

# Information

for County Councillors

Sheet Number: 2017-21/224
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From:	Suzanne Harris, Senior Commissioning Officer (Interpersonal Violence)
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Relevant SLT Director and sign-off date:	Louise Woolway 8 April 2022
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Date:	19 April 2022
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To:	All County Councillors
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## Somerset Domestic Homicide Review Publication of Case 029

### Background

The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) requires Community Safety Partnerships to consider multi-agency reviews into deaths which may be domestic abuse related. As a key partner of the local Community Safety Partnership (Safer Somerset Partnership), Somerset County Council (SCC) is required to participate in Domestic Homicide Reviews

The statutory guidance states that Domestic Homicide Reviews should be considered for situations where:

The death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by—

(a) a person he or she was related to or whom he or she was or had been in an intimate personal relationship with

or

(b) a member of the same household as him or herself.

The purpose of a Domestic Homicide Review is to identify the lessons to be learnt from the death relating to domestic abuse services and processes

### **Somerset Domestic Homicide Review Case 029**

In March 2020, the Safer Somerset Partnership commissioned a Domestic Homicide Review. This was in response to the death (murder) of a 56 year old female (known in the review as Diane). Diane had recently separated from her husband. Friends provided information to the review suggesting there'd been some emotional abuse and also possible physical and economic abuse and controlling behaviour. This was both during the marriage and post-separation. However, agencies had limited contact with the couple, and no evidence of domestic abuse.

An independently chaired multi-agency review panel was established, (as per the Home Office statutory guidance). This domestic homicide review has resulted in learning and actions which include national policy changes and an improvement in awareness raising of domestic abuse within communities.

The Home Office Quality and Assurance Overview Panel have confirmed the report can now be published.

### **Publication**

The Home Office require that reports be published online at the local Community Safety Partnership website. The Overview Report is available online at <https://somensetsurvivors.org.uk/professional-resources/domestic-homicide-reviews/> with each Community Safety Partnership member agency linking to this site.

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