

DHR2023-1

The findings of an independent domestic homicide review – now known as a domestic abuse related death review (DARDR) - into the death of a 33-year-old woman was published by the Derbyshire Safer Communities Board on 01 July 2026.

A DARDR is a multi-agency review which seeks to identify and implement lessons learned from deaths which have, or appear to have, resulted from domestic abuse.

The overview report, executive summary and report addendum into the death of “Harriet” in March 2023 are attached below.

The report highlights key learning and practice improvements in order to strengthen early identification, safeguarding, and multi-agency responses to domestic abuse and vulnerability.

The report’s independent author Parminder Sahota said: “I’d like to offer my sincere condolences to everyone who knew and loved Harriet and were affected by her death.

“I’d also like to thank her friends and family for their contribution to this report.

“We carried out an independent review of the events leading up to Harriet’s death and have involved all the agencies and professionals as well as her family.

“Her tragic case demonstrates the urgent need for a more integrated, trauma-informed response to domestic abuse for people with complex vulnerabilities.

“I made a number of recommendations to help agencies to strengthen their response to domestic abuse, improve multi-agency working and ensure the learning from Harriet’s death leads to meaningful changes in practice to reduce the risk of similar tragedies in the future.”

The recommendations in the review include:

- Agencies on the DARDR panel to fully understand the review’s findings to strengthen and enhance responses to domestic abuse and to share the lessons learned from Harriet’s death, especially understanding trauma and its significant effect on individuals.
- Personalise responses for victim-survivors of domestic abuse, fostering a mindset of professional curiosity. Staff should have access to training and resources that focus on professional curiosity and trauma-informed approaches. Community Safety Partnerships and domestic abuse services to implement awareness campaigns that highlight the signs of domestic abuse, how to get help and ways to support victim-survivors.
- Recognise and address the ‘trio of vulnerabilities’ of which domestic abuse is a part. Domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health are often interconnected and

need a collaborative and integrated approach. Agencies to implement regular training to enable professionals to recognise and address the co-occurrence of the three vulnerabilities – personal, situational and relational risk factors.

- Greater Manchester Police to remind its officers to create a Care Plan when they respond to a person presenting with mental-health-related concerns. Officers should respond more proactively to breaches of police bail and violations should be dealt with quickly.

The Derbyshire Safer Communities Board is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations which are intended to facilitate safer and more effective responses to domestic abuse victims and survivors.

The chair of the Derbyshire Safer Communities Board Councillor Dan Price said:

“I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to Harriet’s family and friends. This was a very sad case which highlighted a number of learning areas.

“The review highlights the interconnectedness of trauma, domestic abuse, mental health struggles and substance misuse and highlights the need for proactive and sustained intervention strategies.

“Learning identified throughout this review has already been actioned and all the recommendations implemented to reduce the chances of this happening again. As a Board we will continue to monitor and make sure agencies involved are making a difference to professional practice to reduce the risk of similar deaths in future.”