

# Domestic Homicide Review Executive Summary Report

Subject of the report: "Hanita"  
Month of death: January 2017

**INDEPENDENT CHAIR:**

DONNA OHDEDAR OF REVIEW CONSULTING LTD.

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*Working together for a safer City*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.
- 1.2 The purposes of a DHR are to:
- establish what lessons are to be learned from the domestic homicide regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims;
  - identify clearly what those lessons are both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result;
  - apply these lessons to service responses including changes to inform national and local policies and procedures as appropriate;
  - prevent domestic violence and homicide and improve service responses for all domestic violence and abuse victims and their children by developing a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to ensure that domestic abuse is identified and responded to effectively at the earliest opportunity;
  - contribute to a better understanding of the nature of domestic violence and abuse; and
  - highlight good practice.
- 1.3 DHRs are not inquiries into how the victim died or into who is culpable; that is a matter for coroners and criminal courts, respectively, to determine as appropriate. DHRs are not specifically part of any disciplinary inquiry or process.
- 1.4 Part of the rationale for the review is to ensure that agencies are responding appropriately to victims of domestic abuse by offering and putting in place appropriate support mechanisms, procedures, resources and interventions with an aim to avoid future incidents of domestic homicide and violence. The review also assesses whether agencies have sufficient and robust procedures and protocols in place which were understood and adhered to by their staff.
- 1.5 This report of a domestic homicide examines agency responses and support given to Hanita, a 46-year-old woman of South Asian heritage. The Review Chair, Review Author and domestic homicide review panel send their condolences to Hanita's family.

- 1.6 In addition to agency involvement, the review will also examine past agency involvement to identify any relevant background or trail of abuse before the homicide, or whether support was accessed within the community; and if there were any barriers to accessing support. By taking a holistic approach, the review seeks to identify if there are appropriate solutions to make the future safer.
- 1.7 To ensure confidentiality, the victim in this case will be referred to as Hanita, the perpetrator as Sanjiv and children as Aadinath and Pandita respectively.
- 1.8 Hanita was reported missing and found deceased the following day, having been murdered. The convicted perpetrator is her former husband, Sanjiv, 51 years. Although the couple divorced in 2014, they remained residing in the family home. In 2018, Sanjiv was found guilty of murdering Hanita by strangulation, and sentenced to life imprisonment; to serve a minimum of 18 years before release.
- 1.9 Hanita, through an arranged marriage in India, married Sanjiv in 1988. They had two children, Aadinath born in 1992 and Pandita, born in 1999. The marriage subsequently broke down and they formally separated in 2012 and divorced in 2014. However, the family home was jointly owned and Sanjiv remained living in the home, separately, in a downstairs room.
- 1.10 There are two historical police reports of domestic abuse within this family. The first was in January 2011 and the second after their divorce in August 2015. Hanita reported both of the incidents.
- 1.11 This review is seeking to examine the role of agencies, and others, who may have come into contact with Hanita and her children, or who came into contact with Sanjiv. A specific focus is to establish if there are any lessons to be learned in relation to missed opportunities for agencies to engage with the family. Also, to seek to understand the family's ability to be aware of, and access, services they may have needed.
- 1.12 There are a number of domestic abuse services available to victims and perpetrators in Leicester City throughout the scoping period and currently<sup>1</sup>. Services are delivered through one provider: United Against Violence and Abuse (UAVA), which is a co-operative consortium of three specialist Domestic and Sexual Violence Abuse organisations:
  - Living Without Abuse,

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix 3 for full outline

- Women's Aid Leicestershire Limited,
- FreeVA

1.13 Counselling provision is sub-contracted to other specialist local organisations with the aim of providing an integrated, seamless service:

- Leicester Rape Crisis;
- First Step;
- Trade;
- New Dawn New Day;
- Quetzal

1.14 Helpfully, Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland completed a Sexual and Domestic Violence and Abuse Needs Assessment<sup>2</sup> in October 2017, the findings of which are referenced in this report where appropriate.

1.15 This review commenced on the 24th April 2017 and concluded on the 11th September 2018. There has been a delay in completing this review due to Sanjiv's criminal trial not being heard until early 2018 and the impact this has had on the ability of the review to seek to engage with family members. However, single agency learning identified from this review has been progressed in advance of completion.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

2.1 The detailed terms of reference and Project Plan appear at Appendix 1. The terms of reference detail the purpose, framework, agency reports to be commissioned and the particular areas for consideration of the review.

2.2 For effective learning, it was agreed that the scoping period for this review will be from the 1st August 2014 until the 17th January 2017 due to key practice episodes falling within this time frame. There are, however, incidents that occurred in the past, prior to the review period, that have significance, and these will also be included where they provide learning.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

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<sup>2</sup> Sexual and Domestic Violence and Abuse Needs Assessment for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland. Published October 2017 provides evidence of unstable housing as being the most common factor across DHR's; and identifies that people with some protected characteristics appear to be less likely to access local services than others, including South Asian women.

- 3.1 The Review sub-group of the Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board recommended the circumstances of this case as fulfilling the criteria for a statutory domestic homicide review and this was approved by the Safer Leicester Partnership. The Serious Incident Learning Process (SILP) model of review was commissioned to be used within the domestic homicide review process.
- 3.2 SILP is a learning model, tried and tested in safeguarding reviews for both children’s and adult’s cases and takes account of principles enshrined in government guidance. The process engages front line staff and their managers in reviewing cases; focussing on why those involved acted in a certain way, at the time.
- 3.3 The SILP model of review adheres to the principles of:
- Proportionality
  - Learning from good practice
  - The active engagement of practitioners
  - Engaging with families
  - Systems methodology
- 3.4 SILPs are characterised by a large number of practitioners, managers and Safeguarding Leads coming together for a learning event. All agency reports are shared in advance and the perspectives and opinions of all those involved are discussed and valued. The same group then come together again for a recall event to study and debate the first draft of the Overview Report.
- 3.5 This review has been undertaken in a way that reflects the principles of a systems methodology; wherever possible seeking to review organisational factors and not apportioning individual blame. It also seeks to include family members at every opportunity.
- 3.6 The review panel included representatives from the following agencies:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
Leicestershire Police	Jez Pollard and Siobhan Barber	Individual Management Review (IMR), provided by an Independent Review Officer. Attended Learning and Recall Event
Leicester City Council Children’s Services	Lesley Booth - Service Manager	IMR provided from an Independent Safeguarding Lead. Attended Learning and Recall Event
College 1	Not disclosed	IMR provided from the College’s

	as this would identify the College concerned	Designated Safeguarding Lead. Attended Learning and Recall Event
College 2	Not disclosed as this would identify the College concerned	IMR provided from the College's Designated Safeguarding Lead. Attended Learning and Recall Event
College 3	Not disclosed as this would identify the College concerned	IMR provided from the College's Designated Safeguarding Lead. Attended Learning and Recall Event
General Practitioner	Dr Ahmed Girach	IMR provided by GP.
Leicestershire Partnership Trust	Vicky Spencer and Jean Wilson	Summary report provided. Attended Learning and Recall Event
Leicester City Council	Stephanie McBurney	Domestic Abuse Specialist: Team Manager, Domestic and Sexual Violence Team. Attended Learning and Recall Event
Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board	Caroline Green–CrASBU Officer Lindsey Bampton–DHR Officer	Administered process. Provided advice and guidance
Safehouse – an independent charity supporting victims of Domestic Violence	Sandra Manak – Director, Panaghar	Domestic Abuse and Black & Minority ethnic Specialist: Attended Learning Event
Clinical Commissioning Group	Mina Bhavsar– Head of Adult Safeguarding for CCG	Attended Learning and Recall Event

3.7 Whilst applying the principles of the SILP methodology, the independent chair and author have followed the Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance for the

Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews, as amended in December 2016. Importantly, the model has incorporated 4 meetings of the review panel. This has been a sufficient number of meetings in this case for the panel to effectively support the review and to discharge their duties.

- 3.8 An initial scoping meeting and first panel meeting was held on the 24th April 2017 where agency representation, terms of reference, the scoping period and the project plan were agreed.
- 3.9 A meeting for Authors of individual agency reports was held on the 17th July 2017, where the SILP process and expectations of the agency reports was discussed. A full day learning event, which incorporated issues pertinent to the DHR panel meeting, followed on the 7th February 2018, with the agency reports having been circulated in advance. Agencies involved were represented by their report author and managers, and where available, staff who had been involved during the scope period.
- 3.10 At a Recall Event and panel meeting on the 14th March 2018, participants who had attended the Learning Event considered the first draft of this report. They were able to feedback on the contents and clarify their role and perspectives. The report was endorsed by a meeting of the Safer Leicester Partnership's Review sub-group on the 11th September 2018.
- 3.11 The review has been chaired by Donna Ohdedar, an independent safeguarding consultant with no links to the Safer Leicester Partnership or any of its partner agencies. Donna has 16 years' public-sector experience, including her last role as Head of Law for a leading metropolitan authority. Now a safeguarding adviser and trainer, Donna is involved in serious case reviews in both children's and adults' safeguarding, domestic homicide reviews and SILP.
- 3.12 The report has been authored by Carolyn Carson, an independent safeguarding reviewer, who has been independent of agencies in Leicester for 8 years. Carolyn is a retired Police Superintendent who specialised in Safeguarding and who has conducted adults safeguarding reviews, domestic homicide reviews and SILP, independently, over the last six years.
- 3.13 The process has been efficiently administered and supported by officers within the Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board and the Domestic and Sexual Violence Team.
- 3.14 Whilst this review was on-going, there were two parallel reviews; namely the criminal investigation and the Coroner's Inquest. Both have been notified of this review. In particular, the criminal investigation Senior Investigating Officer



has provided advice and guidance in relation to the timing of speaking to family members and others who were witnesses in the criminal trial. The criminal trial concluded in February 2018, after which, the review approached family members.

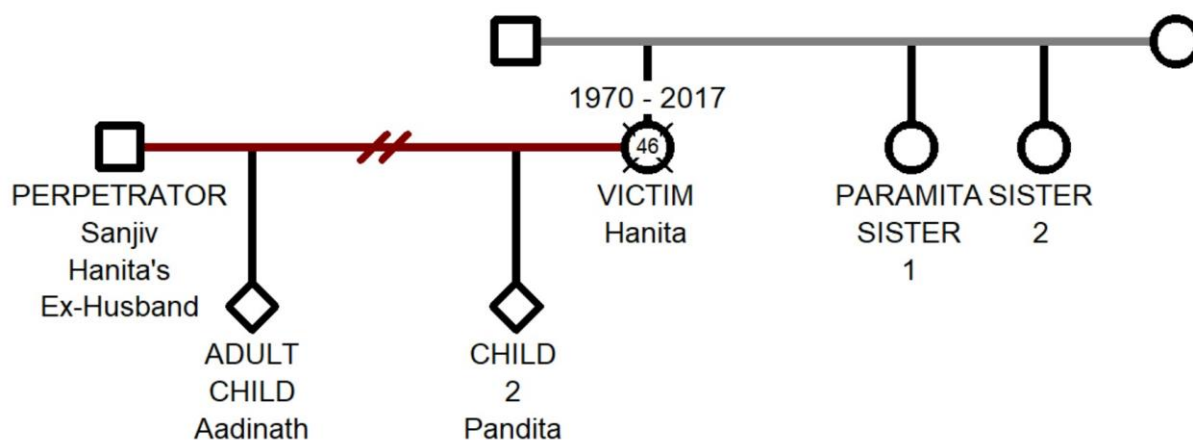
- 3.15 Hanita and family are of South Asian ethnic origin, from the Gujarat, and considerations in relation to the Equality Act 2010<sup>3</sup>, Equality and Diversity are incorporated within the review where appropriate. Specifically, issues of Culture and Belief have been analysed within the report at section 8.6.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>

#### 4. HANITA, SANJIV, THEIR FAMILY AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

##### 4.1 Genogram



4.2 This review has been able to ascertain little detailed information from agencies about Hanita. However, we do know that Hanita, Sanjiv, Aadinath and Pandita came into contact with agencies through the review period; namely schools, the police, children's social care, GP, CAMHS and the Leicester Royal Infirmary. Hanita attended her GP surgery on a number of occasions for medical matters the panel are satisfied are not pertinent to this review.

4.3 Hanita was born in the UK. She was employed part time within a call centre, at a large organisation in Leicester City, near her home. Her elder child, Aadinath, attended higher education through the review period and her younger child, Pandita, attended secondary education and sixth form college.

4.4 Sanjiv was employed as a machine operator prior to being made redundant in 2013. From March 2015, it is known that he re-entered employment as a night shift manual worker. In December 1997, Sanjiv was convicted of driving with excess alcohol and was sentenced to a 12-month driving ban. The first report of domestic abuse to agencies, in January 2011, identified Sanjiv's use of alcohol and again at the second report in August 2015. On both occasions, Sanjiv was seen to be drunk. No substantive offences were disclosed to the police at either report and Sanjiv was not known to the police outside of these three incidents.

4.5 The review is aware that the marriage between Hanita and Sanjiv broke down irretrievably and divorce proceedings commenced in 2013. A Decree Nisi was granted in March 2014 and Decree Absolute in September 2014. Their home was jointly owned and on divorce, Sanjiv continued to live at the family home, due mainly to neither being able to afford to buy the other out. At Family

Court<sup>4</sup> proceedings ‘cross-undertakings’<sup>5</sup> that neither should be abusive to the other whilst co-habiting, were accepted by both Hanita and Sanjiv, in lieu of pursuit of a Non-Molestation or Occupation Order as applied for by Hanita. A stated intention to pursue an application for a financial order<sup>6</sup> was not progressed by Hanita.

- 4.6 The review reached out to Hanita’s family and provided opportunities to contribute to this DHR; and respected their wishes not to do so<sup>7</sup> until the report had been drafted and approved by the Home Office. The panel are very thankful for the input of both Hanita’s sisters and her children, in reading the final draft and providing comments on both the report and what they think the learning should be. The panel have noted the issues the family highlighted in this meeting and the domestic and sexual violence team will feed back progress around those areas if the family would like this. Sanjiv was invited to take part but did not respond to the invitation. The panel were pleased that the family members felt the report addressed the issues they considered to be important and that the timing of the report had felt ‘about right’ for them.

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<sup>4</sup> The single Family Court was introduced in 2014 and all Judiciary now sit as part of a unified Family Court. At the time of this case, hearings in the Family Court were held either by a District Judge or by Lay Justices/Magistrates. As such references will be to either a District Judge or Magistrates.

<sup>5</sup> Cross Undertakings <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/27/section/46> **Sec 46 Family Court Act 1996 - Undertakings.**(1)In any case where the court has power to make an occupation order or non-molestation order, the court may accept an undertaking from any party to the proceedings. An undertaking is an option that allows the parties to settle their dispute without a full hearing. It is a promise made to the court to do, or not to do, certain things. It is not an admission of guilt. Undertakings can be made in cases listed in either the County or Family Proceedings Court (FPC), although the penalties for breach are not the same in the FPC. Either court should only accept an undertaking in cases where they are satisfied it is safe to do so. The respondent can give an undertaking without having to admit to the allegations made against them. An undertaking cannot, therefore, be used in subsequent criminal proceedings as evidence of a criminal charge or as proof that any violence has occurred. Nor does it provide any factual evidence that the abuse took place. The court cannot attach a Power of Arrest to an undertaking, but breaking an undertaking is still contempt of court and is as enforceable as any other order of the court. The undertaking (which is usually worded similarly to a non-molestation order) must be signed by the person who gives it. The court usually serves form N117 on both parties before they leave the hearing.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/money-property-when-relationship-ends/apply-for-a-financial-order>

<sup>7</sup> Family engagement was attempted at the start of the DHR Process and again at the point of the reports’ completion. Attempts at contact were made by telephone, by post and in person to the family address. Family members were aware of the advocacy support available having been provided with the Home Office’s information leaflet for Families. The Police Family Liaison Officer was engaged in this process and passed on information directly.

- 4.7 Friends and colleagues at Hanita's place of work have been deeply affected by her death. The review has consulted Hanita's employer and respects their wishes to provide limited engagement. There has been no useful learning concerning employers and domestic abuse to include within this review.
- 4.8 Hanita and Sanjiv were of the Hindu faith and the review welcomes the generic cultural perspective provided by the family temple priest.
- 4.9 The review welcomes the contribution made by the Family Court at Leicester and, separately, from Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCTS).

## **5. A BRIEF BACKGROUND PRIOR TO THE SCOPING PERIOD 1997 - AUGUST 2014**

- 5.1 In 1997, Sanjiv received a drink-drive conviction and was disqualified from driving. Aadinath, when interviewed as witnesses for the homicide investigation, revealed their earliest recollection of witnessing violent acts by their Father towards their Mother was also in 1997. Both children expressed the opinion that their father was an alcoholic and recollect regular abusive incidents spanning from 1997 to their parents' divorce in 2014; where after the violent incidents abated but on-going domestic abuse continued.
- 5.2 The children outlined having witnessed violent acts: to include Sanjiv smashing a mirror over Hanita whilst holding one of the children; fits of rage and smashing of plates and pictures; assaults by slapping and punching; tipping Hanita and Pandita out of bed when he was drunk; verbal assaults accompanied by restraint of Hanita's wrists.
- 5.3 When interviewed, Aadinath recalled, as a means of punishment, being struck with a plug at the end of an electrical lead. He also reported being threatened to be burnt with a hot iron, witnessed by Pandita and prevented by the intervention of Hanita.
- 5.4 At 9.49pm on Saturday 15th January 2011, Hanita called the police to report Sanjiv drunk, throwing items around and having pushed her and scared Pandita. The police attended and found Sanjiv drunk and to have pushed over a TV and ironing board. On being spoken to separately, both parties stated that only a verbal argument had occurred. Hanita expressed her concern that Sanjiv's drinking and threats of violence had been increasing and the police provided details of local domestic abuse support agencies to Hanita. They provided information relating to anger management and alcohol awareness to

Sanjiv. A risk assessment was completed<sup>8</sup> with a standard risk assessed. No further action was considered necessary by the police at that time. The review notes that in 2011, whilst there were nationally available perpetrator programmes, there were no specific perpetrator programmes locally in Leicester and it was not routine practice at the time for the police to signpost to a national programme. Since 2011, services to support perpetrators have been established in Leicester.

- 5.5 Divorce proceedings commenced in 2013. The review has had sight of associated papers filed at the Family Court on the 15th May 2014, during the process for which, Hanita provided verbal evidence that Sanjiv, whilst holding a knife, had threatened to kill her, on two occasions.
- 5.6 On the 24th June 2014, The District Judge heard the application for an Occupation Order from Hanita. The District Judge went out of his way to invite KD to apply for a non-molestation order on this. The application for an Occupation Order was listed for a hearing on notice, which was finally effective after difficulties with bailiff service, on the 17th July 2014. The granting of a non-molestation order was not therefore a foregone conclusion in July. The court heard that no incidents of violence had been perpetrated by Sanjiv since divorce proceedings commenced in March 2013, but that he had continued to be abusive to her and Pandita and they continued to be in fear of him. On that basis, the Family Court ruled that the application should continue as a Non-Molestation Order, Hanita being unlikely to be able to prove the justification for an Occupation Order. Cross undertakings<sup>9</sup> were accepted in terms that neither party should use or threaten violence towards the other or their child, Pandita; or, make any intimidating, threatening or abusive communication of any nature to the other.
- 5.7 During this background period, both children attended Community College and presented noticeably differently. Aadinath was disruptive with declining attendance from 96% to 88%. They had exhibited signs of stress and requested a letter from their GP to delay exams, on two occasions. By contrast, Pandita was described as being very quiet and withdrawn but an excellent student.

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<sup>8</sup> DASH was not implemented in Leicester until 2012. This risk assessment was recorded on form CR12 centred on SPECSS

<sup>9</sup> An undertaking is an option that allows the parties to settle their dispute without a full hearing. It is a promise made to the court to do, or not to do, certain things. Cross undertakings are where they are agreed by both parties.

## **6. KEY PRACTICE EPISODES**

### **6.1 Local Services' Interactions with Hanita and Family August 2014 – 2015**

6.1.1 On the 20th August 2014, Pandita attended a GP appointment in the presence of Hanita where they were diagnosed with moderate depression; Pandita presenting with symptoms of stress and self-harming. The GP referred them to the crisis team who advised assessment by CAMHS. CAMHS offered an appointment by letter sent to Pandita's parents. They have recorded also sending a copy of this letter to the school nurse at Pandita's school. Pandita did not make contact and CAMHS offered a second appointment by letter. The GP followed this up with a telephone call directly to Pandita but could not establish a specific reason why they had not engaged, other than they hadn't wanted to.

6.1.2 On the 1st September 2014, The Magistrates Court ordered, by consent, that Hanita's application for a non-molestation order be dismissed. This was based on both parties having agreed to the on-going cross-undertakings and the Court being satisfied they both understood the terms of the undertakings, and the potential consequences for breaching them. Also, Hanita confirmed her intention to apply for a financial order promptly; but this was not progressed. As there was no conclusion to this, the cross undertakings were not rescinded and continued in place throughout the scoping period.

6.1.3 Hanita applied for a Decree Absolute which was granted on the 11th September. Sanjiv had initially opposed this due to the existence of Hanita's pension but did not subsequently fight it.

### **6.2 Issues within the relationship between 2015 - 2017**

6.2.1 At 12.44am on Sunday 16th August 2015, Hanita called the police to report her ex-husband as drunk and being verbally abusive to herself and Pandita. Hanita stated that a court order existed with a power of arrest. At 3am the police saw Sanjiv to be drunk and observed him to be living downstairs. There was no sign of a disturbance and Hanita explained they were separated and that she wanted Sanjiv out of the house. The officer made the decision to arrest Sanjiv to prevent a breach of the peace, having considered the situation could escalate if left as it was. A DASH risk assessment was completed and a standard risk recorded. Pandita had been present and expressed concerns about Sanjiv. The officer made a referral to the Child Abuse Investigation Unit, who referred to Children's Social Care.

6.2.2 On the 18th August 2015, Leicester City Children's Social Care, Early Help Services, received the referral. They noted the family was not previously known to them. Police had recorded Pandita as having been moderately

affected by the incident and had told the police that they felt their father's presence at the house represented a risk to their physical well-being. Hanita wanted Sanjiv removed from the home and felt his continuing presence would result in further confrontation. The contact was recorded for 'Advice Point Only', with no further action or agency checks made.

- 6.2.3 Sanjiv returned to the home the following morning and took no steps to leave thereafter; and did not contribute to family finances during the last two years of their co-habitation. In the summer of 2016, an arrangement was made for Hanita's sister to purchase the home and allow Hanita and Pandita to live there, whilst requiring Sanjiv to leave. This was suggested by Hanita's sister as a means of helping Hanita to start again. The process was delayed by Sanjiv's repeated failure to sign paperwork, despite having stated that he had, which prevented the transaction from going through in a reasonable timescale.
- 6.2.4 In September 2016, Pandita chose to move to a different sixth form college and very quickly requested support from their counselling services.

### **6.3 Fatal Incident**

- 6.3.1 On a Monday in mid-January 2017, the house sale completed and Sanjiv was expected to move out, having no continuing legal right of residence. However, he had continued to take no steps to do so. In fact, he lied to his friends and police initially, stating that the sale hadn't gone through, when the sale had been recorded as completed at 11am that day.
- 6.3.2 Hanita was known to return home from work on Monday afternoon, having told friends and Pandita that she was intending to go to the solicitors that afternoon to hand over the house keys, so the sale was completed officially. She had arranged to meet her sister straight away afterwards to return and change the locks; but tragically, Hanita did not get to the solicitors and was not seen alive again.
- 6.3.3 Hanita's family reported her missing at 7.42pm the same day and the police immediately recorded her as a high-risk missing person.
- 6.3.4 Hanita was found deceased the following day and Sanjiv immediately arrested and charged with her murder.
- 6.3.5 On the same day, Pandita's college were extremely concerned, and made a referral to Leicester City Duty and Advice Service, within Children's Social Care and Early Help, outlining concerns. The police also contacted Social Care and informed them that Pandita had told them there had been on-going domestic abuse within the family home.

## **7. THE VOICE OF HANITA'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

- 7.1 Basic background information about Hanita as an individual and mother, and the circumstances of her shared life with Sanjiv, has been obtained through examination of witness statements prepared for Sanjiv's trial.
- 7.2 As an Individual, Hanita was described as having a lovely personality, being outgoing and chatty. She was always laughing and smiling, seemed happy and got on with everyone. She was religious and attended all Hindu festivals. Both children clearly adored her and Hanita was very close to both her sisters and parents; all of whom lived nearby. All have been deeply affected by her death.
- 7.3 A sister describes her as always happy. She was well dressed, loved fashion, and her hair and nails were always immaculate. Her character meant that if she was sad, she wouldn't show it. She was very popular, and 'famous', at work and always went out on social events.
- 7.4 Hanita was very close to both children; the elder, Aadinath, only staying at weekends due to work commitments elsewhere but with Pandita, she shared a very close daily bond. A week prior to her death, she and Pandita were walking together and discussing Sanjiv finally moving out. Hanita remarked 'What if he ends up killing me or something?' They were scared at the thought but laughed it off, believing that 'even though they know he is bad, they didn't think he would do that'.
- 7.5 Sanjiv did not have a close relationship with either child. They didn't speak to him whilst he shared the house. Sanjiv did not buy gifts or attend parents' evenings. They resented the way he treated their mother. As soon as their mother was missing, Pandita accused their father of having harmed her.
- 7.6 Hanita and Sanjiv are described as having long standing problems in their marriage. They separated for a year before Pandita was born but they reconciled. Sanjiv has always been known as an alcoholic and family members are aware that the marriage deteriorated badly before the divorce. Sanjiv was known to come home drunk, throw and smash things. However, Hanita did not disclose physical abuse to wider members of the family. Pandita recalls their mother calling the police but believes she didn't call them soon enough, and Hanita had no bruises to show.
- 7.7 Post-divorce, Hanita and her ex-husband led totally separate lives within the same house. Hanita hoped she would get the house in the divorce because Pandita was under 16; but was told she would have to buy him out or sell.



Sanjiv did not want to leave unless he received money. Hanita could not afford to buy him out, and Aadinath was not able to obtain a mortgage. Sanjiv did not contribute to household bills at all and although she would have struggled financially, she did not complain to others.

- 7.8 This situation continued until Hanita finally decided to sell the house and her sister agreed to buy it in June/July 2016. The transaction should have taken 6 weeks but Sanjiv continually delayed the process by lying about having signed and posted documentation, right up to exchange of contracts. Hanita commented that she would not know any peace while Sanjiv remained in the house.
- 7.9 Although, Hanita's sister offered for Hanita to remain after the sale, Hanita did not wish to prevent her sister obtaining rent monies. Instead she had planned to move out, with Pandita, to her parents' home before renting a small property. Sanjiv had made no plans to move anywhere else.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1 Hanita was the tragic victim of a domestic homicide perpetrated by her ex-husband, Sanjiv. Hanita and Sanjiv continued to live together following their divorce in March 2014 and during this time, Hanita was subjected to continuing domestic abuse in the form of coercive control; Sanjiv abusing her financially, emotionally and psychologically. Sanjiv maintained control over Hanita by refusing to move out of the family home, knowing that Hanita could not afford to move out, and was very disruptive and verbally abusive to Hanita and Pandita. The trial Judge described their housing situation as being a 'powder keg', with Sanjiv being reluctant to accept the divorce and not wanting to 'lose face'. When Hanita found a successful way to remove Sanjiv, he killed her at point of final separation.
- 8.2 There had been opportunities for Sanjiv to have left the family home, most notably at point of divorce in 2014. Hanita believed she would keep the home but as both were joint owners, this was not possible for economic reasons. Hanita applied to the Family Court for an Occupation Order under the Family Law Act 1996, but this was not successful at a hearing in July 2014. Sanjiv vehemently denied the allegations of abuse and accused Hanita of being abusive. The District Judge offered Hanita the option to apply for non-molestation order instead and both Hanita and Sanjiv agreed to cross undertakings, not to be abusive to each other, whilst they lived together in advance of a contested hearing.

- 8.3 Procedurally, a District Judge presided over the Family Court in July. Hanita was not able to provide sufficient evidence for an Occupation Order and the case continued as an application for a non-molestation order; unusually given the couple were to remain living in the house. To provide some interim protection, the court offered the cross undertakings which each agreed to. Hanita was not legally represented and was not in receipt of legal aid, which as a victim of domestic abuse, she could have been. No enquiries were made by the court to ascertain why Hanita was acting as a litigant in person. The review has listened to the tape recording of the hearing and Hanita says very little through the proceedings, whereas Sanjiv, being represented, is able to have his voice heard; arguably resulting in an 'inequality of arms'.
- 8.4 The hearing at the Magistrates Court in September 2014 could not go ahead because Sanjiv, for whom English is not his first language, had not been appointed an independent court interpreter. This prevented Hanita's revised statement, in which she had outlined serious domestic violence, including threats to kill her, being heard. Hanita had the option to return at a later date for a full hearing or to accept the continuation of cross undertakings. She chose to accept their continuance and the matter was ended. Hanita was to apply for a Financial Order but she did not do so and the review has been unable to ascertain why she did not.
- 8.5 Cross undertakings may be appropriate under the Family Law Act 1996 where a respondent has used or threatened violence and where it may be necessary to make a non-molestation order. On the evidence heard by the District Judge and Magistrates, the agreement to the use of cross undertakings as an interim protective measure was a matter for their discretion. However, at no point did the court consider the existence of coercive or controlling behaviour, or hear Hanita's evidence, therefore she had been unable to prove the circumstances of her domestic abuse. Had she done so, she would very likely have been granted a non-molestation order and in those circumstances, the cross undertakings no longer an option. The review cannot see how Hanita could have understood the complexities of the law and procedure in the Family Court and been able to fully understand the impact of not proceeding to a further contested hearing. The fact she was unrepresented may have tipped the balance in favour of Sanjiv, who was then able to exert further control over Hanita.
- 8.6 Information held by agencies was not sufficient to identify Hanita as a high-risk victim or be eligible for MARAC. However, information known to the Family Court, albeit not heard in open court, was sufficiently serious in nature to potentially raise Hanita to a high-risk status. This disparity of information is a concern and the greater sharing of safeguarding information between the

Family Court and safeguarding agencies, whilst acknowledging that there is no legal requirement to do so, would benefit future victims of domestic abuse. Providing victims of domestic abuse with the protective elements of Practice Direction 12J would also enhance victim safety and provide for a wider examination of the facts.

- 8.7 The Family Court do not currently share information with the police or other safeguarding agencies concerning the existence of 'Cross-Undertakings,' or the consequences should they be breached, in the way they do for non-molestation orders. Sharing this information will enhance the safety of victims of domestic abuse and their children. Family Court Judges and family lawyers work independently, as their role dictates, and currently are not aware of the existence of Domestic Homicide Reviews. Family lawyers will not consider making a routine safeguarding referral for reasons of client safety and confidentiality. Whilst IDVA's are a feature of domestic abuse courts locally, the Family Court do not see it as their role to make a direct referral to a MARAC. Greater liaison and joint understanding between themselves and local safeguarding agencies and policies would enhance the safety of victims of domestic abuse and their children.
- 8.8 In terms of agency support, the police received two reports of domestic abuse; 2011 and 2015. In neither report was there evidence of a crime to support a prosecution or to issue a caution. However, robust risk assessments had been undertaken and support advice given to both Hanita and Sanjiv. Neither accessed support services in the community or elsewhere. Hanita did not report to the police the level of abuse she disclosed to the Family Court in 2014. Hanita did not report abuse to any agency post 2015, although the review is aware that domestic abuse continued in the form of coercive control, disruptive behaviour, harassment and verbal abuse. It is highly likely that she did not identify herself as a victim of domestic abuse, but this cannot be established.
- 8.9 The police provided an opportunity to remove Sanjiv for a short period of time through a pro-active arrest. A Domestic Violence Protection Notice was not an option because the grounds for consideration had not been met, there being no evidence of violence or threats of violence at that time. The revision of the grounds for their use to include the coercive and controlling elements of domestic abuse would provide greater support to victims of domestic abuse and their children. The existence of the 'cross undertakings' were not known to the police at the point of that arrest. Being aware of this information will enhance the safety of domestic abuse victims and their children.

8.10 Overall, whilst there had been opportunities for further engagement with the family and improvements made to the management of child protection referrals, safeguarding agencies could not have understood the risk posed by Sanjiv, based on the information they held. A key issue was the existence of on-going domestic abuse in the form of coercive control exercised whilst sharing the family home, post-divorce, within volatile and abusive living arrangements. Hanita largely managed this situation on her own, choosing not to share the facts with friends or family or seek agency support except for one occasion, post-divorce, when she sought the granting of protective orders through the Family Court. However, she failed, and the circumstances of her domestic abuse remained unidentified through the complex court processes. Instead of the granting of protective injunctions that may have provided a level of direct protection, Hanita was subject to counter allegations of abusive shouting which resulted in her agreeing not to be abusive towards to Sanjiv, a perpetrator; thereby allowing him to further exert controlling and coercive behaviour towards her.

## 9. LESSONS LEARNED

### 9.1 *Lesson 1*

***The police attendance at the domestic abuse incident was an opportunity for Hanita to have been advised to seek redress concerning Sanjiv's breach of the 'cross undertakings' but there is no record that she received such advice or that it was included within risk assessments. There is a gap in the sharing of safeguarding information between the Family Court and the police which prevents the existence of 'cross undertakings' being known to the police and available within intelligence checks.***

### 9.2 *Lesson 2*

***Leicester City Council Children's Services, did not sufficiently examine either referral and missed an opportunity to explore family dynamics that may have identified abuse; and to provide support to Hanita and Pandita.***

### 9.3 *Lesson 3*

***Young people's counsellors work with many young people with suicidal ideation and have to make difficult decisions on when to refer to child protection services.***

#### 9.4 **Lesson 4**

***Opportunities for multi-agency working could be enhanced through more effective information sharing between GP's, schools and the school nurse. High volumes of young people coming to the notice of school nurses is preventing the recording and sharing of safeguarding information that may assist schools to monitor welfare. This is particularly important in support of Operation Encompass within Leicester City which seeks to raise awareness of domestic abuse within schools and enhance multi-agency information sharing.***

#### 9.5 **Lesson 5**

***Unstable housing has been identified as the most common factor in local DHRs and in Hanita's death, co-occupation of the family home post-divorce was a key issue in the circumstances of her homicide.***

#### 9.6 **Lesson 6**

***Hanita was a victim of domestic abuse who failed to secure a protective order due to the complexities of her legal situation. A key factor may have been that she was unrepresented and this, being unchallenged, created an 'inequality of arms'.***

#### 9.7 **Lesson 7**

***The processes within the Family Court are complex with differing professionals working in the field having differing expectations of the application of relevant law and protective measures. This impacts on outcomes for victims.***

#### 9.8 **Lesson 8**

***The contested hearing which would have enabled Hanita to establish the existence of domestic abuse could not go ahead because Sanjiv was not provided with an independent court appointed interpreter.***

#### 9.9 **Lesson 9**

***Local Family Court lawyers and Family Court District Judges who work with victims of domestic abuse are, appropriately, independent of statutory agencies. Locally, there is no engagement between them and local safeguarding agencies and policies. Developing links and sharing information between safeguarding and the local Family Court network via the existing Civil and Criminal Justice Working Group, or Family***

***Justice Board, may enhance the safety of domestic abuse victims, particularly those who may present as high risk. To directly enhance victim safety, where protective orders and cross-undertakings have been agreed, information sharing is essential where domestic abuse is a feature.***

9.10 **Lesson 10**

***Family Courts hold important and relevant information that may benefit a Domestic Homicide Review. The need to review the information they hold should be routinely requested at the earliest opportunity, subject to Data Protection issues.***

9.11 **Lesson 11**

***It is highly likely that Hanita, whilst being subjected to on-going coercive control, did not identify as a victim of domestic abuse, or understand the enhanced risks faced at point of separation. Lack of identification and understanding of associated risks is a barrier that may prevent victims of domestic abuse accessing protective services. Likewise, agencies must consider the enhanced risks potential victims of domestic abuse face at point of separation and professionally enquire when planning and conducting risk assessments.***

9.12 **Lesson 12**

***Practitioners should access training to understand the importance of identity, faith, religious and cultural issues within assessment and application of support interventions for domestic abuse to encourage reporting of domestic abuse.***

9.13 **Lesson 13**

***There may be a barrier preventing young people accessing services where they are concerned that confidentiality will be breached. Services need to ascertain and be sensitive to young people's concerns, to encourage engagement.***

**10. GOOD PRACTICE IDENTIFIED**

- 10.1 On transferring to College 2, Pandita very quickly felt able to engage with counsellors and a very supportive relationship was established. The college provided direct support to Pandita and when in crisis at losing their Mother

and risk of suicide escalated, took proactive steps to safeguard by referring to Children's Social Care and speaking directly to the police and PCSO.

- 10.2 The police demonstrated creative thinking when they took positive action and arrested Sanjiv to prevent a Breach of the Peace, thereby providing a short protective space for Hanita and Pandita.
- 10.3 The police very quickly designated Hanita as a high-risk missing person which enabled resources to be allocated expeditiously and enabled the securing of forensic evidence that led to the early arrest and conviction of Sanjiv. The police also demonstrated good practice by allocating a Family Liaison Officer (FLO), to Pandita immediately when Hanita was found to be deceased. They understood Pandita's mental state and provided direct support from the FLO.
- 10.4 Pandita's GP demonstrated good practice in safeguarding when contacting directly by telephone to try to ascertain reasons for non-engagement with CAMHS.
- 10.5 It is apparent that Pandita's and Aadinath's schools were able to contribute much information to the review from actually remembering the children and provided a very helpful perspective of their time at school through to college.
- 10.6 CAMHS provided multiple opportunities for Pandita to engage and sent a copy letter of appointment to the School Nurse.

## **11. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE SCOPING PERIOD**

- 11.1 Since the review began, Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland CCG's have developed a Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse policy which has been made widely available to GP's. Safeguarding specialists within the CCG's have completed a 'Train the Trainer' DSVa course and roll out of DVA training to GP's has commenced.
- 11.2 Revised UAVA and Leicester City Council Domestic and Sexual Violence Training programme for April 2018 to March 2019 incorporates specific training for understanding domestic abuse within BME groups.
- 11.3 Introduction in June 2018 of the Public Health England publication 'Domestic Abuse – Toolkit for Employers'.
- 11.4 Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board have initiated liaison with Family lawyers through direct contact at the Civil and Criminal Justice Working Group.

11.5 The Safer Leicester Partnership is engaged with local Faith Leaders and Community Mentors to develop shared understanding of domestic abuse in faith communities.

## **12. RECOMMENDATIONS**

This review recognises that the identified learning points may have been addressed by recommendations in recent reviews with actions already underway or completed.

### **12.1 Recommendation 1:**

Safer Leicester Partnership should share the findings of this review with the Leicester Safeguarding Children's Board to highlight all lessons learned through this review specific to children and young people.

### **12.2 Recommendation 2:**

The Home Office should note the findings of this review as relevant to their development of DVPN's.

### **12.3 Recommendation 3:**

The Safer Leicester Partnership should develop links to District Judges who work with domestic abuse victims in the Family Court, through the Family Justice Board or Civil and Criminal Justice Working Group. In particular to ensure a shared understanding of coercive and controlling behaviour, and the agreement to use of undertakings, both of which impact on victim safety and decision making.

### **12.4 Recommendation 4:**

The Safer Leicester Partnership should develop the inclusion of family lawyers who work with domestic abuse victims in the Family Court, within safeguarding training and information sharing.

### **12.5 Recommendation 5:**

The Safer Leicester Partnership should consider sharing the findings of this review with the Home Office in support of understanding the complexity of applying for protective orders for victims and for consideration of detailed housing analysis being captured in DHR's nationally, for potential inclusion as a contributing factor in domestic abuse risk assessments.

### **12.6 Recommendation 6:**



The Safer Leicester Partnership should share the findings of this review and develop information sharing protocols with the Family Court to enhance the safety of victims of domestic abuse, and their children.

**12.7 Recommendation 7:**

The Safer Leicester Partnership should continue the awareness work commenced with faith leaders in Leicester City to further explore and inform shared understanding of the community approach in relation to 'spiritual guidance' in matters of domestic abuse.

**12.8 Recommendation 8:**

The Safer Leicester Partnership should promote the existence of the revised domestic and sexual violence training programme, especially in relation to understanding and responding to issues of coercive and controlling behaviour, and encourage practitioners to undertake specific training in relation to faith, culture, religion and identity within domestic abuse.

**12.9 Recommendation 9:**

The Safer Leicester Partnership should share the Public Health England publication 'Domestic Abuse – a Toolkit for Employers' with the regional Chamber of Commerce, for wide dissemination within the business community.

**12.10 Recommendation 10:**

The Safer Leicester Partnership should ensure the learning points from this review are disseminated widely and incorporated within domestic abuse practice development.

### 13. GLOSSARY

<b>Acronym/ Abbreviation</b>	<b>Full title</b>
ASC	Adult Social Care
CAADA	Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse
CPN	Community Psychiatric Nurse
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
DASH	Domestic abuse, stalking, harassment and honour-based violence
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
DLNR CRC	Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire & Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DSH	Deliberate Self Harm
DSV	Domestic and Sexual Violence
ED	Emergency Department
EMAS	East Midlands Ambulance Service
FLO	Family Liaison Officer
FreeVA	Free from Violence and Abuse
GP	General Practitioner
HO	Home Office
HOS	Housing Options Service
IAPT	Improving Access to Psychological Therapy Services
IMR	Individual Management Report
LPT	Leicestershire Partnership Trust
LRI	Leicester Royal Infirmary
LSAB	Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board
NHS	National Health Service
QA	Quality Assurance
SIO	Senior Investigating Officer
SLP	Safer Leicester Partnership (Leicester's Community Safety Partnership)
SMART	Specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely
SSAFA	Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association
UAVA	United Against Violence and Abuse
UCC	Urgent Care Centre, run by George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust
UHL	University Hospitals of Leicester
WALL	Women's Aid Leicestershire Ltd.

## Appendices

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference and Project Plan

# LEICESTER SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD



## DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE & PROJECT PLAN

SUBJECT: Hanita

Date of birth : removed

Date of death : removed

## **1. Introduction:**

- 1.1 This Domestic Homicide Review is commissioned by Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board on behalf of the Safer Leicester Partnership in response to the death of Hanita. Hanita was killed by her ex-husband, at the family home in Leicester. There had been little contact with agencies prior to her death. Also living at the address was Hanita and her child Pandita. Their elder child, Aadinath, lives out of the area. Hanita's sister, Paramita, has had significant involvement with the family.
- 1.2 Following their marriage in 1988, the couple moved into their current property in Leicester. They divorced in 2012 but remained living under the same roof, Post murder, both children reported that the ex-husband verbally and physically assaulted the whole family. However, only two domestic incidents have ever been reported to Leicestershire Police, in 2011 and 2015.
- 1.3 The Safer Leicester Partnership is keen to establish how agencies may have worked individually and together to better safeguard Hanita. In particular, it wants to explore whether there were missed opportunities to have engaged with the family. The review will explore whether there were any barriers to Hanita accessing services and if so, what can be done to raise awareness of services available to victims of domestic violence and abuse.

## **2. Legal Framework:**

- 2.1 A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) must be undertaken when the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by-
  - (a) a person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or
  - (b) a member of the same household as himself, held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death.
- 2.2 The purpose of the DHR is to:

- a) establish what lessons are to be learned from the domestic homicide regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims;
- b) identify clearly what those lessons are both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result;
- c) apply these lessons to service responses including changes to policies and procedures as appropriate; and
- d) prevent domestic violence and abuse homicide and improve service responses for all domestic violence and abuse victims and their children by developing a coordinated multi-agency approach to ensure that domestic abuse is identified and responded to effectively at the earliest opportunity;
- e) contribute to a better understanding of the nature of domestic violence and abuse; and
- f) highlight good practice

*Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews (December 2016)*

### **3. Methodology:**

- 3.1 This Domestic Homicide Review will be conducted using the Significant Incident Learning Process (SILP) methodology, which reflects on multi-agency work systemically and aims to answer the question why things happened. Importantly it recognises good practice and strengths that can be built on, as well as things that need to be done differently to encourage improvements. The SILP learning model engages frontline practitioners and their managers in the review of the case, focussing on why those involved acted in a certain way at that time. It is a collaborative and analytical process which combines written Agency Reports with Learning Events.
- 3.2 This model is based on the expectation that Case Reviews are conducted in a way that recognises the complex circumstances in which professionals work together and seeks to understand practice from the viewpoint of the individuals and organisations involved at the time, rather than using hindsight.
- 3.3 The SILP model of review adheres to the principles of;

- Proportionality
- Learning from good practice
- Active engagement of practitioners
- Engagement with families
- Systems methodology

#### **4. Scope of Case Review:**

**4.1 Subject Hanita:** Date of Birth: removed

**4.2 Scoping period:** from 01.08.14 [the time of the referral regarding Pandita for depression symptoms] to date of death.

4.3 In addition agencies are asked to provide a brief background of any significant events and safeguarding issues prior to the scoping period, including an account of what is known about behavioural, social or emotional difficulties of the two children. This will include any significant event that falls outside the timeframe if agencies consider that it would add value and learning to the review.

#### **5. Agency Reports:**

5.1 Agency Reports will be requested from:

- Police
- Education
- Ambulance
- GP
- Children's Social Care

5.2 Agencies are requested to use the attached Report Template.

5.3 Summary reports are requested from:

- CAMHS
- Hanita's employer
- Hanita's place of worship

#### **6. Areas for consideration:**

6.1 What is known about the nature or level of alcohol use by Sanjiv?

6.2 Were there missed opportunities to exercise professional curiosity?

6.3 Could communication and information sharing have been improved during the scoping period?

- 6.4 How accessible were support services that may have been available to the family? How responsive were they?
- 6.5 How well understood was the family's community's approach to / recognition of domestic violence?
- 6.6 Were opportunities missed to spot potential indicators or abuse and to identify risk at any stage?
- 6.7 Was consideration given to issues of culture, race, religion or belief? What role, if any, did issues of language play?
- 6.8 What were the barriers to Hanita accessing support relating to alcohol misuse or anger management?
- 6.9 Identify examples of good practice, both single and multi-agency.

## **7. Engagement with the family**

- 7.1 A key element of SILP is engagement with family members, in order that their views can be sought and integrated into the Review and the learning. LSAB has already informed the family that this Review is being undertaken. The independent lead reviewer will follow up by making contact with Pandita, Aadinath & Sanjiv who will be consulted on the terms of reference for the review (subject to consultation re : criminal process).
- 7.2 Further contact will be made to invite participation in the form of a home visit, interview, correspondence or telephone conversation prior to the Learning Event. Contributions will be woven into the text of the Overview Report and she will be given feedback at the end of the process.

## **8. Timetable for Domestic Homicide Review:**

### **Timetable for Case Review:**

Scoping Meeting and panel 1	24 April 2017
Letters to Agencies	26 June 2017
Agency Report Authors' Briefing	17 July 2017 at 12.15pm
Engagement with family	Begin July 2017 once authorized
Agency Reports submitted to LSAB	20 September 2017
Agency Reports quality assured by Chair	20-25 September 2017
Agency Reports distributed	27 September 2017
Learning Event inc Panel 2	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
First draft of Overview Report to LSAB	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2018

Recall Event inc Panel 3	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2018
Second draft of Overview Report to LSAB	29 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Presentation to LSAB and sign off panel 3	8 <sup>th</sup> August 2018

Version 4: 15.05.2017



## Appendix 2: Single Agency Recommendations

### 1 **GP1**

Reminder to all GPs to detail causes of injuries in consultations.

### 2 **Leicester City Council Education and Children's Services:**

Children's Services should ensure that:

Practitioners are aware of their statutory requirement for assessment, and personal curiosity, where a child and young person meets the provision and care cannot be provided by persons with parental responsibility.

### 3 **Both children and adults workers** comply with multi-agency procedures to ascertain and record the ethnicity, religious practice and language of families they are involved with and that this is thoroughly considered in the context of assessment of need or risk; and in planning intervention and support.

### 4 **College 1**

Details of Attendance interventions to be logged and filed more efficiently for leavers.

### 5 **Her Majesty's Court & Tribunal Service**

The obtaining of an immediate independent, properly appointed, interpreter, should be reviewed by the local judiciary.

### Appendix 3: Domestic & sexual Violence Local Service Offer<sup>10</sup>

**United Against Violence and Abuse (UAVA)** is a consortium of three local specialist providers of domestic abuse and sexual violence services.

UAVA provides co-ordinated domestic and sexual violence services in Leicester for any male or female over the age of 13. The three services that make up the consortium are:



#### **Services available:**

##### **UAVA Helpline – 0808 80 200 28**

Open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Saturday. providing support in different languages.

##### **IDVA Crisis Intervention**

Providing specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Services. The IDVA team offers short term, intensive support and advocacy which focuses on risk and managing risks. Priority is given to ensuring the safety of victims and their children, presenting victims views at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVC).

##### **ISVA Intervention**

This service is for anyone, male or female, living in LLR, aged 13+ who has experienced rape and/ or sexual assault. This could be as a result of a recent incident or something that has happened in the past.

##### **Outreach**

Once the immediate risks and threat of abuse is addressed the Engagement and Recovery team will provide emotional, practical, therapeutic support and counselling

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<sup>10</sup> Current at June 2018

options alongside group work interventions to ensure victims continue to feel safe and secure, make informed choices and take back control.

### **No More Abuse**

A new domestic and sexual abuse website for children and young people in Leicester.

### **City Family Service**

Providing a range of services for 0 to 18 year olds and their families living in Leicester City. Support includes one to one interventions with children and young people, group work and support for parents and carers.

### **Safe Home & Refuge Services**

Providing advice and support victims to make informed decisions about housing options, as well as temporary safe refuge accommodation and support to live safely in their own homes.

### **City Perpetrator Programme**

The Jenkins Centre provides interventions for men and women who WANT help to stop using abusive behaviours towards an intimate (ex)partner. Also providing an interventions programme for young people aged 13-18yrs who are using abusive behaviours towards a partner, parent or carer.

The interventions programme consists of a 24 week group programme for adult, male, heterosexual English speakers and our individual interventions programme is reserved for people in same-sex relationships, women using violence and non-English speakers.