

Public/Non Public	Public
Report to:	Strategic Resources and Performance Meeting
Date of Meeting:	10 March 2021
Report of:	Chief Constable Guildford
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Agenda Item:	05

Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)/Serious Case Review (SCR) Update

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide members of the Police and Crime Commissioner with an updated position in relation to Domestic Homicide Reviews and Serious Case Reviews (now Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews).
- 1.2 This is an update from the previous report to this forum, dated March 2020.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner notes the force's position and response to all recommendations from these reviews.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To enable the Police and Crime Commissioner to fulfil their scrutiny obligations with regard to the effectiveness of Nottinghamshire Police's response to Domestic Homicide Reviews and Serious Case Reviews.

4. Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 Below is a summary of the current status of Domestic Homicide Reviews and Serious Case Reviews (now known as Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews) which either had an outstanding action or has been commissioned since the last report in March 2020. Of note, under the first national lockdown (March-August 20) Nottinghamshire DHR's were temporarily suspended (as per national guidance) as partners struggled to resource the reports/panel meetings. Consequently, there are fewer than normal updates.

4.2 Domestic Homicide Reviews

The below are Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City cases. In addition, the force and partners have provided information for a number of other "out of county" DHR's.

Operation name	Review status
AIS	<p>Review concluded. Incident happened 11/11/2017. One recommendation for the Police;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nottinghamshire Police need to evaluate the use of voluntary attendance of a suspect for interview in respect of domestic abuse flagged crime. <p>Complete (see below 4.4).</p>
Chapaeu	<p>Review concluded. Incident date 13/07/2018. No recommendation for the Police.</p>
Hade	<p>Review on-going. Incident date 05/11/2018.</p>
Hanover	<p>Review on-going. Incident date 02/08/2019.</p>
Harlem	<p>Review on-going. Incident date 13/11/2019.</p>
Hashtag	<p>Review on-going. Incident date 01/08/2020.</p>
Haslock	<p>Review on-going. Incident date 16/08/2017. No previous police involvement.</p>
Helios	<p>Review completed. Incident date 29/01/2018. No police recommendations.</p>
Helsinki	<p>Review completed. Incident date 29/01/2018. No police recommendations.</p> <p>Although completed it is not yet in the public domain. The Coroner's case is currently ongoing with no verdict at the time of this report.</p>
Hexad	<p>Review completed. Incident date 28/08/2018. No police recommendations.</p>
Hind	<p>Review concluded. Incident date 25/10/2016. All agency recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All agencies to raise awareness of coercive and controlling behaviour <p>Completed. 1200 front line officers and staff have been trained in coercive/control behaviour in Autumn 2019.</p> <p>Following concerns from the Home Office, the CSP (South</p>

	<p>Notts Community Safety Partnership) commissioned a different author to rewrite the DHR. A further police recommendation was identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Nottinghamshire Police provides reassurance to the CSP that evidence led prosecutions are now considered more robustly in all domestic abuse cases. <p>Ongoing. See 4.4</p>
Hoff	Review on-going Incident date 30/07/2018. No police recommendations.
Hornet	<p>Review concluded. Incident date 18/02/2018. Police recommendations:</p> <p>Recommendation One</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Nottinghamshire Police refreshes its internal and external communications to increase awareness of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme. <p>Recommendation Two</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nottinghamshire Police includes a DVDS trigger question within the risk assessment process to ensure that members of staff consider this option when dealing with each case of domestic abuse. <p>Recommendation Three</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nottinghamshire Police increase awareness raising of the DVPN/DVPO procedure to frontline staff <p>Ongoing see 4.4</p>
Highwire	Review on-going Incident date 24/04/2018.
Loam	Review on-going. Incident date 29/05/2019.
DHR Berry	Review on-going. Incident date 28/08/2020
DHR 39	Review on-going. Incident date 17/08/2020

4.3 Serious Case Reviews

N	<p>Review complete. Police recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek assurance from Nottinghamshire Police that there is an appropriate level of awareness of learning disabilities amongst officers/staff <p>Complete. DCI Dean has provided an ILOR (impact of learning on outcomes review) in relation to the above.</p>
RN19	Review complete. No police recommendations.
TN20	Review ongoing.
SN20	Review ongoing.

4.4 Update on Domestic Homicide Recommendations

AIS - ongoing	<p>Recommendation –</p> <p>The force to evaluate use of Voluntary Attendance (VA) in respect of Domestic Abuse</p> <p>Falling arrests rates and the use of VA is a national issue for almost all forces.</p> <p>The force has invested in Domestic Abuse Matters training for staff. All frontline officers have received this training (completed November 2019). The full days training was delivered by commissioned services in order to equip staff to recognise and deal with all DA investigations effectively.</p> <p>The falling arrest rate and use of VA is subject of an on-going audit regime within Public Protection. The focus is on medium and low risk offences as no high risk should ever be dealt with by VA. The audit also examines the use of bail conditions for DA offences.</p> <p>The first audit was conducted in July 2019 on domestic abuse. As a result, a pilot was authorised to provide stronger supervisory input in the decision making process to arrest or voluntary interview domestic abuse perpetrators. The pilot commenced Dec 2019 in two areas, Ashfield and Broxtowe.</p>
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	<p>Following a review of the above, the force launched the arrest/voluntary interview project in October 2020. This project makes the above a forcewide process and is monitored regularly to ensure compliance.</p>
Hind	<p>Recommendation –</p> <p>That Nottinghamshire Police provides reassurance to the CSP that evidence led prosecutions are now considered more robustly in all domestic abuse cases.</p> <p>Evidence led prosecutions are part of an ongoing piece of work within Public Protection. The monitoring of such is a national problem for forces and CPS. However the force has worked with criminal justice partners to ensure that these investigations are identified. Nottinghamshire Police can now report on the number of evidence led prosecutions force wide Cases are monitored to ensure that the conversion rate to conviction is high. MI (management of information) have developed a search which enables cases where the survivor is not supportive but where other evidence exists.</p> <p>The importance of evidence led prosecutions has been reinforced by an internal communication strategy. Posters have been placed in all custody suites/PP and PHT offices. The message will be reinforced in the Domestic Abuse video clip which is part of a series of Safeguarding Matters videos on the intranet to inform officers and reinforce the importance of assessing vulnerability.</p>
Hornet	<p>Recommendation One</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Nottinghamshire Police refreshes its internal and external communications to increase awareness of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme. <p>Public Protection has implemented the following measures immediately and continues to work towards improving DVDS.</p> <p>Nottinghamshire Police have recently introduced a number of measures intended to improve the number of DVDS referrals in order to safeguard victims. These include</p>

internal communications on the force intranet, training to staff, a consideration for MARAC chairs as an action, inclusion in the Domestic Abuse investigation/victim booklet, promotion through the domestic abuse champions and promoted as an action for serial perpetrators on the IOM cohort /repeat victim.

Recommendation Two

- Nottinghamshire Police includes a DVDS trigger question within the risk assessment process to ensure that members of staff consider this option when dealing with each case of domestic abuse.

A business case to formally request the resources (required for the secondary risk assessment process which occurs in the DASU) to consider the appropriateness of the Right to Know DVDS disclosure was agreed at the July Force executive Board. Two members of staff have been recruited into the DASU to increase the numbers of DVDS. This process will provide a systematic review of every domestic abuse case assessing victims would be eligible for a DVDS across all standard/medium risk (high risk being considered at MARAC) and offer a right to know where required. This will result in a significant increase in the numbers of DVDS being completed and therefore improved safeguarding for survivors. The numbers had already significantly increased (doubled) from 2018 to 2019 and these will continue to rise as all offences are reviewed and considered for DVDS.

Recommendation Three

- Nottinghamshire Police increase awareness raising of the DVPN/DVPO procedure to frontline staff

DVPO/DVPNs are the last resort of positive action. Other forces are less successful at prosecutions. Typically, Nottinghamshire performs well in terms of good court conviction rates (highest in the region) – being above national average for conviction rates for ALL of the past four months. Therefore, the use of orders for non-

	<p>convictions is relatively low.</p> <p>There is an on-going piece of work around how the force manages its civil orders. A Safeguarding post has been created to look at improving the number of civil orders that the force obtains. This role will focus on all the above orders however the priority is the DVPN's. These numbers have dramatically increased as a result. We have provided training to Public Protection/Prisoner Handling teams/Superintendents/custody staff new recruits.</p> <p>There has been a change to Domestic Abuse working practices within Neighbourhood Policing Teams which allows NPT's to focus on perpetrators, bail checks, DVPN/O checks, child at risk plans etc. and actively enforce the civil orders identifying breaches and further offending.</p> <p><i>Although there are three police recommendations the DHR author comments: "On balance the overall police response to reports of domestic abuse by the victim were positive and proportionate and generally in keeping with local policy and procedures."</i></p>
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5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

5.1 If financial implications arise from recommendations raised from Domestic Homicide or Serious Case Reviews, these are considered accordingly. Where an action cannot be delivered within budget provision, approval will be sought through the appropriate means.

6. Human Resources Implications

6.1 There are no direct HR implications as a result of this report. HR implications resulting from reviews will be managed on a case by case basis.

7. Equality Implications

7.1 There are no direct equality implications as a result of this report. Equality implications resulting from specific reviews will be managed on a case by case basis.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 Some reviews may involve the completion of formal reviews of specific business areas. It is possible that some or all of these reviews will identify and evaluate significant risks, which will then be incorporated into the Force's risk management process.

9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

- 9.1 Any policy implications will be subject to current policy development process.

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 10.1 There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report.

11. Details of outcome of consultation

- 11.1 All Domestic Review and Serious Case Review recommendations are added to the action planning system, 4Action, to ensure the force holds the corporate memory in relation to action taken to address these issues and any learning outcomes obtained by the force. These are scrutinised by the Deputy Chief Constable.

12. Appendices

12. None.