

Kirklees Communities Board

DHR Assurance Statement following the Domestic Homicide Review into 'Pat', completed in August 2025

Table of Contents

1. Purpose.....	1
2. Preface.....	1
3. Summary of Review.....	1
4. Kirklees Multi-Agency Response to Recommendations	2

1. Purpose

This assurance statement is provided in response to the Joint Domestic Homicide Review and Independent Mental Health Homicide Investigation commissioned by NHS England and Kirklees Communities Board.

2. Preface

Firstly, and most importantly, our thoughts are with everyone affected by this tragic incident, in particular the victim Pat and her family. We recognise the lifelong impact on the lives of Pat's family, Mr G and his family. We would like to thank family and all professionals involved in the care of both Pat and Mr G for their engagement, contributions and reflections on this case. We understand that reading this report may cause you to feel worried or upset and we would encourage you to access support as needed. If you would like to ask any questions about the report, please email kirkleesdhr@kirklees.gov.uk

3. Summary of Review

Pat died in March 2021 and Mr G was found responsible for her death (but did not have capacity to enter a plea or stand trial). Given that Pat and Mr G were married, and he had regular contact with mental health services, Pat's death met the criteria for both a Domestic Homicide Review and Independent NHS Mental Health Homicide Investigation. Kirklees Community Safety Partnership and NHS England (North East and Yorkshire) agreed to commission a joint review. The review was undertaken by Niche Health and Social Care Consulting. Pat and Mr G had contact with a range of services in Kirklees, and the Domestic Homicide Review considered detailed reports from:

- Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust
- NHS
- Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group (in respect of primary care)
- Kirklees Council, Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Partnerships (in respect of the Daily Risk Assessment Management Meeting process)
- Kirklees Council, Adult Social Care
- Kirklees Council, Homes and Neighbourhoods
- Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust
- South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT)
- West Yorkshire Police

The agencies listed above were part of a panel which met regularly to consider how these agencies engaged with Pat and Mr G between September 2019 and March 2021 and to identify immediate and ongoing learning for individual agencies and the Communities Board as a whole. The panel also oversaw the completion of action plans and activities to respond to

learning from this review. NICHE took the responsibility to liaise and remain in contact with Pat and Mr G's families throughout the review.

4. Kirklees Multi-Agency Response to Recommendations

The Panel proactively reflected on learning identified in the review and considered that the recommendations were applicable across the partnership. As a result, recommendations made by the Niche review have been broadened to ensure relevance to all agencies involved in the review. Robust action plans were implemented by agencies during the review to respond to learning as it emerged.

In addition to the work undertaken by individual agencies, the Communities Board has taken the opportunity to review organisational processes and referral mechanisms around domestic abuse, resulting in the following improvements:

- The 2022-27 Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy was established to strengthen the way our local agencies work together around individuals, families and communities to prevent, respond to and repair the damage caused by domestic abuse, aiming to shift responsibility for safety away from individual survivors to the community and services that exist to support them. The Strategy includes a strategic priority to monitor improvements to our partnership response to victims with multiple needs and/or protected characteristics and will report back to the Communities Board regarding progress on this;
- There have been significant changes to the way the Council manages local charities to support victims of domestic abuse (including children). The arrangement brings together a group of partners that work alongside victims to enable them to identify and meet outcomes that feel most relevant for them and empowers services to take a more flexible and holistic approach to service delivery. Our service providers sit within a broader supportive partnership where progress is constantly monitored (as a way to inform delivery) and all parties are accountable for the extent to which they actually improve people's lives;
- Strengthening how we identify and assess those with caring responsibilities. Supporting Carers has been a priority area for Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board and Dignity in Care Network, and each agency has had the responsibility to evidence how they have effectively improved their response to carers including training, carer champions and events. Domestic abuse training has been provided to caring organisations by both local authority and third sector providers;
- The Daily Risk Assessment Management Meeting (DRAMM) that responds to medium and high risk domestic abuse incidents has been subject to review and as a result, additional quality assurance arrangements have been put in place and all supporting documents have been updated and shared with partners. Improvements have also been made to safety planning and the availability of training to partners. All agencies have reviewed their participation in DRAMM as a result of this review;
- The partnership has reviewed existing domestic abuse training and increased the availability of e-learning and classroom training on domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Team has reviewed training delivered by partners (for example in relation to social work practice, dementia and support for carers).

- New arrangements are in place in Kirklees between three statutory boards (Communities Board, Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership) to develop and improve the embedding of learning from all statutory reviews. This working group comprises of senior leaders and representatives from each board who have facilitated events and are sharing learning from reviews (local, regional and national) directly with operational teams, who then feedback on how learning has led to improvements in practice. The working group are also monitoring feedback and holding agencies to account for completing feedback. Due to the volume of cases and learning identified, the established working group will continue to operate long term.
- The Kirklees Communities Board has sought assurance and evidence from individual agencies regarding the embedding of key learning from this review and the completion of internal changes they planned to make as set out in their IMRs.