

## Richard -DHR – Summary, Key Issues and Recommendations

Richard, a 32-year-old male, died by suicide in March 2022. The review concluded that domestic abuse—primarily emotional, economic, and controlling behaviour from his mother-in-law and later his wife—was a contributory factor. Richard had a history of mental health issues but was well-regarded at work. He disclosed abuse to colleagues and attempted to seek help via male domestic abuse helplines on the day of his death.

### Key Issues

- **Familial Abuse Awareness:** Colleagues recognised harmful behaviour but did not identify it as domestic abuse.
- **Missed Opportunities for Disclosure:** GP and antenatal appointments did not explore family stress or provide safe opportunities to make any disclosures.
- **Employer Preparedness:** No domestic abuse or suicide policy; staff lacked training to identify and escalate concerns.
- **Support for Male Victims:** Limited local provision before October 2022; stigma and lack of awareness hindered access.
- **Neurodiversity & Mental Health:** Richard's vulnerabilities were exploited; autism traits and depression increased risk.

### Recommendations

- **National:** Launch a campaign to raise awareness of familial abuse among the public and employers.
- **Local – Cambridgeshire DASV:** Promote familial abuse awareness and available support pathways.
- **Public Health:** Publicise STOP Suicide training to businesses; adapt suicide prevention for neurodiverse individuals.
- **Metropolitan Police:** Audit victim contact satisfaction in DA cases.
- **GP Practices:** Implement processes to explore domestic abuse when family stress is mentioned.
- Continue multi-agency training on domestic abuse, including familial abuse, for frontline staff.