

Domestic Homicide Review into the death of Pamela - 1 page learning summary

DHRs are a way to improve our local coordinated community response. Looking at the death of a person aged 16+ as a result of DVA, 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; and to prevent something similar happening to others in the future.

What we have learned

- Pamela's ex-partner displayed behaviours that are not widely understood as indicators of an abuser, including: a sense of entitlement about money, as well as his partners' time and attention; accused partners of having affairs; and his relationships escalated very quickly
- Pamela's ex-partner had a history of stalking and harassment – multiple women had reported him in another county
- Pamela had contact with her General Practitioner and [Health in Mind](#) – her GP could have made direct enquiry about domestic abuse, while the mental health worker could have completed a Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment Risk Identification Checklist (DASH RIC) form
- Pamela's family were concerned about her ex-partner. They did not know they could have made a Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme application to find out if her partner has a history of violence or abuse.
- Read the full report at <http://www.safeineastsussex.org.uk/Domestic%20Homicide%20Reviews.html>

Did you know?

- 1) Domestic abuse isn't just about physical violence – Pamela experienced coercive and controlling behaviour. Her ex-partner made suicide threats, shared derogatory social media messages and also posted directly from Pamela's own accounts. It can also include stalking and harassment.
- 2) Pamela's world became smaller – their merged businesses became her ex-partners shop and his belongings took up most of the space at home
- 3) Whilst it is clear that Pamela's ex-partner was coercive and controlling, Pamela did not 'name' her experience as domestic abuse
- 4) Separation does not necessarily mean someone is safe - the homicide happened the same month that Pamela separated from her ex-partner

What works and what you need to do now

- 1) Would you be confident in having a conversation to help someone recognise they may be experiencing domestic abuse? Women's Aid has produced a simple [online questionnaire](#) to help people recognise an abusive relationship
- 2) Can you identify stalking? The Suzy Lamplugh Trust has produced [online guidance](#), including frequently asked questions
- 3) Would you recognise the risk factors, signs, presenting problems or conditions that can warn (health) professionals that a patient may be experiencing domestic abuse?
- 4) Are you confident in using the [DASH RIC](#) to identify risk?
- 5) Are you aware of the [Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme](#)?

