

Jessica – DHR – Summary, Key Issues and Recommendations

Jessica was a White British woman in her mid-40s who died by suicide in March 2024 following trauma, unresolved grief, substance misuse, deteriorating mental health, social isolation and domestic abuse. The review found that the death of her child contributed to later addiction, mental health difficulties and vulnerability. Domestic abuse within her relationship was largely not identified despite extensive agency involvement. The review concluded that coercive control, abuse, suicidality, trauma and multiple disadvantages intersected in her life and contributed to her death.

Key Issues

- Failure to identify domestic abuse and coercive control.
- Diagnostic overshadowing by mental health and substance misuse concerns.
- Fragmented responses to multiple disadvantage.
- Missed safeguarding and information-sharing opportunities.
- Insufficient recognition of suicide risk linked to domestic abuse.

Recommendations

1. Increase awareness of the link between domestic abuse and suicide.
2. Use learning from the review in multi-agency training.
3. Promote the Changing Futures programme.
4. Review MASH planning and strategy processes.
5. Strengthen safeguarding practice in CGL.
6. Improve awareness of diagnostic overshadowing.
7. Strengthen domestic abuse enquiry in health settings.
8. Improve professional curiosity and recording of disclosures.