

EMILY

Case Summary

In 2001, Emily met her ex-partner, Pauline. Their relationship ended in 2011 and from then, they no longer lived together however they were still a part of each other's lives. In 2021, following an argument between them, occurred an incident of abuse. A series of incidents followed, including arguments, allegations, and Emily's cries for help with regards to her mental health. In January 2022, the situation escalated as Emily made ominous statements and left a distressing diary entry. Tragically, Emily was later found dead by hanging with no signs of third party involvement. Her poignant note expressed her enduring pain. This incident was not deemed a suicide by the Coroner, but death by hanging. It was believed by the Coroner that Emily did not intend to end her life.

Areas of focus

Domestic Abuse in same sex relationships
Situational Couple Violence
Social Housing
Support available for LGBTQ+ community

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 Emily, to evaluate it fairly, and if necessary to identify any improvements for future practice.

Link to DHR -

Agency Involvement

- Cambridgeshire Police
- Clarion Housing
- NHS Cambridge and Peterborough Integrated Care Board
- Cambridge and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT)
- Adult Social Care – Cambridgeshire County Council
- Change Grow Live (CGL)

Recommendations -

National and local recommendations were made.

National recommendation

-A database for research on safeguarding matters in order for Housing departments and associations to ably risk assess suitability of accommodation for applicant to be explored for feasibility.

Local recommendations made included -

- Victims and perpetrators should be asked directly to self-define their sexual orientation and how they identify themselves, for the purpose of signposting them to the appropriate additional support services, and this should be recorded appropriately and accurately.
- The Fenland Community Safety Partnership to ensure the promotion and wider publicity of LGBTQ+ support services within Cambridgeshire to provide awareness for professionals to signpost and utilise these services. Other CSP's in the area are to consider this.
- Domestic Abuse training must include reference to the needs of the LGBTQ+ community.
 - CGL Cambridgeshire will upskill staff to ensure they are aware of how consensual information sharing can support a service user throughout their treatment journey. Staff will feel confident in explaining and exploring consent with service users, particularly in relation to a change in their risk or circumstances.
- A robust process to be established to prevent any delay in the signing of prescriptions and where a capacity concern is identified, there needs to be an escalation process to be able to re-act in a timely manner.