Dan and Paul – DHR – Summary – Key Issues and Recommendations

This Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) examines the deaths of Paul (57) and Dan (32), a father and son fatally shot by Ray, Clare's father, in March 2023. The murders were linked to escalating family court disputes over custody of Ashley, Dan's child. Clare's controlling and coercive behaviour towards Dan, including emotional abuse and manipulation, was a significant factor. Dan's family and friends did not recognise these behaviours as domestic abuse at the time. Paul appears to have been killed because he supported Dan during the custody battle.

Key Issues

- Unrecognised Domestic Abuse: Clare's behaviour—jealousy, stalking, emotional blackmail, and control over child contact—was not identified as domestic abuse by Dan or his support network.
- Male Victim Barriers: Cultural stigma and lack of awareness contributed to Dan's isolation and inability to seek help.
- Family Court Dynamics: Clare's attempts to relocate Ashley to the USA and hostility during proceedings escalated tensions.
- Media Intrusion: Distressing coverage and lack of regulation compounded trauma for grieving families.
- Police Communication Gaps: Confusion around Family Liaison Officer (FLO) deployment and media notifications caused additional distress.

Recommendations

- National: IPSO to regulate timing and content of media releases and journalist contact with bereaved families.
- Local: Cambridgeshire DASV Partnership to expand outreach on male domestic abuse awareness.
- Local: Police to train frontline officers on FLO processes and ensure families are informed before media releases.
- Local: Strengthen multi-agency strategies to identify and support male victims and families impacted by domestic abuse-related homicide.

Link to full review: https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/people-communities/crime-and-community-safety/community-safety-partnership/

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