken effectively in the ED department.	Completed	Ongoing
	Maternity staff are expected to ask routine questions of all Pregnant women.	Completed	This is regularly audited.

Cranstoun Domestic Abuse Service	Recognising and responding to coercive and controlling behaviour is embedded in all domestic abuse training for staff. Case management and weekly teams meetings draw out professional curiosity and varied approaches for individual cases.	Completed	Ongoing.
Cranstoun Substance Misuse Service	Fortnightly MDT meetings identify cases where domestic abuse is suspected and guidance provided to staff on how to initiate these discussions.	Completed	Reviewed monthly during MDT
GP Practice		Completed	ICB has shared a routine enquiry summary about recognising health triggers used in another DHR for primary care. February 2025 GP Forum event looked at routine enquiry and made a reference to the RCGP guidance which is appropriate for GPs
	In terms of recording domestic abuse enquiries, there are no specific guidelines relating to the extent of the recording; however, section 4.6 of the Responding to DA guidance (DomesticAbuseGuidance.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk) Primary care guidance includes DomesticAbuseGuidance.pdf	Completed.	February 2025 GP Forum event looked at routine enquiry and discussion following DHRs . January 2025 ICB sent Communication via the GP bulletin as a reminder to all GPs that guidance has been published and the recording recommendation has been proactively highlighted to all practices . The GP surgery involved have been cited on the action plan 26.02.25
Smart CJS	Domestic abuse is included as a question within the assessment process	Completed	Ongoing

<p>South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS)</p>		<p>Completed</p>	<p>Confirmation 04.03.25 by SCAS this is in place: As a first responder in the South Central Ambulance Service NHS trust (SCAS) has a safeguarding system which allows staff to complete domestic abuse referrals directly to the police and where relevant the local authority. For front line ambulance crews this system is directly linked into the electronic patient record (EPR) and with consent, shares the details in a form with the relevant authority. These do not automatically go to the GP. SCAS front line crews also have access to a DASH assessment checklist to help them in their risk assessment if faced with a domestic abuse incident.</p>
<p>Thames Valley Police (TVP)</p>	<p>Officers currently use DASH when responding to victims of domestic abuse and record this onto our Crime Report system NICHE RMS. Within the future DARA will replace DASH which is believed to have been successful in identifying more cases of coercive control.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>When attending domestic abuse incidents officers have been trained to deal with allegations and concerns sensitively. On occasions further contact is made to clarify additional points which may need further exploring. Officers are instructed to complete the DASH in secure locations away from perpetrators, third parties and children. The DASH is used to capture the voice of the adult the child. Once reviewed by a supervisor, they will identify further enquiries, assess the victim safety plan</p>

			and review if further victim contact is required. Depending initial risk assessment, some domestic cases are dealt with in secure locations via appointment, such as police stations.
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Recommendation Two: Information Sharing			
The desired outcome from the recommendation			
Effective information sharing among agencies is crucial in preventing domestic abuse and safeguarding victims.			
Ref	Action		
2.1	Agencies should establish protocols that specify how to share information related to domestic abuse to ensure compliance with legal frameworks and respect for confidentiality.		
Agency	Key Milestones	Target Date	Completion Date and Outcome
Adult Social Care (ASC)		Completed	Addressed through our Quality Assurance Framework
Royal Berkshire NHS FT (RBH)	A walk-and-talk audit will be undertaken with staff to assess their knowledge of domestic abuse and the referral process.	Completed	Audit completed
Cranstoun Domestic Abuse Service	Regular information sharing occurs through social care and housing, and within MATAAC/MARAC and DRIVE. Monthly Case management and weekly meetings also discuss these needs. Work is ongoing to ensure pathways for information sharing at the right time.	Ongoing	Email templates created for information sharing between housing teams and with social care. Professional's meeting templates and process is being drawn up to facilitate multi-agency working.
Cranstoun Substance Misuse Service	Monthly information sharing occurs via MARAC, MATAAC and Drive Meetings	Completed	Regular attendance and representation at multi agency meetings

	Information is shared with relevant parties by email on an adhoc basis when need is identified during case discussion, MDT or keywork	Completed	Information sharing is audited in the annual domestic abuse audit and any areas requiring improvement are communicated during team meetings or in staff supervisions.
GP Practice		Completed.	ICB sent out a MARAC process reminder to Berkshire Practices for GPs. This will be reviewed and re-issued via the GP bulletin and SharePoint website for GP.
Smart CJS	A referral to Marac is made if a case is high risk alongside appropriate referrals to Children's and Adult social care.	Completed	Embedded
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS)		Completed.	Confirmed 04.03.25 system in place and enables referrals: As a first responder in the South Central Ambulance Service NHS trust (SCAS) has a safeguarding system which allows staff to complete domestic abuse referrals directly to the police and where relevant the local authority.
Thames Valley Police (TVP)	Information is encouraged to be shared with relevant organisations to assist in developing victim safety plans, child protection or adult protection concerns. MARAC / MAPPA / DRIVE Perpetrator partnership processes in place within TVP.	Completed	DASH Templates, Child Protection Templates (Voice of the Child) and Adult Protection Templates are recorded on Niche RMS and tasked to the MASH to review where if appropriate information is shared. This may trigger strategy discussion pending the risk and circumstances of the case.

		<p>Within the DARDR scoping completed by the Service Improvement Team, the DA reports linked to CT suggest that some of the medium risk safety planning was passed to a charity to offer further support. This suggestion stems from templates used within crime reports.</p> <p>TVP safety planning was previously supported by an external charity known as Hestia. This charity lead on all safety planning for standard and medium risk cases; however, due to the demand this placed on their organisation, they were unable to maintain the service for a full year and as a result were withdrawn from this role. Unfortunately, despite there then being no charity available to perform the safety planning, the templates used were not amended at the point of withdrawal.</p> <p>The template did not allow MASH staff to enter free text in the section 'Information shared with DA Charity/Provider.' If no text follows after the DA Charity/Provider, it could give a third party the impression that each case was referred to a charity for safety planning support which was not the</p>
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		<p>case. This finding was shared with the group during early discussions.</p> <p>Staff did still added appropriate flags on our systems, assessed the risk, and completed appropriate actions to enhance any safety plans that were implemented and managed by the OIC. However, medium risk cases had no additional charities to offer further safety planning support. This does not mean that safety planning was ever not a priority.</p> <p>Moving Forward: This issue has been urgently raised and discussed with the MASH. As a result, this section was immediately removed from the template used; however, this will be revised should a charity come forward in future.</p> <p>Shortly Harm Reduction Units (HRUs) will be established in Berkshire Local Command Unit (Go Live Date of 07/05/25). Staff will have access to a HRU Dashboard which will have a cohort of individuals flagged on TVP systems. The threshold for HRU intervention is 'Chronic harm', this means harm which is 'serious and enduring'. Each individual</p>
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			will have an RMO (Risk Management Occurrence). One of the HRU Strands is Domestic Abuse.
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Ref	Action		
2.2	Maintain updated domestic abuse resources that provide easy access to resources and support services.		
Agency	Key Milestones	Target Date	Completion Date and Outcome
Cranstoun Domestic Abuse Service	Ongoing work with health and partner agencies to ensure they know current referral routes and support options.	Ongoing	Continual improvements to referral pathways and ease of joint working
	Ensure the community is aware of the domestic abuse services available to individuals in the area.	Ongoing	We keep local agencies up to date with our information, contact GPs and the NHS, and drop leaflets in areas where victim-survivors might be.
TVP	Officers are informed of support services through training and knowledge on area. The DA pages on the TVP Knowzone also signposts them when needed. With work around DARA replacing DASH we are hoping this new system creates further opportunities to remind and support staff managing DA cases.		DA Operational Guidance is updated regularly and communicated to staff. Resources and support services appear online for staff to access and through their job mobile phones (alongside Apps). DA specialist teams provide information and support to officers managing standard and medium risk cases, and provide details of support services. These are also listed on the back of DOM5 Forms and handed to the victim.

Recommendation Three: Economic Abuse			
The desired outcome from the recommendation – Empower survivors to remove a substantial obstacle that perpetuates the cycle of domestic abuse.			
Ref	Action		
3.1	CSP to create resources, including pathways for survivors to open independent bank accounts, access credit, and secure housing.		
Agency	Key Milestones	Target Date	Completion Date and Outcome
Domestic Abuse Partnership	Economic abuse training to be delivered to multi-agency partners regularly.	March 2025	Included in the training programme and key points learning ‘podcast’. Economic abuse is covered in the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-28.
Health Services and Primary Care			There are various forms of learning training, such as e-learning, virtual learning, face-to-face learning, or reflective reviews. These resources and opportunities for partnership training may include economic abuse. GP surgery confirmed ...
Wokingham Community Safety Partnership (CSP)		Completed.	Domestic abuse pages on WBC website provide comprehensive links and advice. Housing options this page details the housing options. Report abuse of an adult enables the reporting of concerns about an adult, there is a similar page to report concerns about a child.

Recommendation Four: Alcohol Abuse, Physical Health and Domestic Abuse			
The desired outcome from the recommendation			
By addressing both alcohol abuse and domestic abuse to reduce their influence on both the victim and perpetrator.			
Ref	Action		
4.1	Front-line practitioners have access to training and resources for therapeutic approaches that acknowledge the impact of trauma on individuals, enabling them to customise interventions to address both the psychological and behavioural aspects of abuse and addiction.		
Agency	Key Milestones	Target Date	Completion Date and Outcome
Adult Social Care (ASC)		Completed	Intersectionality embedded in domestic abuse training.
Cranstoun Domestic Abuse Service Cranstoun Substance Misuse Service	Cranstoun Domestic Abuse and Cranstoun Substance Misuse services have explored ways of working closer together to support those with multiple issues.	Ongoing	Co-location taking place and regular meetings of the services will be embedded.
Domestic Abuse Partnership			
GP Practice	Health services and primary care will use various forms of learning training, such as e-learning, virtual training, face-to-face training, and reflective reviews. These resources and opportunities for partnership training may include alcohol abuse, physical health, and domestic abuse.	Completed	See above under 1.1 Action plan reviewed by victim's GP surgery Feb 2025
RBH			See above under 1.1
Smart CJS	Establishment of 'Kate's Place' which is a safe place for female service users to enable them to feel they can discuss issues such as domestic abuse and housing needs alongside their substance issues.	Completed	Intersectionality embedded within the service provided.

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS)		Completed	SCAS recognise the importance of awareness of domestic abuse and have responded by including Domestic Abuse training content in the safeguarding induction delivered to all staff joining SCAS. SCAS have also added further training which is delivered in the safeguarding level 2 & 3 packages.
Thames Valley Police (TVP)	<p>If a couple experiencing DA are graded High Risk more collaborative discussions are held and referred into MARACs / MAPPAs/ DRIVE Perpetrator Programme. Here alcohol or another form of abuse can be discussed.</p> <p>DA Training, DA Champions, CPD Events, Sgt Training Days, DA Specialist course all cover the impact of trauma and roll out training/guidance to support DA victims.</p>	Completed	Officers must ensure that vulnerability assessments are completed in order that MASH can consider the need for referral to partner agencies when there are adult protection and vulnerability concerns.
Ref	Action		
2.2	Maintain updated domestic abuse resources that provide easy access to resources and support services.		
Agency	Key Milestones	Target Date	Completion Date and Outcome
TVP	Please see 2.2		

Recommendation Five: Community and Family Awareness of Domestic Abuse			
<p>The desired outcome from the recommendation – By fostering safer and more supportive environments for all members, communities and families can play a pivotal role in recognising, preventing, and addressing domestic abuse.</p>			
Ref	Action		
5.1	To organise a community session in conjunction with local domestic abuse services for the public on the identification and prevention of domestic abuse and providing support resources.		
Agency	Key Milestones	Target Date	Completion Date and Outcome
Wokingham Community Safety Partnership (CSP)	<p>Raise need for on-going communication and awareness raising via residents’ newsletters and social media with WBC Communications and Engagement Lead.</p> <p>Identified that refuse/recycling collection leaflet is the only printed communication that goes to all households.</p> <p>Request that information about Domestic Abuse is added to this leaflet (however brief).</p> <p>DHR chair on behalf of CSP to raise issues with national agencies and to raise with Home Office the need for national awareness campaign as identified by the panel.</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>March 2025</p>	<p>Domestic abuse pages on WBC website provide comprehensive links and advice. Report abuse of an adult enables the reporting of concerns about an adult, there is a similar page to report concerns about a child.</p> <p>A series of webinars ran throughout February 2025 with a theme of Keeping Safe. These included a session from a victim/survivor on domestic abuse and a session on technology based abuse.</p> <p>Emails sent to Refuge, DA Commissioner and College of Policing.</p>