

Publication of the Kirsty Treloar Domestic Homicide Review: May 2022

Introduction

Kirsty Treloar was tragically murdered in January 2012. Following Ms Treloar's murder, and on the recommendation of Hackney's Community Safety Partnership, the organisation Standing Together Against Domestic Violence was commissioned to carry out an independent Domestic Homicide Review (DHR). The purpose of this review was to enable lessons to be learned from homicides where a person is killed as a result of domestic violence and abuse.

The Kirsty Treloar Domestic Homicide Review Overview Report, Executive Summary and Action Plan were originally published in 2014 on the Local Authority website without being shared beforehand with Ms Treloar's family. When her family reviewed the published report, they felt that it inadequately addressed their input and the tone of the report and emphasis was inaccurate. The family has since been more involved in the process and the DHR has been revised to reflect this (as set out in the Overview Report at 1.1.1, page 3).

The Home Office have cleared the following revised DHR documents for publication, which have now been published on Hackney Council's domestic abuse website <https://hackney.gov.uk/domestic-abuse-support/#professionals>:

Kirsty Treloar Domestic Homicide Review: Overview Report
Kirsty Treloar Domestic Homicide Review Executive Summary
Kirsty Treloar Domestic Homicide Review 2012 Action Plan Update
Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel Feedback Letter

The Home Office also raised some points which are addressed below.

Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel Feedback Letter

Standing Together made amendments in response to all but three of the elements of the Home Office's helpful feedback and these are reflected in the published documents. The points which have not led to changes in the DHR documents are:

- *"It would be helpful to provide further explanation of why the family did not give feedback on the report. Was this due to them disengaging or was it a choice?"*

The Council and Standing Together feel this is clear from the report and it would be disproportionate to go over this period again with Ms Treloar's family.

- *"The report mentions that Children's Social Care was delayed in submitting their Individual Management Review. It is not clear if this was chased in order to avoid*

further delay to the DHR.”

No-one involved in the original Domestic Homicide Review who could speak to this point is available now. As this is a relatively minor point, exploring the issue would delay further so on that basis no change is recommended.

- “Anonymity:

- *The report could be anonymised further. It currently lists the full date of death of the victim which should be removed.*
- *The date of birth and sex of the victim’s baby should be removed.”*

Ms Treloar’s family have been clear that they want her name to be known and not anonymised. Information about her murder is in the public arena, including the sex of her baby. Regarding the date of birth, it is not possible to give a context to the sequence of events within the chronology without mentioning the day Ms Treloar’s baby was born.

Overview of Changes within Hackney Council since Kirsty Treloar’s Murder

Ms Treloar’s murder in January 2012 was a terrible crime and unimaginably harrowing for her family. Her death also shocked the Hackney professional system into change. In the ten years since Ms Treloar died, professional practice and the ways in which systems work to protect victims of domestic abuse in Hackney have greatly improved.

Following the original Domestic Homicide Review there was close scrutiny of how well Hackney’s Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) was working to protect high-risk victims of abuse. Many improvements were made to its operation and management and these were greatly informed by learning from the Domestic Homicide Review into Ms Treloar’s death. Standing Together has observed Hackney’s MARAC in 2021 and has commended the following about Hackney’s practice:

- risk assessments and interventions take place proactively and prior to the MARAC ●
- the MARAC is co-ordinated and chaired well
- agencies work well to share information, take action and reduce risk ●
- the MARAC has a collaborative, open multi-agency approach.

The Council’s provision for victims of domestic abuse was given new management in July 2015. One of the first priorities of the new manager was to meet with Ms Treloar’s family to explore the changes needed in the Council’s domestic abuse provision to try and stop another family having to undergo what they had endured as a consequence of Kirsty’s death.

The Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS) was created in 2016 and was strongly influenced by lessons from Ms Treloar’s death. This learning is reflected in the service’s approach to working with victims of abuse and their families, actively intervening with perpetrators to reduce the risk they pose and in sharing information and working jointly with

other agencies to prevent serious harm.

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The service works with anyone experiencing domestic abuse who is living in Hackney, aged 16 or over, of any sex or gender and of any sexual orientation. A proactive approach is given to all victims of abuse regardless of the level of risk they are experiencing.

The service takes a 'homicide prevention' approach, informed by what happened to Ms Treloar, working with clients and partner agencies to robustly assess and reduce risk. The approach is an assertive, interventionist, social-work-informed safeguarding approach to protecting victims from harm.

In 2017 the Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS) was brought into the Council's Children and Families Service to further improve the joint working with adult victims of domestic abuse and children who are at risk of harm as a consequence of domestic abuse. This work has been boosted since 2019 when, along with Waltham Forest, Hackney has partnered with the specialist agency Respect to implement the Safe and Together approach which treats domestic abuse as a child safeguarding issue, supports non-abusive parents and identifies and challenges perpetrators' behaviour.

The Council's Domestic Abuse Intervention Service works with the wider partnership on Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls to develop policy and protocols, co-ordinates, co-chairs and develops Hackney's Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for 'high risk' cases and delivers training to partner agencies. This strategic, policy and development work is directly informed by the experience of victims the service works with and any gaps in the system that their cases highlight.

Since DAIS was launched in September 2016, over 5,000 Hackney residents (predominantly women) have been referred to the service. Despite the high risk and complex nature of the casework involved, no-one referred to DAIS has been killed as a result of domestic abuse, nor has any perpetrator referred to DAIS killed anyone. This validates the 'homicide prevention' approach upon which DAIS was founded, an approach which Ms Treloar's family's experience has shaped. The Council remains grateful for Ms Treloar's family's cooperation, patience and valuable insights despite the suffering they have endured.

The lessons from Ms Treloar's terrible death and her family's sharing of their experiences have led to changes which have helped to protect countless other women over the last ten years.



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