



Domestic Homicide Review (KMBC DHR05)

Action Plan Diana (pseudonym) November 2020

	Recommendation	Scope	Action to Take	Lead Agency	Key milestone	Outcome	Update October 2024
1.	In all domestic homicide cases Criminal Justice Agencies are to ascertain from bereaved families their wishes regarding future contact from the perpetrator at the outset of the criminal investigation and act upon those wishes with the same level of priority as given to protecting key prosecution witnesses from communication by the perpetrator	Local	Ascertain the family's wishes at first meeting. Notify all relevant criminal justice agencies of that decision.	Merseyside Police	Change to policy to requiring investigating officers to ask the question and act upon it.	Avoidance of secondary victimisation of families bereaved by domestic homicide.	Completed: Merseyside Police confirm that this has been incorporated in all relevant training
2.	Should any changes to national policy regarding the protection of family members from unwanted communication by the perpetrator be agreed the Panel recommend that such changes prohibit perpetrators from contacting	National	Change national policy on this matter.	Ministry of Justice	Agreement to change of existing policy	Perpetrators will be unable to use enlist the help of others to communicate with families.	Ongoing: Action shared with Office of The Merseyside Police & Crime Commissioner to include in the Domestic Abuse



	family members by themselves, their servants or their agents.						Commissioner's Office Domestic Homicide Review Pilot
3.	The review of national policy on the protection of family members from unwanted contact from perpetrators and the Victims Bill consider the inclusion of a new duty to be placed upon Police and agencies supporting families of domestic homicide victims. That duty to ensure families should be informed of their rights to prevent unwanted communication from the perpetrator whilst in prison	National	Change to national policy	Ministry of Justice	Agreement to include new duty.	Greater level of support and protection for victims' families. Greater level of protection from unwanted communication by perpetrators for families of domestic homicide victims.	Ongoing: Action shared with Office of The Merseyside Police & Crime Commissioner to include in the Domestic Abuse Commissioners Office Domestic Homicide Review Pilot.
4.	Whilst the national review of this policy prohibiting contact with families by perpetrators continues its work the Panel recommend that Merseyside Police revise their guidance to Senior Investigating Officers and Family Liaison Officers in seeking bereaved families wishes on receiving future contact from the	Local	Introduce guidance to investigating officers.	Merseyside Police	New guidance is developed.	Greater level of protection from unwanted communication by perpetrators for families of domestic homicide victims.	Completed: Merseyside Police confirm that this has been incorporated in all relevant training



	perpetrator at the start of the investigation and advising the receiving prison of those wishes						
5.	The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board ensure delivery of multi-agency training to all staff working in Knowsley in roles which may receive a disclosure of domestic abuse from a member of the public or a work colleague. The training to focus upon domestic abuse and controlling and coercive behaviour within a relationship. This training to include the updated controlling or coercive behaviour statutory guidance which the Government is committed to publishing	Local	Development of multi-agency training plan.	Knowsley Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.	Creation of training plan. Implementation of multi-agency training.	Greater level of understanding amongst all agencies in Knowsley of aspects of control and coercion. More support for victims of control and coercion.	Completed (training ongoing): In 2022 Knowsley Council resourced and commissioned a two-year Independent Domestic Abuse Training package which has been accessible across the whole partnership. includes a continued focus on Controlling and Coercive Behaviours as its present in all Domestic Abuse 2024/2025: Agreement to continue with the 3-day Domestic



							<p>Abuse training: Development of 1-day Domestic Abuse training & Development of virtual self-led Domestic Abuse training</p> <p>Ongoing: The Knowsley Domestic Abuse review undertaken in 2024 recommended the implementation of a long-term sustainable workforce development programme. Resources permitting this will be taken forward in line with the refresh of The Knowsley Domestic Abuse Strategy in 2025.</p>
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6.	The restriction of Victim Support National Homicide Service regarding support being provided only to immediate family members be amended. In future the criteria for such support is decided on the family giving consent for Victim Support to contact them and the level of need for individuals within the wider family which will vary from case to case.	National	Amendment to Victim Support National Homicide Service criteria for support to individuals.	Victim Support National Homicide Service	Revision of policy.	Vital support is provided to individuals outside the range of immediate family members. Prevents escalation to crisis level for such individuals.	Ongoing: Action shared with Office of The Merseyside Police & Crime Commissioner to include in the Domestic Abuse Commissioners Office Domestic Homicide Review Pilot.
7.	Through the involvement of families of victims of domestic homicide, a multi-agency support plan for victims' families be developed. Led by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside and the National Homicide Service. The plan which will explore all offers of support to victims to be utilised immediately upon a domestic homicide taking place, should provide coordinated	Regional	Establish victim's needs. Creation of support plan.	Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside	Engagement of families of victims of domestic homicide. Agreement of support plan. Creation of a toolkit based upon the support plan which is available and	More support for victims of families of domestic homicide. Earlier intervention with the aim of avoiding escalation to crisis levels.	Ongoing: Action shared with Office of The Merseyside Police & Crime Commissioner to include in the Domestic Abuse Commissioners Office Domestic



	support for the needs of victims' families. In particular the plan to include age-appropriate services for children in order to support and improve outcomes for those children experiencing domestic abuse.				used by all staff providing support to the families		Homicide Review Pilot.
8.	Teaching to help young people's ability to recognise what behaviours are not acceptable or excusable including controlling and coercive abuse be given a high priority in Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum in all Knowsley Schools and Colleges.	Local	Focus within RSHE upon abusive behaviours within a relationship.	Knowsley Children Services	Creation of the focus and delivery of the lessons.	Children will have a greater level of awareness and understanding about abusive behaviours and higher levels of safety within relationships.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Implementation of Knowsley Council's THRIVE Project delivered by Children's Services developed to provide one; one and group work support to children.</p> <p>Independent Specialist Domestic Abuse Service delivered the Helping Hands programme.</p>



							<p>The Knowsley Domestic Abuse review undertaken in 2024 recommended the development of further domestic abuse early help interventions to children. Resources permitting this will be taken forward in line with the refresh of The Knowsley Domestic Abuse Strategy in 2025</p>
9.	<p>A coordinated and sustained multi-agency information and education program to be developed reaching all communities in Knowsley and reflective of each communities differing needs. The views of victims and children who have experienced domestic abuse alongside those who provide</p>	Local	<p>Identify community's needs.</p> <p>Through community outreach with victims and survivors, collaboratively improve and</p>	Knowsley Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	<p>Establishing community's level of knowledge and preferred method of receiving information.</p> <p>Creation of sustained delivery</p>	<p>Greater safety for victims of domestic abuse through better understanding and recognition of abusive behaviours.</p>	<p>Ongoing: Co-developed with the Knowsley Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Live Experience Forum a local Knowsley Domestic Abuse Awareness Campaign "Is</p>



	<p>support to victims and their families be included in the development of this program. The information and education should focus upon the ability to recognise the signs of domestic abuse in all its forms and what action to take to make victims safe.</p>		<p>create awareness campaigns that meet the community's needs.</p> <p>Program of sustaining the message within the community.</p> <p>Review domestic abuse information available on partnerships websites ensuring it is clear detailing what services are available and who can access them.</p>		<p>plan for information giving and educational programs.</p>	<p>Greater support for perpetrators of domestic abuse to seek help in changing their behaviour.</p>	<p><i>This You</i>” will be launched in November 2025.</p> <p>The Knowsley Domestic Abuse review undertaken in 2024 recommended the development of further early help interventions to children. Resources permitting this will be taken forward in line with the refresh of The Knowsley Domestic Abuse Strategy in 2025</p>
10.	<p>The joint agency Commissioning Review, being held in 2023 must have the guarantee of independence, and that the needs</p>	Local	<p>Review existing domestic abuse provision.</p>	Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.	Completion of assessment of need.	Victims of domestic abuse feel confident in	Completed



	of domestic abuse victims is, based upon a review of the needs of victims and their families, and consider how domestic abuse support systems and services should be provided to meet those needs and whether more independent, community based support is needed.		Assessment of need against existing provision.		Decision by commissioners informed by a community response to the proposals regarding future provision of service.	making disclosures of abuse	
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Note: This action plan for KMBC DHR05 is a live document and subject to change as outcomes are delivered.