



DHR B3

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE CASE.

The case was subject to a Domestic Homicide Review following the murder of a women 'Marie' by her bigamist husband.

Very little was known about the victim prior to her death, she was a mother and worked in a healthcare setting.

None of the statutory partners or domestic abuse agencies that make up the Bournemouth Community Safety Partnership had any record of domestic violence and abuse incidents between Marie and her husband.

The perpetrator has been convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. He must serve at least 25 years before he becomes eligible for parole.

The period reviewed in the Domestic Homicide Review was 2005 – 2014. This synopsis highlights the key learning for the future.

GENERAL LEARNING

Recognising coercion and control.

Colleagues of Marie had information that could have indicated domestic violence and abuse. The challenges of disclosures is recognised but all employees should be aware of the signs of coercion and control, recognising it not only in clients/service users and patients, but with colleagues and other employees.

Example: Change of dress - When Marie attended social functions on her own she would dress conservatively; her dress would be of a decent length and her legs and chest area would be covered. However, when Marie attended functions with her husband, colleague's noticed she dressed and danced provocatively.

Role for employers

This isolation of foreign nationals coming to work in the UK is one of the key learning points and particularly relevant in respect of the increasing numbers of foreign nationals coming to work in the NHS and other industry. It is important to recognise their vulnerability through isolation and understanding un/acceptable behaviours within the British culture regarding domestic abuse and UK legislation.

Employers recognising the signs of coercion and control within colleagues and staff as well as clients/patients/service users.

Example: Marie would receive many angry phone calls from her husband during working hours. He would call the workplace telephone when her mobile was switched off.

Cultural impact on seeking support

The impact of culture on identifying and reporting domestic violence and abuse is a learning point that runs through this review. It is difficult to break down cultural barriers but it is important that everyone involved in service to the members of the public are aware of the cultural barriers to reporting domestic abuse. Enhancing provision of information and support to diverse ethnic communities within Bournemouth regarding Domestic Abuse should be a key activity.

Example: Cultural views on domestic abuse may have had an impact on people seeking help and support, leading to a cultural vulnerability.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Bournemouth Community Safety Partnership – 01202 454797

<https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/communityliving/CrimeDisorder/CommunitySafety.aspx>

THANK YOU.