

Asta – DHR – Summary, Key Issues and Recommendations

This review investigates the circumstances surrounding the death of Asta, a 42-year-old Lithuanian national in Peterborough, who died by suicide in June 2022. The review explores the potential contributory role of domestic abuse in her death, highlighting systemic gaps in support and recognition of abuse, particularly within migrant communities.

Key Issues

- Evidence of coercive control, physical violence, and economic abuse by her partner Jonas.
- Minimal prior engagement with statutory services and no known reports of domestic abuse.
- Cultural and linguistic barriers likely prevented Asta from seeking help.
- GP and other services did not identify or act on potential indicators of abuse or suicidal ideation.
- Friends and family observed signs of abuse but lacked knowledge of third-party reporting mechanisms.

Recommendations

- Improve public awareness of Clare's Law including both 'Right to Ask' and 'Right to Know'.
- Enhance police guidance to consider domestic abuse in unexplained deaths and suicides.
- Provide joint training for suicide prevention and domestic abuse practitioners.
- Monitor and report referral rates by community to inform targeted outreach.
- Disseminate learning briefs from reviews to raise awareness across agencies.
- Support clinicians in identifying and responding to domestic abuse at all risk levels.
- Ensure suicide support services address the link between domestic abuse and mental health.