

## **Project Umbra – Strand 6**

### **Domestic Violence Homicide Review**

Strand 6 of Project Umbra is a Strategic Multi-Agency Panel formulated to oversee the domestic Homicide review process for those relevant cases occurring within the MPS area.

#### **Definition of Domestic homicide**

'A murder where the suspect and victim are adults, aged 18 and over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender and sexuality'. (Family members are defined as mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister and grandparents, whether directly related, in-laws or step-family)'(ACPO 2005)

#### **Aim:**

- Establish whether there are lessons to be learnt from the case about the way in which local professionals and agencies work together to safeguard victims;
- Identify clearly what those lessons are, how they will be acted upon and what is expected to change as a result, and as a consequence;
- To improve inter-agency working and better safeguards for domestic violence victims and the 'secondary victims' affected by domestic violence.

#### **Terms of reference:**

- To ensure that every domestic violence homicide committed within the MPS area is reviewed with local multi-agency partners to collate previous contact with victims and perpetrators and to examine their service response with a view to identifying areas for improvement.

- To constructively (& objectively) examine in detail each review compiled to assess and where appropriate ratify findings and recommendations.
- To identify recommendations applicable at level 1(local) level 2 (national) and level 3(legislative).
- To identify which agency is best placed to address national recommendations and to notify the appropriate lead within that agency with a view to development and implementation of the recommendation.
- To intrusively review the progress of the implementation of recommendations (at all levels).
- To analyse and identify trends and patterns of DV homicides.
- To distill and disseminate learning and findings from the homicide review process.
- Once this process is sufficiently embedded we must review un-explained deaths (HM Coroner's Court Suicide Adjudications), cases of self-harming by DV victims and survivors and 'assisted deaths'.

**Work programme:**

The work of this panel will be guided by each individual review but should address the following:

- To ratify decisions NOT to conduct a review
- To examine individual reviews to ensure adequate completion and to follow-up with the relevant agency where there are failings
- To monitor local action plans and to contribute to national action plans where appropriate
- To make provision for training and guidance on homicide review work.
- To ensure that policies, strategies and risk assessment models remain dynamic and are regularly evaluated in relation to emerging findings from reviews.
- To encourage each London Borough to develop a risk management panel to manage repeat and high risk DV victims and/or perpetrators.

- To review performance outcomes in relation Form 124d completion, volume of serious assaults and volume of repeat victimisation rates. Furthermore to identify trends in performance achievement and offending patterns.
- To publish and disseminate to appropriate agreed parties, findings and recommendations every 6 months
- To look at relevant learnings from national homicide reviews and to address actual gaps in London's services.

**Proposed Membership:**

DCI Gerry Campbell	Violent Crime Directorate
DS Sharon Stratton	Violent Crime Directorate
Laura Richards	Violent Crime Directorate
Shiela Adams	London Health
Education –	
MPA Rep	Metropolitan Police Authority
Dru Sharpling	CPS
Brian Sweeting	Homicide & Serious Crime Review, SCD
GLDVP	GLDVP

NGO's – BME/LGBT/VULNERABLE ADULTS REPS Sashiana, East London  
Self-Harm Project Imkaan.