



# Domestic Homicide Review into the death of Adult K - 1 page learning summary

DHRs are a way to improve our local coordinated community response. Looking at the death of a person aged 16+ because of DA, they aim to:

- understand what happened
- identify where agency responses could be improved
- learn lessons including how agencies work together
- identify how to improve responses
- to prevent something similar happening in the future

## What we have learned

- Adult K's experiences of domestic abuse (DA) included:
  - coercive and controlling behaviour
  - economic abuse
- Adult child-to-parent abuse (CPA) is less understood than domestic abuse in intimate relationships. Parents, particularly mothers, face specific barriers in receiving support. Barriers include:
  - not recognising their experiences as DA
  - feeling guilty about reporting to police
  - feeling that they have failed as a parent
  - fear that they will be blamed
- Professionals need more training on CPA and unconscious bias about familial relationships.
- Professionals also need support to understand the risk of economic abuse as a form of coercive control.
- The perpetrator experienced problems with mental health, substance misuse and gambling.
- The focus was often on Adult K to manage the risk and keep herself safe. The review found that agencies must do more to reinforce measures against perpetrators. This includes continuing to assess risk, particularly when new information comes to light.
- Read the full Adult K learning briefing.  
[Domestic Homicide Review into the death of Adult K - Learning briefing](#)

## Did you know?

- Domestic abuse isn't only physical violence. Adult K also experienced coercive and controlling behaviour and economic abuse.
- Economic abuse shows a sense of entitlement and rarely happens in isolation. Economic abuse should be seen as an indicator of coercive control.
- This case included key risk indicators of familial domestic homicide. These include:
  - suicidal thoughts
  - a sense of entitlement to financial resources
  - issues with addiction

## What works and what you need to do now

- Would you be confident having a conversation to help someone recognise they may be experiencing DA? Women's Aid has produced a simple online guide to help recognise abusive relationships.  
[Women's Aid: I'm not sure if my relationship is healthy](#)
- Would you recognise signs of child-to-parent abuse, and would you know how to respond? The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has more information (see points 32-35 and 235).  
[Domestic Abuse Act 2021: statutory guidance](#)
- Are you confident in using the DASH RIC to identify and assess risk?  
[East Sussex DASH Risk Identification Checklist \(DASH RIC\)](#)