1. **Local Learning**

In 2 recent DHR cases in Calderdale, perpetrators presented to their GPs shortly before the homicide in a state of acute mental health difficulty. Risk of suicide was assessed, but no assessment of any risk they posed to others in their household was made.

**Key recommendations:** see any patient expressing mental health difficulty in the context of their household and whether the patient could pose a risk to others.

**ALWAYS THINK:** Who is at home and are they safe?

Rememberpeople who cause harm can be any gender and/or in same sex relationships or be family members.

**2. Identifying people who cause harm:**

**Presentations may include:**

\* Anger/stress

\* Reference to family / relationships problems

\* Threat of suicide/self-harm

\* Drug / alcohol use

\* Controlling Behaviours, e.g. attends with partner, speaks for them, answers phone

**Start with screening (open) questions** e.g. How do these problems affect interactions with family

**Move to prompting (closed) questions**

\* Do you find yourself shouting/ smashing things?

\* Do you think anyone in the family might be afraid of you?

\* Have the police been called?

**Safeguarding: 7 Minute Briefing**

**2023**

**Identifying and managing Domestic Abuse Perpetrators**

**7.Signpost to support**

\* RESPECT phoneline Freephone 0808 802 4040 or livechat <https://respectphoneline.org.uk/contact-us/> for support/signposting to interventions for those who cause harm

\* [Somerset Domestic abuse support](https://somersetdomesticabuse.org.uk/about-us/referrals/) for those who cause harm

\* Couples counselling and/or anger management is not appropriate for perpetrators of domestic abuse

\* Consider referral into adult/children social care

**Further reading:**

[Respect](https://respectphoneline.org.uk/resources/frontline-workers/factsheets/domestic-abuse-perpetrator-programmes-do-they-work-factsheet-for-frontline-workers/) factsheet for practitioners

[Respect](https://respectphoneline.org.uk/resources/frontline-workers/guidelines-for-working-with-perpetrators-of-domestic-abuse/) guidelines for working with people who cause harm

**Training:**

Domestic abuse training for professionals can be accessed[here](https://somersetdomesticabuse.org.uk/professional-resources/training/) (Somerset DA support)and[here](https://safeguardingsomerset.event-booking.org.uk/events-list) (SSCP)

**3. Risk assessment - *Screen for High-risk indicators:***

\* Recent/imminent separation

\* Partner pregnant/recently given birth

\* Recent escalation in frequency/severity of assaults including sexual

\* Coercive control: monitoring, jealousy, intimidation, threats to kill

\* Past use of, or access to, weapons or previous attempted strangulation/suffocation

\* Harmful/dependent substance misuse

\* Threats suicide/self-harm

**5.Recording and sharing information**

**Clearly document**

\* Verbatim record

\* Add appropriate snomed code to records. Consider adding to victim and children records

\* Safeguarding alert on home screen

\* Entry in safeguarding mode

\* Link records between victim and person who causes harm

\* Remove online access to patient’s/family’s records

\* Ensure victim and children are safeguarded if they are at risk

**Share**

* Is the victim registered at your practice? If so, link records.
* Explore with other professionals who may be involved with the family e.g., rest of the practice team, Health visitors/School nurses, Mental health team

RCGP guidance for electronic records [here](https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/safeguarding/)

**6. Discussing and escalating your concerns**

\* Seek advice from your organisation’s safeguarding or domestic abuse leads

\* Discuss with ICB Named professionals or Designated Safeguarding Leads [Somerset ICB safeguarding team](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CDawn.Sherry%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR29WK298%5Csomicb.safeguardingandcla.nhs.net)

\* Medium and high-risk cases will be referred to [Somerset domestic abuse support](https://somersetdomesticabuse.org.uk) and high-risk cases will receive a multi-agency response and risk assessment. Please see referral process: [Somerset MARAC](https://somersetdomesticabuse.org.uk/professional-resources/multi-agency-risk-assessment-conference-marac/)

**4.Interacting with perpetrators**

\* Listen/believe

\* **Validate**: “I’m glad you told me”

\* Offer support

\* Explain harm to children including witnesses

\* **Inform**: skilled interventions have been shown to work

\* Do not collude

\* Even if “they give as much as they get” “they drive me to it”

**\*** Consider the victims needs/wishes

**Make the limits of confidentiality clear, inform you may seek further advice**