

RICHARD

Case Summary

Richard was an only child who excelled in school and university. He met his partner online and they were married relatively quickly. Their marriage was controlled by his new mother in law (who lived with the couple) who controlled his behaviour and isolated him from his parents. Richard found a job away from the family home in London and he struggled with anxiety and depression. He confided in colleagues about the abuse, and continued to be subjected to emotional manipulation and criticism from his mother in law, which included threats he would not be able to hold his baby once born. In March 2022, he tragically took his own life and never got to hold his newborn daughter.

Key themes

- Familial Abuse
- Controlling and coercive behaviour - mother in law
- Suicide
- Male Victims
- Employers Support

Link to DHR -

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 Richard, to evaluate it fairly, and identify any improvements for future practice.

Agency Involvement

Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
GP
Crisis Resolution Home Treatment Team
Cambridge Police

Recommendations -

National recommendation -

A national campaign to highlight familial abuse to both the public and employers

Local recommendations -

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough DASV to hold a promotional campaign for the public and employers to highlight familial abuse and the provisions and pathways available to assist.
Cambridgeshire Public Health to publicise 'Stop Suicide' to businesses within their jurisdiction and how to access this.

The Metropolitan Police, Enfield Borough to dip sample reports dealt with by the Domestic Abuse team for victim contact satisfaction.

The GP Surgery to implement a process where the opportunity for disclosure of domestic abuse is provided when a patient makes a negative comment in relation to their home or family circumstances.

Cambridgeshire Public Health to ensure ongoing suicide prevention activity is adapted to meet the needs of people with autism and learning disabilities, primarily by sharing suicide prevention resources and promote suicide prevention training to key organisations.