

LARAINÉ

Case Summary

In 2011, Laraine entered a relationship with the perpetrator which broke down by 2015.

In April 2016, Laraine's parents, alarmed by their inability to contact her, called the police for a welfare check. Inside, officers found a disturbing scene – an incoherent, self-injured naked man and Laraine's lifeless body, indicating she may have been deceased for weeks. The perpetrator was arrested, but sent to hospital to receive medical and mental health assessments. It was revealed that he had attacked her, left her at the flat and then returned later to create a "shrine" in her honour. Laraine's death resulted from a fatal neck wound, leading to a murder charge. The assailant claimed self-defence but was ultimately convicted for Laraine's murder, receiving a life sentence in October 2016.

Key Themes

- Alcohol use by both the victim and perpetrator
- Drug use by both the victim and perpetrator
- Victim isolation, lack of regular contact on her behalf with family and friends
- Carer reliance by victim on perpetrator
- Victim vulnerability in respect of her background as a historical survivor of domestic abuse
- Lack of professional curiosity as to potential knowledge of who was in the household
- Perpetrators history of violence

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

Agency Involvement

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT)
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Foundation Trust (QEH)
- GP Practice- Trinity Surgery
- GP Practice- Clarkson Surgery

Recommendations

- The Fenland Community Safety Partnership (FCSP) should encourage all six Community Safety Partnerships within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area:
 - To produce and implement a single set of guidance to ensure statutory requirements are complied with in respect of Domestic Homicide reviews commissioned. This will also help to ensure the learning from these reviews is embedded, in a systematic and auditable fashion.
 - To produce and implement an information sharing protocol for tackling domestic abuse.
- The FCSP should contact the Safeguarding board to satisfy itself on the level of checking carried out on paid carers. It is important to stress that the perpetrator in this case was in a relationship with Laraine and was not in receipt of funding for the care he provided for her. The learning from this case, however, should prompt the FCSP to request assurance from the Safeguarding Adult Board about carer recruitment.
- The FCSP proposes to the Home Office the commissioning of a toolbox for professionals on how best to increase awareness in those close to people affected by Domestic Abuse. The aim of this toolbox would be to seek opportunities for educating family, friends and neighbours of the effects of domestic abuse and how they can safely and confidentially report their concerns.