

DHR16 Action Plan – multi agency recommendations

Recommendations	Outcome to be achieved	Specific actions to achieve outcome	Action completion deadline and status	Action owner (named lead for your agency)
1. Safer Cornwall should co-ordinate work across all agencies to ensure effective risk assessment at the first point of contact in situations of domestic abuse.	Congruence between risk assessment tools and agencies. A trauma-informed approach to risk assessment that considers the timing of the assessment and the impact on the family. Clearly articulated risks and the impact of risk on all family members. Assessments which contain observation of the environment and situation.	DASV Partnership Board proposal agreed to review use of risk assessment tools across all agencies and will pick up on DHR14 recommendation on risk and MARAC flags to ensure the work is joined up. DASH is currently the tool advocated for domestic abuse risk assessment and used by agencies in Cornwall and training is delivered on an ongoing basis by the specialist domestic abuse service Safer Futures. Trauma informed response is being developed through Compassionate Cornwall and will influence risk assessment .	Completed: September 2024 Agencies nominated representatives for the task and finish group – October 2024. Completed: Compassionate Cornwall leads to provide assurance on progress of trauma informed response implementation/ culture change. Series of trauma informed lunch and learns delivered in 2024.	DASV Partnership Board Safer Cornwall partner agency leads – Safer Cornwall
2. Explore the feasibility of a commissioned comparative study between ‘service as normal’ (Recommendation 1 above) and a 24/7 specialist IDVA risk assessment service.	An informed decision will be made on whether the research is viable (incorporating a local cost benefit analysis)	Joint Police and IDVA pilot conducted using OPCC Summer Funding. It was not continued due to funding constraints and no clear evidence of the benefit.	Completed: evidenced as part of pilot evaluation.	Safer Cornwall Safer Futures
3. Information sharing practices between Devon and Cornwall Police and Safer Futures should be monitored and evaluated regularly to ensure that it is effective.	There will be a consistent and agreed balance between GDPR and Safeguarding legislation. Victims of domestic abuse will be safer as a result of professionals having a robust and consistent information sharing process	DCP review of MARAC information sharing agreement	Completed: Devon and Cornwall Police have an ISA that is current and published on our external website with a list of agencies that are signed up to the agreement. The ISA has recently been recirculated via the Peninsula MARAC steering group. DCP intend to conduct a MARAC review which may identify future amendments to the ISA. DCP would welcome feedback from partners if there are any issues identified.	DCP Safer Futures

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4. All statutory and commissioned agencies in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly need to evidence that their agency has a robust and accessible policy or practice guidance that addresses how their organisation will explore and identify coercive and controlling abuse at the first point of contact, followed by a plan on how they will assess, manage, escalate, and record coercive and controlling domestic abuse for adults and children under their care.	The workforce will feel confident and skilled in recognising and responding to coercive control. This will result in more situations of coercive control being recognised and appropriate referrals made. Victims of coercive and controlling abuse will be safer. More coercive and controlling abusers will be held to account.	<p>DASV PB to audit whether all partner agencies have coercive control DA in their policies and practice guidance, following this review. Audit in a year. (This could be extended to include suicide risk.) Link with DHR14 Rec 5 (Action 21) and Rec 6 (Action 23)</p> <p>Webinar to be developed/ recorded for professionals with an accompanying learning briefing which will be available as a resource for professionals to access.</p> <p>Voluntary Sector Alliance – how is this embedded/ session with them – what a good DASV policy would look like.</p>	<p>October 2024 and 2025</p> <p>Coercive control is clearly defined in Safer Futures Levels 1-3 DASV Training, currently in place.</p> <p>Level 1 and Level 2 DASV Training – Coercive Control Modules each include 15 slides and a case study. Level 3 - DASH – DASV Training – Coercive Control Modules include 12 slides and multiple case studies.</p>	All agencies Safer Cornwall
	As per DHR 17 – The NHS Trusts joint DA steering group will devise an action plan to; review the roll out of Routine Enquiry to date, identifying what further work/support is required, in which teams/services, to ensure the roll out of RE is supported across all health professionals across both Trusts.	<p>1) RCHT/CFT have recently developed a DA steering group, and this will be a priority for the group</p> <p>2)The IMR author will present this finding and recommendation at the DA steering group</p> <p>3) The DA steering group will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the RE work to date • Identify what further work and support is required for each Team/Service/ Trust • Formulate action plan identifying above and identify who will be responsible for completing actions & how change in practice will be measured • Implement action plan • Monitor and review action plan 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Oct 2023 - DA coordinator business case agreed.</p> <p>DA coordinator appointed and post commences 01.12.23</p>	RCHT/ CFT
		DCP follow the Home Office statutory guidance framework in responding to, understanding, identifying and investigating coercive and controlling behaviour. This is highlighted in our domestic abuse policy document and is accessible to all officers and members of staff.	Completed	DCP

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5. Devon and Cornwall Police should stay abreast of the response from Rt Hon Chris Philp MP Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire in relation to the removal of house keys for the duration of imposed bail conditions and adjust practice accordingly to any formalised changes to national guidance or policy.			Completed: DCP currently have no legal powers to remove house keys from those on bail, confirmed by our force legal team. We would welcome this legislative change and already have processes in place within force to ensure such changes are circulated as soon as they are distributed to forces through NPCC updates.	DCP
6. There should be an expectation that the sanctuary scheme is always offered in situations of coercive control. This should always include practical remedies to help families feel safe including consideration of the way in which technology may be allowing abusers to continue to exert control remotely.	Victims will report feeling safer in their home. The Sanctuary Scheme will receive more referrals from practitioners. Perpetrators will find it more difficult to control and intimidate victims through software, technology and social media		<p>Completed: DCP agree to the principle of a victim being offered a Sanctuary Scheme referral for Coercive Control cases where the victim is not residing with the offender. The actual offer and provision will be a matter for the respective Local Authority to determine.</p> <p>Lack of capacity for medium risk identified at Sanctuary Steering group (September 2023). Consideration is being given to how to increase/upskill people to assess need.</p> <p>The second part of the recommendation 'consideration of the way in which technology may be allowing abusers to continue to exert control remotely' is something as a force we would welcome, and we aim to circulate this advice to DAO's and OICs to ensure this is clearly communicated to victims. We would welcome a revision to this recommendation please.</p>	<p>DCP</p> <p>Safer Cornwall Safe Accommodation lead</p> <p>DCP</p>

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7. Public Health, together with Safer Futures, should produce a marketing strategy that reaches the communities in which people live to raise awareness of the patterns and risks associated with coercive and controlling abuse and the importance of gaining free specialist safety planning advice prior to, and after separation *This should not rely on technology or websites as these methods are often controlled and monitored.	The number of referrals to First Light for advice from members of the community will increase year on year . Family and friends will report feeling heard and consulted in relation to safety planning	Campaign to raise public awareness will dovetail with DHR14 recommendation on improving recognition and response to coercive control, including utilising the learning from DHRs through the use of case studies to illustrate this insidious typology of abuse. Campaign to be codesigned with Experts by Experience. This is a recommendation locally that is being implemented jointly by Safer Cornwall DASV Team and Safer Futures DA service, not public health.	Completed: 2024 Safer Cornwall campaigns include 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence - November -December 2024 with a specific webinar on coercive controlling abuse. Resources will be disseminated for public in Safe and Well Hubs.	Safer Futures Safer Cornwall
8. The integrated care board (ICB) supported by Cornwall Council should work together to improve the domestic abuse response within general practice.	Improved referral rate from GP practices into domestic abuse services	Work to improve domestic abuse response is underway which provides for active contribution of specialist domestic abuse advisors to the work of GPs in relation to domestic abuse and vice versa. The required changes are now being implemented through the primary care domestic abuse support service. This is provided by First Light who provide training and in reach to general practice, along with a direct referral pathway. This has resulted in a 500% increase in referrals from general practice over two years, demonstrating improvements.	Completed: Continually monitored through contact management, specifically referral rates and numbers of GP practices trained and engaged across Cornwall.	ICB Safer Cornwall
9. In the absence of a robust system for flagging existing firearms holders, professional agencies in Cornwall need to establish an interim way of identifying firearms holders.	Firearms holders will be identified within healthcare records and significant changes of situation/health/lifestyle will be reported to the firearms licensing department within Devon and Cornwall Police. Fewer domestic abuse victims will be threatened or killed with a firearm.	National guidance has since been launched. Review to ensure GPs are aware of the system for flagging firearms holders on their records where mental health of an individual deteriorates. Retrospective flagging to be reviewed to ensure national guidance covers this aspect. Question of proportionality to be considered.	Completed: DCP has multiple flagging systems for existing firearms holders. Addresses are covered by STORM notifications, in addition Niche flags are in place for people and locations. The Police National Computer also has a FC (Firearms certificate) marker should a person who holds a licence be checked. DASV Partnership Board seeking assurance from ICB around retrospective flagging.	DCP ICB (GP)

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<p>10. The Safer Cornwall Partnership should develop a strategy to reassure the public of accountability following statutory reviews. This should include the transparent sharing of outcomes on a consistent basis.</p>	<p>There will be greater external scrutiny and accountability for DHR recommendations. The community will feel safer knowing that learning is leading to change. The number of community members aware of DHRs will increase.</p> <p>Action plans to implement statutory review learning will be completed, published and communicated to families (where appropriate)</p> <p>Public/ residents and victims' families are reassured and have confidence in their Community Safety Partnership.</p>	<p>DHR Learning and Implementation subgroup set up- first meeting 27/11/23. DASV PB receives quarterly updates to ensure the recommendations are being acted on within the designated timeframe. Any barriers to completion will be brought to the attention of the DASV PB and escalated where necessary to the SCPB for 'unblocking'.</p> <p>Safer Cornwall involved in the DAC Office DHR Oversight mechanism 01/12/23. As part of the process, Safer Cornwall partnership assessed the progress of implementation and submitted 92 recommendations to the DAC office.</p> <p>Publication of DHRs on the Safer Cornwall website including up to date action plans that demonstrate accountability to the public by providing status on the implementation of recommendations. Most recent Domestic Homicide Review - Safer Cornwall</p>	<p>Success of the Safer Cornwall strategy to ensure accountability for statutory reviews will become evident once the DHR Oversight mechanism is embedded as the DAC office will have an overview of any barriers/ challenges to implementation. An accountability/ escalation process will be triggered if needed (local or national) . The DAC office will also have the ability to identify good practice and share learning, common issues/ trends and include this in stakeholder group discussions. 01/12/24</p>	<p>Safer Cornwall</p>