

# BARRY

## Case Summary

Barry had been a victim of domestic abuse for over a year and a half by his partner Sally, culminating in his suicide. He had been incorrectly labelled as the perpetrator of abuse and this impacted on the response to the abuse he faced. Multiple episodes of domestic abuse had been reported to the police including an instance of "punching and kicking Barry to the back and head area multiple times". 11 days later, a further alleged assault was reported when he told police he was headbutted by Sally and "was scared of her", and she was breaching bail conditions. Barry's family said that he had poor mental health throughout his life and the culmination of the abuse led to him taking his own life..

## Key Themes

Previous suicide threats  
Male suicide  
Delayed police investigation  
No linking of similar incidents

The purpose of Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is to give an accurate as possible account of what originally transpired in an agency's response to Barry, to evaluate it fairly, and if necessary to identify any improvements for future practice.

Link to DHR - [https://www.fenland.gov.uk/media/18570/DHR-Barry-Overview-Report/pdf/DHR\\_Barry\\_Overview\\_Report\\_-\\_FCSP.pdf?m=637909848365630000](https://www.fenland.gov.uk/media/18570/DHR-Barry-Overview-Report/pdf/DHR_Barry_Overview_Report_-_FCSP.pdf?m=637909848365630000)

## Agency Involvement

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary (IMR)
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT)
  - GP Medical Practice
- DASV Partnership IDVA Services
  - CCC Children's Early Help
- Fenland District Council (FDC)

## Recommendations

The Fenland Community Safety Partnership should engage with the Countywide DA/SV strategic partnership to put together a briefing paper that raises awareness for professionals of the risks of suicide in cases of Domestic Abuse.

The Fenland Community Safety Partnership should work with the Countywide DA/SV strategic partnership for all practitioners to ensure they use the Respect Toolkit when working with male victims and to record when the checklist is completed and any decisions made following this.

The Fenland Community Safety Partnership should recommend to The Joint Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Suicide Prevention Steering Group

i) that when they update the Suicide Prevention Strategy, they include specific reference to Domestic Abuse

ii) The Suicide Prevention Steering Group could also consider implementing a process to review a proportion of suicides, like the process already in place for reviewing childhood deaths.

This will enable agencies to share and learn lessons with the intention of preventing future suicides, in particular those that involve Domestic Abuse.

-The Fenland Community Safety Partnership should request that the Countywide DA/SV strategic partnership carry out awareness raising with frontline practitioners of the Professor Monckton-Smith's homicide timeline.

# ANN

## Case Summary

In a quiet life, mother Anne and son Ron faced increasing challenges in caring for Anne's deteriorating health. Ron made attempts to secure a care plan, contacting several companies. This also revealed that he had concerns about the costs involved. Two days before the homicide, on a Friday, Ron was asked by a practitioner of adult social care if he could manage a few more days whilst a care package was put into place.

On the Saturday, Ron experienced multiple emotional breakdowns, with a shopkeeper and with his sister. His sister had noticed that Ann had lost a considerable amount of weight. Later that night, Anne was fatally stabbed by Ron, leading to his conviction for murder.

### Key Themes

Accessing Support

Carer Role

Care needs

Controlling behaviour and financial abuse

### Agency Involvement

The purpose of Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is to give an accurate as possible account of what originally transpired in an agency's response to Jasmin, to evaluate it fairly, and if necessary to identify any improvements for future practice.

[Link to DHR -](#)

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board (formerly Clinical Commissioning Group) – on behalf of involved GP Practices
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (CPFT)
  - The Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, Kings Lynn
  - Fenland District Council Housing Services
- Fenland Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership
  - Change Grow Live Drug and Alcohol Services
- Cambridgeshire County Council Adult Social Care & Safeguarding
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) services
  - Refuge

### Recommendations

- The Integrated Care Board (ICB) to ensure that all Health Trusts and GP Practices are briefed on this case, the lack of professional curiosity and onward referrals to partner organisations being the key learning theme
- The Integrated Care Board (ICB) to seek assurance from Health Trusts and GP Practices that there is embedded within Training in 2023/24 the importance of documentation and the linking of 'carers' and 'cared for' on their documentation systems
- a) Where medical professionals have identified a change in circumstances that are related to a physical or mental impairment or illness, in this case, significant weight loss, incontinence, non-weight bearing, they should consider a referral to the local authority for an assessment of needs (Care Act Assessment) and
- b) if the individual has a carer they should also consider a referral for a Carers Assessment.
- Where possible local authorities should complete the Care Act assessment/review alongside the Care Act assessment/review for the cared for.
- Consent for referral should be sought, where appropriate to do so however, a lack of consent is not, and should not be a barrier to making a referral. Where there is professional judgement the person or another person will be at risk of serious harm, it is in theirs or the public's best interests to make the referral and should inform the person accordingly.
- During the next 12 months that Fenland Community Safety Partnership should work with relevant statutory partners using this case and recent national academic research to raise awareness of frontline workers of the Homicide and domestic abuse risks linked to carer's both as perpetrators and victims.