

#LearningTheLessons
@STagainstDA_

DHR Processes

STANDING TOGETHER

against domestic abuse

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<https://www.standingtogether.org.uk>

DHR Legislation

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under **section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004)**. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is legally obligated to undertake a review of all domestic homicide / death cases within the borough, including death resulting from suicide where domestic abuse is known to be present within the relationship.

DHR Purpose

- **Learning lessons** in a reflective and open environment
- To **improve agency practice/policies** to improve responses to DA victims and hopefully prevent future similar homicides
- Bringing agencies together to create a more cohesive **coordinated community response**
- **Recognising the victim** and understanding their experience
- To provide some resolution/**solace to the family**

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Findings from the 2020
London DHR Case
Analysis and Review of
Local Authorities DHR
Process

M O P A C

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

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Key Themes in borough feedback

General Feedback

DHR Chairs

Intersectionality

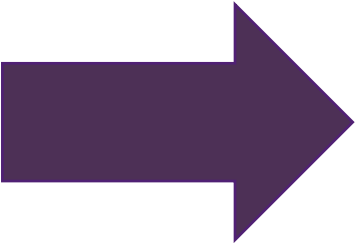
Guidance on process

Funding a DHR

Action Plans

General

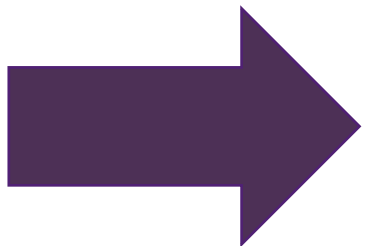
- Several boroughs found it difficult to retrieve all of their DHRs since 2011
- No complete library of approved DHRs
- No systems currently in place to check for compliance in resubmitting finished DHRs to Home Office after panel decisions.
- DHRs and SCRs should be more linked up around findings and recommendations to compare and reflect on the learnings.



Create a national database of DHRs and their analysis to enable wider learning from the themes and data.

DHR Chairs

- 20 boroughs reported difficulties finding a good chair and/or problems with past or current ones and wanted the Home Office to supply a list of recommended chairs.
- They reported some chairs did not have an understanding of the dynamics of DA/VAWG

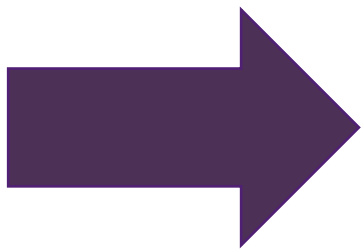


DHR chairs should have a code of conduct and a recognised qualification.

Intersectionality



60% of boroughs felt there was a need for more intersectionality and relevant professionals on Panels.



DHR panels should reflect the diversity of the borough and the DHR case and include specialist agencies relevant to the case.

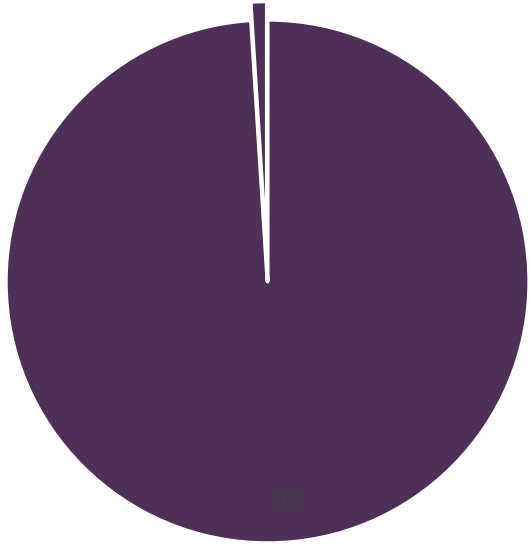
Process Guidance

Decision to carry out a
DHR

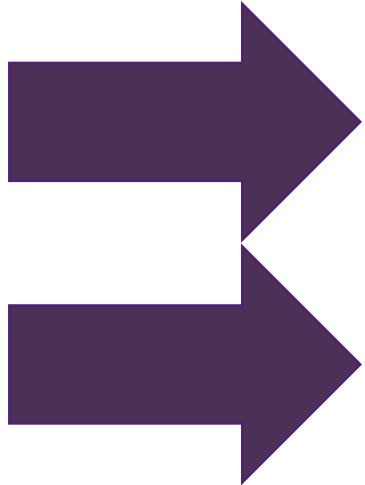
Impact of Criminal
Justice Processes

Publication

Funding a DHR



- **99%** of boroughs said they had real struggles funding the DHRs
- The majority of DHRs were funded through the Community Safety budget, some using the dedicated VAWG budget
- The resource implications of action plans are not always thought through, resulting in no action.
- Boroughs wanted funding allocated to carry out the action plans.

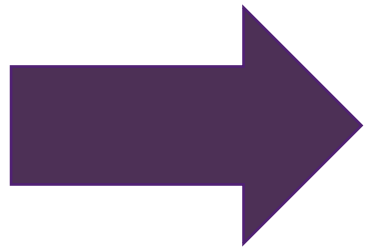


Funding for DHRs should be reviewed and more assistance given to boroughs by the Home Office.

Funding of DHRs should be a joint responsibility of the Home Office and all Safeguarding statutory agencies within the local authority.

Action Plans

- In 50% of boroughs, the VAWG lead was responsible for the progress of action plans
- Only 9 (32%) boroughs provided updates to families about the progress of action plans.
- Some actions were unattainable & a lack of capacity to make organisational wide changes affected the action plan
- Changes of Health Trusts, CCGs amalgamating, and Probation meant it was harder to get continuity of input from some statutory agencies.



The Home Office should develop a system of reviewing action plans to completion.

Report Recommendations

Further DHR guidance on complex DHRs

All boroughs should create a DHR template work plan to provide consistency of process

Action plans should be reviewed by Home Office for progress

Intersectionality should be embedded across the whole DHR process

DHR Chairs should have a code of conduct and recognised qualification

Funding for DHRs should be reviewed

DHR panels and chairs should reflect borough diversity

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- The full Report and the Executive Summary can be found on the Standing Together website: <https://www.standingtogether.org.uk/dhr>

Further information on our range of trainings can be found on our website www.standingtogether.org.uk

Please contact Hannah with any questions:
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