



WILTSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW

Overview Report into the death of Ellie in May 2019

Independent Chair and Report Author: Paula Harding

Associate of Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

Final Version, June 2021

**STANDING
TOGETHER**
against domestic abuse

Abbreviations

CSP: Community Safety Partnership

CCG: Clinical Commissioning Group

DHR: Domestic Homicide Review

IDVA: Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

MASH: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

MVPP: Mentoring in Violence Prevention Programme

NIHR: National Institute for Health Research

ONS: Office for National Statistics

PSHCE: Personal, Social Health and Citizenship Education

RSE: Relationship and Sex Education

Tribute to Ellie

From a young age Ellie had a huge love for animals. Every spring we would visit Lackham during the lambing season and during the summer holidays make many visits to animal farms to hold chicks, rabbits, and feed baby animals.

On her first day at primary school she put holes in her brand new shoes as she spent every playtime playing with her friends crawling around on her hands and knees being a cat.

Ellie also loved our summer trips Devon to stay at our Aunt and Uncle's house, more so she loved their puppy Elsa and whilst the other young cousins were scared of the lively puppy jumping up, Ellie wasn't and had a wonderful way with animals, calming the lively puppy and making it do whatever she wanted.

Every year from a young age a pony always featured on her Christmas or Birthday wish list. We tried to get away with buying a hobby horse to run around the garden on. The pleas continued so we adopted an Exmoor Pony, however due to the distance we could only visit twice a year. We finally decided as we lived in beautiful rural Wiltshire to buy her a pony - Missy.

Missy was white with a long flowing mane and tail, she looked like a Unicorn when she was white although often, she looked brown as she loved rolling in mud. Ellie spent hours brushing her and plaiting her mane and tail. She loved showing her off at local shows in "prettiest pony classes" and was so proud one year to come first at Foxham show in the "best family pony class".

Ellie's natural riding ability improved immensely and in no time she was ready to move onto her next pony Blackjack. Again, winters and summers she competed in local shows and cross-country events. It was nail biting for us to watch as she would gallop past and fly over enormous cross-country jumps.

She also spent the summer months often just herself and her beloved Blackjack hacking over Wiltshire's beautiful countryside.

Ellie loved the Sixth form at school where she was studying for A levels. She had built up a close group of friends who would often meet up at weekends and do activities such as the "Escape Rooms". She would often ask if the group could meet at our house "it's just a gathering mum not a party".

We talked about visits to university open days and apprenticeships within the Police force – she wondered if she could get into the mounted police with her riding skills.

Whilst she was excited about the next step in her life she also said "but I don't want the Sixth Form to end as I love it so much".

Ellie had a lovely relationship with her older brother growing up, they rarely argued, she was fun, loving and a joy to be around.

As a family we live every moment of every day with the searing pain of her loss. She was such a delightful, kind, gentle, fun loving girl, a beautiful soul inside and out.

We live daily with the pain and sadness that we will never see her graduate from university, get married and become a mother herself. We will never have the chance to love and cherish our grandchildren, her children.

We will never be able to comprehend why or how anyone could harm such an exceptionally special person as our dear Ellie, in such a horrific way.

She will never be forgotten and will always be in our hearts.

Preface

Members of the review panel offer their deepest sympathy to the family and to all who have been affected by Ellie's death. Family members have been offered the opportunity to provide a statement of the impact that these tragic events have had upon them and they will consider contributing this prior to publication.

The Chair would like to thank the panel and contributors for their commitment to the review and to improving services for victims of domestic abuse.

Acknowledgements

Whilst circumstances after a death are not strictly within the remit of a domestic homicide review, it would be remiss not to draw attention to the good practice displayed by agencies in the aftermath of the homicide as well as to the prominent campaigning of Ellie's family and friends. Indeed, the actions of Ellie's family and friends deserve acknowledgement for their contribution to campaigning around domestic abuse and, in doing so, seeking to prevent harm to others in the future.

The whole school family came together to provide support to pupils, friends and parents, including teachers, school governors, the police, the child and adolescent mental health service, children's social care, educational psychology, school nursing, schools' counsellors, police community support officers, the vicar and youth worker from the local church and the street pastor team. Strategically managed, the support offered by all of these services, working together, appeared invaluable in helping the whole school community begin to come to terms with their loss and demonstrated a robust multi-agency, co-ordinated response to a local tragedy.

Use of pseudonyms

Family members were consulted on the use of a pseudonym for Ellie, in line with the statutory guidance. However, they have asked for dispensation to be able to use her real name. To support this request, they have drawn our attention to the high-profile nature of the case which continues to feature in national media and, as a result, is highly recognisable. The Home Office was therefore asked to consider this request and approved the use of her real name as per her family's wishes.

Contents

Abbreviations.....	2
Preface.....	3
Acknowledgements.....	5
Use of pseudonyms.....	6
1. INTRODUCTION.....	8
1.1 Background.....	8
1.2 Aim and Purpose of a domestic homicide review.....	8
1.3. Timescales.....	9
1.4. Confidentiality.....	10
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE.....	11
2.1. Methodology.....	11
2.2. Involvement of Family and Friends.....	11
2.3. Independent Chair and Author.....	12
2.4. Members of the Review Panel.....	13
2.5. Time period.....	15
2.6. Key Lines of Enquiry.....	15
2.7. Individual Reports.....	16
2.8. Agencies without contact.....	16
2.9. The definition of domestic violence.....	17
2.10. Parallel Reviews.....	18
2.11. Equality and Diversity.....	18
2.12. Dissemination.....	19
3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION.....	19
3.1. Persons involved in this review.....	19
3.2. The homicide.....	20
4. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS.....	22
5. THEMATIC ANALYSIS.....	25
5.1 Understanding Domestic Abuse.....	25
5.2 Separation.....	26
5.3 Educational Sabotage.....	27
5.4 Overkilling.....	28
5.5 Domestic abuse in adolescent intimate relationships.....	29
5.6 Wiltshire Domestic Abuse Strategy.....	30
5.7 Providing services for young people experiencing abuse.....	31
5.8 School-Based Prevention.....	32
6 CONCLUSIONS.....	37
7 RECOMMENDATIONS.....	41
8. BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	42
APPENDIX 1: ACTION PLAN.....	45

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1. This review concerns the death of a seventeen-year old girl who was killed by her ex-boyfriend straight after she had ended their three-month-long relationship. Both young people were studying for their mock 'A' level examinations when the murder took place. Aside from the school and GPs, no agencies were involved, and no-one was aware that there were any concerns within the relationship.

1.2 Aim and Purpose of a domestic homicide review

1.2.1 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) came into force on the 13th April 2011. They were established on a statutory basis under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). The Act states that a DHR should be a review of the circumstances in which 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 she was related or with whom she was or had been in an intimate personal relationship or (b) member of the same household as herself; with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death.

1.2.2 The purpose of a 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 inform national and local policies and procedures as appropriate;*

- d. 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;*
- e. contribute to a better understanding of the nature of domestic violence and abuse; and*
- f. highlight good practice” (Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance 2016, para 7)*

1.2.3 As well as examining agency responses, statutory guidance requires reviews to be professionally curious and find the “trail of abuse”. The narrative of each review should “articulate the life through the eyes of the victim...The key is situating the review in the home, family and community of the victim and exploring everything with an open mind”. (Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance 2016, paras 8 and 9).

1.2.4 Hence, the key purpose for undertaking a domestic homicide review is to enable lessons to be learned where a person is killed as a result of domestic violence, abuse or neglect. In order for these lessons to be learned as widely and thoroughly as possible, professionals need to be able to understand fully what happened in each homicide, and most importantly, what needs to change in order to reduce the risk of such tragedies happening in the future.

1.3. Timescales

1.3.1. Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership was notified of the death by Wiltshire Police. The decision to undertake a review was made by the Chair of the Partnership in consultation with affected agencies and the Home Office was notified in May 2019¹.

1.3.2. After consultation with the criminal investigation team, the decision was made to postpone the first panel meeting until the criminal prosecution had

¹ Precise dates redacted.

completed. This was because the young people did not appear to have had any contact with agencies beyond their school or routine, unrelated medical appointments. The review would therefore be significantly reliant upon family and friends who were also witnesses for the ongoing criminal proceedings.

- 1.3.3. The review therefore commenced in September 2019 after criminal proceedings had completed. The panel met three times. All panel meetings were minuted and all actions agreed for the panel have been tracked and completed.
- 1.3.4. The panel considered and agreed the draft Overview Report in October 2020, and the final Overview Report was endorsed by the Community Safety Partnership in November 2020, after consultation with Ellie's family, prior to submission to the Home Office.

1.4. Confidentiality

- 1.4.1 This Overview Report has been anonymised in accordance with statutory guidance.
- 1.4.2 Whilst the details of each review remain confidential, available only to participating professionals and their direct line management, the report has sought to extract sufficient detail from the narrative for the lessons and recommendations to be understood, whilst balancing this need for confidentiality.

2. Terms of Reference

2.1. Methodology

- 2.1.1. The review followed the methodology required by the statutory guidance. All local agencies were notified of the death and were asked to examine their records to establish if they had provided any services to the victim or perpetrator and to secure records if there had been any involvement.
- 2.1.2. Arrangements were made to appoint an Independent Domestic Homicide Review Chair and Author and agree the make-up of the multi-agency review panel.
- 2.1.3. Members of the Major Crime Investigation Team attended panel meetings and were able to provide the findings from the criminal investigation and provide details of the family who were to be invited to engage with the review.
- 2.1.4. The terms of reference for the review were drawn up by the Independent Chair together with the panel.

2.2. Involvement of Family and Friends

- 2.2.1. With the assistance of Wiltshire Police, family members of both the victim and perpetrator were notified and agreed to engage with the review. Ellie's family were supported by the Victim Support Homicide Service and Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse and took the opportunity to comment upon the draft terms of reference. The Chair met with the family again during the review, shared the draft report and met with their advocates to discuss their comments on the report, in line with their wishes. The family's comments were discussed with the review panel and, wherever possible, were incorporated into the report before finalising the report.

- 2.2.2. Consideration was given to engagement with Ellie's close group of friends in order to understand more about Ellie's life and their knowledge of her experiences within the relationship. However, in view of their age, advice was sought from the relevant Children's Services representation on the panel and it was agreed that the review could rely upon the statements that they had made to the police during the criminal investigation rather than risk further distress to the young people concerned. Ellie's friends agreed that these statements could be shared with the review and these have been incorporated into this report.
- 2.2.3. The Independent Chair of the review met with the perpetrator's family and latterly with the perpetrator once he had been transferred to prison. Each confirmed that there had been no prior agency involvement. The perpetrator's family had often seen the young couple together and had not observed any matter of concern regarding their son's behaviour to Ellie. Other factual matters of context have been incorporated into the report.

2.3. Independent Chair and Author

- 2.3.1 The Independent Chair and Author is Paula Harding, an Associate Chair with the charity, Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse. She has over twenty-five years' experience of working in domestic abuse with both senior local authority management and specialist domestic abuse sector experience. For more than ten of those years she was a local authority strategic and commissioning lead for domestic abuse and violence against women and has been an independent chair and author of domestic homicide and safeguarding adult reviews since 2016. She completed an M.A. (Birmingham) in Equalities and Social Policy in 1997, focusing on domestic abuse and social welfare, and is a regular contributor to conferences, national consultations and academic research. She completed the OCR certificated training funded by the Home Office for *Independent Chairs of*

Domestic Homicide Reviews in 2013. She has also completed the on-line training provided by the Home Office, *Conducting a Homicide Review*,² as well as undertaken accredited training on the Significant Incident Learning Process and Learning Disability Mortality Reviews.

- 2.3.2 The review was managed and administered by Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse which is a UK charity bringing communities together to end domestic abuse. It promotes the adoption of the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Model across the country. This model is based upon the principle that no single agency or professional has a complete picture of the life of a domestic abuse survivor, but many will have insights that are crucial to their safety. It is paramount that agencies work together effectively and systematically to increase survivors' safety, hold perpetrators to account and ultimately prevent domestic homicides. Standing Together has been involved in the domestic homicide review process since its inception, chairing over seventy reviews to date and bringing expertise and support to the Independent Chair and the review.
- 2.3.3 Beyond this review, the Chair had no connection with Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership or any of the agencies involved in this case.

2.4. Members of the Review Panel

- 2.4.1 Multi-agency membership of this review panel consisted of senior managers and designated professionals from the key statutory agencies and all were independent of the case.
- 2.4.2 Wider matters of diversity and vulnerability were considered when agreeing panel membership. Splitz Support Service provided particular expertise on domestic abuse and the 'victim's perspective' to the panel. In view of the

² Available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conducting-a-domestic-homicide-review-online-learning>

age of the young people, a representative the Chair of Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board’s Practice Review Group was a member of the panel which also comprised a number of children’s agencies and designated safeguarding leads for children.

2.4.3 The review panel members were:

Name	Role/Organisation
Paula Harding	Independent Chair
Andrea Brazier	Service Manager for Young People, Wiltshire Council
Lisa Colombi	Young People’s Team Leader, Wiltshire Council
Dominic Taylor	Strategic Manager, Public Protection, Wiltshire Police
Donald Pocock	Community Inspector, Wiltshire Police
Emma Harrold	Domestic Abuse Reduction Co-ordinator, Wiltshire Council
Fiona Finlay	Designated Doctor, Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Chair of Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board Practice Review Group
Fran Lewis	Executive Director, Splitz Support Service
Jackie Pennington	Lead IDVA, Splitz Support Service
Hayley Mortimer	Public Health Consultant, Wiltshire Council
James Dunne	NHS Wiltshire, Clinical Commissioning Group
Jayne Harrison	Trust Lead Nurse for Safeguarding Children, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
Jo Naylor	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children, Virgin Care
Joanne Smith	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children, Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
(Redacted)	Headteacher, (redacted) Secondary School
Kathryne Abbott	Designated Professional Safeguarding Adults, NHS Wiltshire CCG
Martin Davis	Head of Service for Children and Families, Wiltshire Council
Mike Menzies	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children, Royal United Hospital – Bath
Netty Snelling	Safeguarding Lead (Child), Wiltshire Health and Care
Sean Collins	Safeguarding Lead (Adults), Chippenham Community Hospital
Tracy Daszkiewicz	Director of Public Health, Wiltshire Council

2.4.4. The panel received ongoing support from the senior investigators and case officer from Wiltshire Police Major Crime Investigation Team.

2.5. Time period

2.5.1. The panel agreed that the review should focus on the contact that agencies had with Ellie and the perpetrator during the period from February 2019, when their relationship began, until Ellie's death in May 2019.

2.6. Key Lines of Enquiry

2.6.1. The review sought to address both the 'circumstances of particular concern' set out in the Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews (2016) and the following specific issues identified in this particular case:

- a. Explore Ellie's experience and whether there had been any indicators of domestic abuse in her relationship with the perpetrator
- b. If indicators existed, explore opportunities for agencies, and the informal networks to which either individual belonged, to identify and respond to domestic abuse
- c. Explore the context of Ellie's life and any barriers to help-seeking if domestic abuse may have been a hidden feature of her relationship with reference to current research
- d. Consider the promotion of healthy relationships and access to specialist services undertaken within the school environment
- e. Consider the effectiveness of recent work undertaken in Wiltshire to prevent domestic abuse in young people's relationships; to promote the awareness of young people about domestic abuse and to provide relevant services to meet their needs.
- f. Develop recommendations from the findings of the review, taking into account national best practice in responding to domestic abuse in young people's relationships

2.7. Individual Reports

2.7.1. Individual reports were requested from the following organisations:

- (Redacted) Secondary School
- Wiltshire Public Health

2.7.2. The panel considered the routine healthcare that both Ellie and perpetrator had received but these were not considered relevant to the review.

2.7.3. The review approached the local horse-riding club to whom Ellie had belonged, with a view to enquiring about their knowledge of the relationship and whether safeguarding processes had been followed if any concerns were identified. However, Ellie had left the club shortly before her relationship with perpetrator began. The perpetrator belonged to a local rugby club, who were also approached but they did not respond. No other relevant informal networks were identified.

2.8. Agencies without contact

2.8.1. The following agencies were contacted but confirmed that Ellie or perpetrator were either not known to them, or that their involvement was not relevant to this review:

- Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership
- Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire Community Rehabilitation Company
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Great Western Hospital
- MARAC
- Medvivo (GP Out of Hours Service)
- National Probation Service
- Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Refuge Providers
- Royal United Hospital
- Salisbury Foundation Trust
- Splitz Support Service (specialist domestic abuse service)

- Virgin Care
- Wiltshire Council Adult Social Care, Children’s Services and Housing Services
- Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Wiltshire Health and Care
- Wiltshire Police
- Wiltshire Sexual Health Services
- Wiltshire Substance Misuse Service
- Wiltshire Youth Offending Service

2.9. The definition of domestic violence

2.9.1. The Government’s definition of domestic violence, which sets the standard for agencies nationally was applied to this review:

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- *psychological*
- *physical*
- *sexual*
- *financial*
- *emotional*

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim” (HM Government, 2013).

2.9.2. In recognition of the growing awareness of domestic abuse in young people’s relationships, this governmental definition was widened in 2013 to include those aged 16-17 years. Successive crime surveys at the time had found that

16-19-year-olds were the group of young women most likely to suffer abuse from a partner (Home Office, 2013). However, there is no universally accepted definition of abuse within young people's intimate relationships and various terms have therefore been used interchangeably as required.

2.9.3. At the time of writing, the Domestic Abuse Bill 2020 has been making its passage through parliament and, if enacted, will provide a legal definition of domestic abuse.

2.10. Parallel Reviews

2.10.1. Beyond criminal proceedings, the review panel were not made aware of any other parallel proceedings.

2.11. Equality and Diversity

2.11.1. The review gave due consideration to the homicide victim's vulnerabilities alongside each of the nine protected characteristics under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as well as to wider matters of vulnerability.

2.11.2. Both the homicide victim and perpetrator were of white-British ethnicity and aged seventeen when the murder took place. They lived in a close knit, relatively affluent community³ in an historic market town and neither had any identified vulnerabilities or issues of concern. Their age and sex were therefore considered as factors which were relevant to the review.

2.11.3. Domestic abuse and domestic homicide are considered to be, most often, gendered crimes (Stark, 2007). In the three years preceding the homicide victim's death, the majority (seventy-four per cent) of victims of domestic homicides in England and Wales were female (ONS, 2019). Across Wiltshire, eighty per cent of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police have

³ The relative affluence of the area is referenced within the Wiltshire Domestic Abuse Health Needs Assessment (2017)

involved female victims, which broadly reflects the national picture (Wiltshire Council, 2017a). In this way, the significance of sex and gendered violence should always be considered in a homicide review.

2.11.4. In respect of age, Wiltshire's most recent needs assessment recognises that:

“Young age is consistently shown as a risk factor for perpetration and victimisation of domestic abuse. Although adolescent experiences of dating violence in the UK have not yet received the same degree of attention as in places like the USA, survey data from the NSPCC identifies partner violence in adolescent relationships as a significant concern for young people’s wellbeing”. (Wiltshire Council, 2017a)

2.11.5. Issues of age, sex and gendered violence are therefore explored throughout this report.

2.12. Dissemination

2.12.1. The following individuals and organisations will receive copies of this review:

- The families of the victim and perpetrator
- Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership and its agencies
- Wiltshire Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership

3. Background Information

3.1. Persons involved in this review

3.1.1. Family members were consulted on the use of a pseudonym for Ellie, in line with the statutory guidance. However, they have asked for dispensation to be able to use her real name. The Home Office was therefore asked to

consider this request and approved the use of her real name as per her family's wishes.⁴

- 3.1.2. Ellie was described as a "bright, intelligent, talented and vivacious young woman" (Judge Garnham's sentencing remarks).

3.2. The homicide

- 3.2.1. The day after Ellie tried to end their relationship, her boyfriend, the perpetrator, drove illegally to her home and strangled, then stabbed her thirteen times before attempting to cover up his crime, returning to school without calling for an ambulance. This left Ellie's father to find his daughter deceased when he returned home.
- 3.2.2. Initially, the perpetrator denied his involvement in the homicide, but he later went on to plead guilty to murder. The judge commented upon the ill-thought out methods by which the perpetrator tried to cover-up his crime and avoid the consequences of his actions. Indeed, Ellie's family wanted the full facts of the murder to be known to the public and for the purpose of research. The perpetrator had arranged the scene of the crime to make it look like Ellie had killed herself, or had had a dreadful accident, by reinserting the knife into a stab wound in Ellie's neck.
- 3.2.3. He had wiped the scene and removed and buried the cloths that were used and had the clothes that he was wearing washed. After Ellie had died, he applied her fingerprint to open her phone and sent a message to her friend to prevent her from coming round to the house. Thereafter, he left a false trail on social media alleging his self-harm and attempted to disguise the marks on his face where Ellie had tried to defend herself. He lied to

⁴ See preface.

neighbours and to the pastoral teacher when he returned to school after the murder.

- 3.2.4. These factors were taken into account in the sentencing of the perpetrator who was sentenced, as a juvenile, to 12 years and 6 months imprisonment before parole could be considered. Psychiatric reports revealed no psychiatric illness and provided no defence, although the judge recognised that the perpetrator had been burdened by a number of stresses which had weighed upon him affecting his weight, concentration, ability to sleep and depression. Ultimately, the judge considered that mitigating factors included the lack of pre-meditation, references to his good character and his remorse, contributed to some reduction in sentencing.
- 3.2.5. The victim's family appealed against the length of the sentence, considering it to be too lenient, but their appeal was unsuccessful. They have since successfully campaigned for changes to youth sentencing to be known as 'Ellie's Law' which will introduce a sliding scale to sentences for perpetrators of domestic homicide between the ages of 10 to 17 based upon the age of the offender. Under Ellie's Law, as it is currently proposed, a 17-year-old convicted of domestic homicide will now have a starting point of 14 years imprisonment but a 16-year-old will have their starting point reduced to 10 years. Ellie's family want a perpetrator's right to have their sentence reviewed once they reach 18 to be removed with immediate effect and are working closely with the government to get the changes embedded.

4. Sequence of Events

- 4.1 Ellie and the perpetrator began a relationship in February 2019 when they were both aged 17 years of age. Ellie's parents told the Independent Chair that this was their daughter's first relationship.
- 4.2 The young victim and perpetrator lived in the same area and attended the same secondary school where they were both studying towards their mock "A" level examinations. They each had hobbies and activities outside of their relationship: Ellie enjoyed horse-riding and worked part-time as a waitress; the perpetrator played rugby and worked part-time at a local shop.
- 4.3 The young couple's relationship developed as the months progressed and they spent most weekday evenings at each other's houses, engaging and sharing meals with their respective families. They did not spend the weekends together as Ellie was often horse-riding or part-time waitressing nearby.
- 4.4 The couple were described as being quite different to each other. Ellie was described as being vivacious and more outgoing than the perpetrator who appeared quieter and more introverted. However, neither parents identified any concerns regarding the relationship. Until the last week of Ellie's life, the parents had been given no indication of abuse, coercion or control and their behaviour towards each other was generally seen as good-spirited.
- 4.5 They both maintained their friendship circles throughout the relationship, although Ellie's friends later complained that they saw less of Ellie after the relationship began. Her friends also suggested that the perpetrator had been quite possessive of Ellie and restricted how much contact she had with her friends whilst she was at school. Friends described how they were always together during free time during the school day, and that the perpetrator was very attached to Ellie. However, none of their friends were

aware of any difficulties in the relationship beyond these thoughts. Whilst it is not known how much the tragic events have influenced the reflections of these young people, we will come to see that these reflections mirrored Ellie's later disclosures.

- 4.6 In the week before the murder, Ellie had been worried about doing enough revision for her exams and had arranged not to see the perpetrator after school to allow her time to study. On the Tuesday, she confided to a close friend that she felt that the perpetrator was 'clingy' and did not like her talking to others. She described how this made her feel isolated from her friends.
- 4.7 She spoke to another friend about concerns about ending the relationship as she cared for the perpetrator and did not want to cause him more stress. Both his father and grandmother had been dangerously ill, and she was aware that it had been a difficult time for him. Ellie also alluded to the stress of their doing their mock-exams.
- 4.8 However, by the Thursday evening, Ellie told her friendship group by Snapchat⁵ that she had broken up with the perpetrator but that he did not seem to be accepting it. She also told her mother that she no longer wanted to go out with him. She mentioned to her mother that he had been acting strangely with her that week: questioning why he could not see her; being jealous when she spent any time with her male friend and accusing her of ignoring him at school. She was also frustrated that the perpetrator had acted against her wishes by asking her mother for work experience. Although Ellie had spoken about ending the relationship, her mother observed that she had not appeared frightened or shown any concern about doing so.

⁵ Snapchat is a multi-media messaging software application.

- 4.9 Later that evening, Ellie had a long conversation with one of her friends over FaceTime⁶ and told her that she missed her old self. She said that she had spoken to the perpetrator and told him that she wanted a break from their relationship but that he did not seem to be able to understand or accept that she did not want to be with him.
- 4.10 On the following day, the perpetrator killed Ellie in a frenzied and vicious attack.

⁶ FaceTime is a videotelephony software application.

5. Thematic Analysis

5.0.1 The main purpose of a domestic homicide review is to provide lessons that improve agency responses to domestic abuse and prevent harm for others in the future. In the absence of any relevant agency involvement in this case, the review therefore concentrated on how this tragedy can improve our collective understanding of domestic abuse and questioned what actions had been taken by agencies in Wiltshire to prevent domestic abuse in young people's relationships.

5.1 Understanding Domestic Abuse

- 5.1.1 Domestic homicide reviews "should contribute to a better understanding of the nature of domestic violence and abuse" (Section 7, Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance, 2016).
- 5.1.2 It was clear that family, friends and the school had no concerns about the young couple's relationship, and it was only in her final week that Ellie began to tell her friends and her mother about her dissatisfaction. Whilst the traits that were emerging of the perpetrator's jealousy, possessiveness, and his encouraging Ellie's isolation, are each consistent with the behaviour of domestic abusers, they did not appear to be at the time to be of a scale that would have led a friend to seek professional intervention. Nonetheless, her boyfriend's behaviour was enough to drive Ellie to want to end their relationship.
- 5.1.3 The speed of escalation from these behaviours to murder could certainly not have been foreseen. At first sight, the murder appears to have occurred "out of the blue" as many murders of this nature do (Dobash, Dobash, & Cavanagh, 2009). However, the homicide shares some features which are consistent with wider evidence around domestic homicide.

5.2 Separation

- 5.2.1 It is telling that the murder took place after Ellie had told the perpetrator that she wanted to end the relationship and that he had been unwilling to accept that the relationship was over. Indeed, separation has long been recognised as a time of heightened risk within domestic abuse (Stark, 2007, Dobash & Dobash, 2015; Johnson et al, 2019). Barter (2017) explored girls' and young women's experiences specifically and recognised that they "repeatedly reported feeling too scared either to challenge the control and abuse or to end the relationship due to the possible repercussions". Although there was no indication in this case that Ellie had any fears from separation herself, the fears for other young women have been well founded. Two recent serious case reviews have also involved the deaths of young women and have brought home the dangers of separation for younger women specifically (Barter, 2017).
- 5.2.2 Stark (2007) recognised that a perpetrator's need for control in a relationship is their driving force of domestic abuse. In this way, separation represents the upmost loss of control for a perpetrator and will often be the motivation for their significant harm. Indeed, the majority of women who are killed by their partners are killed when they are trying to separate (Home Office, 2016). The results of the annual Femicide Census support this finding and demonstrate that the homicide of women who are separating from their partners should not be seen as the random, isolated or spontaneous incidents that they may initially appear (Women's Aid & NIA, 2016).
- 5.2.3 Nonetheless, in this case, the escalation from seemingly minor jealousy and possessiveness to homicide was alarming. Monckton-Smith (2019) considered this type of circumstance in her assessment of a timeline for homicides. She described how triggers such as separation can account for a

sudden, seemingly spontaneous and tragic escalation in the violence and proprietary behaviour of perpetrators who were prone to “last chance thinking” in the vein of “if I can’t have you then no one can” (Monckton-Smith, 2019:8).

- 5.2.4 Although no person or agency was aware of any prior domestic abuse in this case, Ellie’s tragic death can certainly contribute to the lessons for any agency about the seriousness with which practitioners should treat the safety of those who they know are seeking to end a violent relationship. Indeed, the circumstances of this case reinforce the evidence that separation leads to the increased risk of significant harm.

5.3 Educational Sabotage

- 5.3.1 It was noteworthy that Ellie sought a break from the perpetrator during their preparation for mock ‘A’ level exams and as the week progressed, she told friends that he was not accepting of their separation. The perpetrator’s disruption of her exam revision should therefore be seen within the context of educational sabotage.
- 5.3.2 Educational sabotage is a form of coercive control and economic abuse which is unique to students, and which directly affects a victim’s emotional well-being, self-efficacy, focus and concentration (Voth Schrag and Edmond, 2017). In doing so, an abuser disrupts their victim’s ability to gain educational qualifications and furthers their power and control over them (Voth Schrag et. al., 2020). Tactics of educational sabotage could include telling a victim that will fail; undermining a victim’s abilities; demeaning educational goals; controlling access to school; interfering with studying or doing homework; making a partner feel guilty for spending too much time on schoolwork; responding with jealousy, resentment and insecurity (Sanders, 2015; Voth Schrag & Edmond, 2017). Not all tactics will apply to all student, but in this case, the perpetrator appeared to be disrupting Ellie’s

studying during an important period of revision; displayed insecurities and appeared to be inducing guilt.

Learning Point: Separation increases the risk of significant harm as a domestic abuse perpetrator usually reacts to their loss of control. The escalation to homicide can be sudden and unexpected and practitioners therefore need to be able to respond pro- actively in protecting a victim when they are planning to or have recently separated.

Learning Point: Educational sabotage is a form of coercive control and economic abuse that is unique to students and practitioners, schools and colleges should be alert to the tactics used to disrupt an individual's education.

Learning Point: In general, friends and family members need to be aware that behaviours such as jealousy, possessiveness and isolation are indicators of domestic abuse.

Recommendation 1: That Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership further promotes awareness with agencies, the indicators of domestic abuse in young people's relationships and promotes the sources of help and information available to family and friends

5.4 Overkilling

- 5.4.1 The criminal prosecution left the review with no doubt that the murder was frenzied and gratuitous. As such, the brutality of the killing requires further analysis. The multiple methods and excessive force went much further than was necessary to cause Ellie's death and was more consistent with the description of 'overkilling', a term used to describe this use of excessive, gratuitous violence in homicide (Mitchell and Anglin, 2009). The review of ten years of femicides in the Femicide Census (2020) recognised that the majority (55%) of homicides of women involve this type of excessive violence and brutality and this, for some at least, suggests that it was not a momentary loss of control but a demonstration of ultimate control. The multiple methods used to kill Ellie in this case indicate that this was much more than the perpetrator's momentary loss of control.

5.5 Domestic abuse in adolescent intimate relationships

- 5.5.1 We have seen that the victim recognised and disclosed aspects of her boyfriend's controlling behaviour to her friends and her mother shortly before her death. Whilst these were certainly not of a level that would have led those close to her to seek immediate professional intervention, they were, nevertheless, indicators of abusive behaviour.
- 5.5.2 When HM Government broadened the age range of the domestic abuse definition to include young people aged 16 and 17, they followed this with several years of national campaigning around abuse in adolescent relationships. The Government observed the research that teenagers were less likely to understand what constituted abusive behaviours and, having less experience of relationships, were more likely to normalise abuse (Home Office, 2015).
- 5.5.3 Teenage relationship abuse affects a great many young people. Research has indicated that approximately 50 per cent of young people reported experiencing emotional abuse; approximately 20 per cent reported experiencing physical violence, with young women experiencing more severe physical violence; 50 – 70 per cent of young people reported experiencing abuse through new technologies including control and surveillance through messaging or social networking sites (Stonard, cited in Barter, 2017). In this case, it is not known whether new technologies were used abusively as the main method of electronic communication between Ellie and the perpetrator was Snapchat which, unlike other forms of digital communication, leaves no lasting electronic footprint.
- 5.5.4 Wiltshire has undertaken its own research into young people's experiences of abuse in their relationships. The Wiltshire Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey captured a large representative sample of

experiences across Wiltshire.⁷ 14 per cent of the 16-17-year-olds surveyed, reported that they had been a victim of abuse from a boyfriend or girlfriend and 22 per cent reported that they, or someone in their immediate family, had been a victim of domestic abuse or violence (Wiltshire Council, 2017b). Whilst these prevalence levels are lower than national research might indicate (Barter et al.,2009; Stonard et al.,2014; SafeLives 2017), the review heard good evidence that Wiltshire was responding to these identified needs by undertaking preventative work and by providing services for young people affected by domestic abuse.

- 5.5.5 The review also heard about the significant campaigning activity that Ellie’s friends and fellow school pupils were undertaking, in the role of Ambassadors, to promote the empowerment of young people in challenging domestic abuse.

Learning Point: abuse in adolescent relationships is both widespread and distinct. Abuse will often involve the use of social media and young people will have less experience of knowing what constitutes coercive and controlling behaviour within a relationship.

5.6 Wiltshire Domestic Abuse Strategy

- 5.6.1 Wiltshire Public Health provided a detailed summary of the local multi-agency strategy to prevent and address domestic abuse in their area. It was evident that the local authority, police, health and third sector partners have had a strong record of partnership working around domestic abuse which is prioritised in strategic plans (Wiltshire Council, 2017a). They could also demonstrate much activity in raising awareness of domestic abuse amongst young people across the county including: a three-year dedicated young persons’ awareness campaign, awareness raising within youth offending and

⁷ For further information on the representative nature of the survey and methodology used, see [Wiltshire Children and Young People’s Health and Wellbeing Survey](#)

a wide-ranging promotion of 'healthy relationships' in schools which will be considered further below.

- 5.6.2 Furthermore, they have enabled that the voice of young people has been able to contribute to strategy development, communication and campaign material, and ensure, through consultation with young people, that the domestic abuse initiatives and messages were relevant to them. In these ways, Wiltshire has been able to demonstrate a dedicated focus on the prevention of domestic abuse amongst young people.

5.7 Providing services for young people experiencing abuse

- 5.7.1 Alongside the awareness raising programme, specialist domestic abuse services were commissioned to provide support to young people affected by domestic abuse either to them independently, or as part of wider support to them and their family. In this regard, provision was described as largely focussing around supporting families affected by domestic abuse.
- 5.7.2 However, more recently, the Splitz Support Service has been piloting a Young Person's Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA), whose focus has been to provide dedicated support to young people aged 16-23yrs who are experiencing abuse within their own intimate relationships. This type of approach has been recognised as best practice as, historically, most domestic abuse services have been designed for adult victims whose needs and risks often differ to those of young people (SafeLives, 2017). Moreover, research has recognised that "few providers feel equipped, trained or prepared to provide a service that is capable of responding to the needs and risks that are particular to a young person's experience of domestic abuse" (SafeLives, 2017:15).
- 5.7.3 Had Ellie wanted, or felt that she needed to, access domestic abuse services she would have been able to use the full range of specialist domestic abuse

services within Wiltshire, including the Young Person's IDVA. This service has ongoing links with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in the event that further safeguarding needed to be considered. However, it is recognised that young people will often be unaware that the services are available or relevant to them.

- 5.7.4 In addition, a number of national resources have been developed to support teenage girls at risk of domestic abuse. Most recently, Women's Aid have launched a new website, '#LoveRespect', for this purpose. The website features a relationship health check, survivor stories, practical advice and an email support service, each designed to reach teenage girls who may not realise they are experiencing relationship abuse. Their research has found that teenage girls are more likely to use digital resources than call a helpline (Women's Aid Federation England, 2019).

Learning Point: A Young Person's IDVA is able to focus and specialise in responding to the particular needs and risks of young people experiencing abuse in their intimate relationships and should be a resource to young people and practitioners alike.

Learning Point: Teenage girls may be more likely to use digital resources than traditional helplines to seek information and support regarding their relationships

Recommendation 2: That Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership considers and responds to the evaluation of the pilot of the Young Person's IDVA being delivered by Splitz Support Service.

Recommendation 3: That Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership should, through local commissioners and specialist services, promote access to specialist domestic abuse services and pathways for young people aged 16 and over.

5.8 School-Based Prevention

- 5.8.1 The secondary school that both of the young people attended, provided the review with a detailed summary of their healthy relationships programme.

They had already embedded the new legal requirements for “Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education” in advance of the requirement for implementation in September 2020 (Department for Education, 2019)

- 5.8.2 Each year that Ellie and the perpetrator attended their secondary school, they participated in Relationships and Sex Education as a fundamental part of the Personal, Social Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) programme that the school has delivered. The review heard about the content and age-appropriateness of the programme in each year and about how coercive control specifically featured within the sixth form programme and was delivered by specially trained staff. The latest assessment by Ofsted regarded that, “Pupils’ personal development remains strong. To a large extent, this is testament to the high quality of care and support that the school provides” (2018)⁸. The pastoral support available to pupils affected by domestic abuse appeared likewise robust. At the same time, parents and carers have been informed of the programme through Parents Information, Advice and Guidance sessions and encouraged to engage with discussions regarding the content with their young people.
- 5.8.3 It was not within the scope of the review to evaluate the programme but merely to identify the factors which contribute to best practice in addressing the domestic abuse preventative aspects of the relationship education curriculum. Research to identify best practice for school-based programmes was undertaken under the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in order to inform the incoming statutory duties to provide relationship education (Stanley et al.,2015). The study identified that: longer interventions were more effective and needed to be consolidated in future years; that teachers were well placed to deliver the programmes but that

⁸ The name of the school has been redacted, However the school achieved a ‘good’ status in all recent Ofsted assessments.

they required specialist training; that there needed to be sensitive management of disclosure and clear routes to professional support for children and young people affected (Stanley et al. 2015: 168). Each of these aspects of best practice, were found to have been delivered in this secondary school's programme.

- 5.8.4 Neither has it been within the scope of this review to make enquiries of whether the good practice in providing abuse awareness and prevention programmes has been replicated amongst schools across the whole county. However, we have seen that, strategically, Wiltshire has undertaken a wide-ranging promotion of 'healthy relationships' in schools including training for teachers and school support staff and a county-wide 'theatre in education' programme. Their consultation with young people has ensured that the materials and method of these programmes is relevant and includes the voice of young people. Each of these factors have also been considered to be best practice within the systematic review of school based preventative education (Stanley et al, 2015: 168). Moreover, the review heard how a link to the Splitz website has been added to the County's school's websites linking all local schools directly to the specialist domestic abuse service and providing a referral mechanism if they have concerns about a young person.
- 5.8.5 At the time of writing, secondary schools across England and Wales are preparing for incoming statutory duties to provide Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education as compulsory aspects of PSHE education from September 2020 when Relationships Education and Health Education will also be compulsory in primary schools. To support these new statutory duties and to complement the Government's *Disrespect NoBody* campaign to help prevent the perpetration of abusive behaviours within young people's relationships and support of those victimised by it, the Home Office, Equality Office and PSHE Association have provided a range of PSHE

education teaching materials covering each of the Key Stages of education (PSHE Association, 2018).

Learning Point: Evidenced best practice in the delivery of relationship education seeking the prevention of abuse in young people’s relationship recommends that it includes:

- Promoting positive relationships based on equality and respect
- Targeting messages towards young people identifying their own behaviours as abusive as well as to those experiencing abuse

Evidenced best practice also recommends that relationship education programmes:

- are developed in collaboration with young people
- acknowledge and address the needs of minority groups
- have specialist training for teachers delivering the programme
- are delivered by teachers in partnership with staff from specialist agencies and organisations
- include a drama/theatre component
- are programmes that run for at least one term with reinforcement throughout the curriculum and in subsequent years
- provide sensitive management of disclosure and clear routes to professional support (Stanley et al. 2015).

Recommendation 4: That Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership considers how evidence-based best practice in whole school approaches to healthy relationships can be shared and consolidated across Wiltshire schools.

5.9 Bullying and Domestic Abuse

5.9.1 The family were keen that allegations of the perpetrator’s coercion and bullying whilst at primary school were taken into account. Recognising that the family’s contributions “must be afforded the same status as other contributions” (Home Office, 2016), the panel gave due consideration to this suggestion with particular regard to how this line of enquiry may enrich the review and assist in improving services in the future.

- 5.9.2 The secondary school confirmed that they had not been notified of any bullying when the perpetrator transferred from primary school and he displayed no signs of bullying during his time at secondary school. Moreover, the primary school has been subject to significant changes in the intervening years, including a change of headteacher. Their involvement is now historic and incomparable for the purpose of making recommendations for development had they been needed. It was therefore considered, as six years had elapsed and much change has happened in the intervening years, that the primary years would remain out of scope of the review.
- 5.9.3 Furthermore, Ellie’s family felt that it was significant to note that the rugby club did not respond to an invitation to contribute to the domestic homicide review. However, the family advised the review that one coach had provided a statement to them concerning the coach’s observations of the perpetrator struggling to contain his rage on occasions. Whilst the extent of these concerns has not been assessed, Ellie’s family wanted to ensure that a learning point emerged from this for sports and extra-curricular clubs for young people.

Learning Point: Young people’s sports and social clubs need to be familiar with the pathway for reporting concerns over the safety and well-being of young people. Informal conversations can be held with Wiltshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub if the youth worker or coach is unsure whether action is needed.⁹

- 5.9.4 Whilst allegations of the perpetrator’s coercion and bullying of others have not been substantiated in this review, the review sought to bring to the reader’s attention the particularly influential violence prevention work that is being showcased in Scotland by the Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme (MVPP). This positively evaluated peer to peer programme enables young people to support their friends and safely confront and challenge all forms of bullying and violence, with a particular focus on gender-based violence. One of many prevention programmes, MVPP, has gained a long- term commitment to violence prevention work in schools and beyond and recognises that, “We are all potential bystanders. We all need

⁹ Wiltshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub contact details can be found at <https://www.wiltshirescb.org.uk/news/new-resource-teenage-relationship-abuse-a-guide-for-parents-carers/>

to see a role in the prevention of violence” (Chief Inspector Graham Goulden quoted in Sloan, 2016). “

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 This murder of a much-loved, intelligent, talented, vivacious, 17-year-old, teenage girl by her 17-year-old ex-boyfriend has devastated a community.
- 6.2 Whilst on face value, the murder appeared to have taken place ‘out of the blue’, there were some indicators of coercion and control disclosed to friends and mother in the last week of Ellie’s life. However, these were not of a scale at that time that would have warranted friend’s seeking professional intervention. The fact that the murder took place when Ellie had recently ended the relationship, and included excessive violence and brutality, makes it consistent with the pattern of a high proportion of murders of women. In doing so, it challenges, as others have done, the narrative of momentary loss of control. However, no agency or person was aware of domestic abuse and there were no indications that Ellie had been in any way fearful within the relationship.
- 6.3 In the absence of any agency involvement, the review considered the efforts that the secondary school in particular, and Wiltshire in general, had undertaken to prevent abuse in young people’s relationships. Whilst this did not take the form of an evaluation, it was evident that both the school and the community safety partnership had made considerable strides towards prevention through the awareness of abuse and the promotion of equal, respectful and healthy relationships and much good practice was evident.
- 6.4 In this way, the review found no shortcomings in the local area’s response to domestic abuse but has made recommendations for the Community Safety Partnership to consider: further raising awareness of indicators of abuse in young people’s relationships for agencies as well as families and friends; the sustainability of the Young Person’s Independent Domestic Violence Advisor role; promotion of the support available for young people and teenage girls in particular; and the consolidation of best practice responses within schools concerning the prevention of abuse within young people’s relationships.

- 6.5 Whilst no shortcomings were identified in local service responses, it is important for all concerned, and for future victims of domestic abuse, that responses are nonetheless strengthened after such a traumatic loss and addressing these recommendations may provide the most positive response for young people at this time.

Achievements of the parents of Ellie Gould

Unable to accept the lenient sentence given to Thomas Griffiths for the brutal murder of their beloved daughter Ellie, Carole and Matthew Gould launched a campaign for a sliding scale when sentencing youths. A new law is due to be passed known as “Ellie’s Law “which increases the sentencing for youths the closer they get to 18 years old. “Ellie’s Law “also stops offenders having their sentences reviewed once they turn 18.

Carole Gould has also joined forces with another bereaved mother – Julie Devey who also lost her daughter to domestic homicide to campaign to close the 10 year disparity in sentencing between domestic murders and street murders with use of a knife.

The success of their campaigning has resulted in meetings with the Lord Chancellor Robert Buckland, Shadow Minister for Domestic Violence and Safeguarding Jess Phillips and Domestic Abuse Commissioner Nicole Jacobs and has forced a government review of sentencing for domestic homicides headed up by QC Barrister Clare Wade. Carole Gould and Julie Devey will be key stakeholders in this review.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/spotlight-on-domestic-homicides-as-independent-reviewer-appointed>

Update on Ellie’s friends achievements

Ellie’s friends have become Directors of a Community Interest Company ACCESS SAFETY, they have secured funding and their ambition is to fill the hole in the National School Curriculum around the teaching of unhealthy and healthy relationships and self-protection techniques. The young women strongly believe that resources produced by them, based on their experiences will be relatable to young people and have more impact.

The young women are also keen to be the front faces of any National Campaign to help educate young people on how to access help if they find themselves in an unhealthy relationship and to date safely. They want young people to be taught about Splitz, Ask for ANI, Clare’s Law and the Hollie Guard personal safety app and this education to have a statutory footing in the National Curriculum.

We have had a meeting with Stephanie Brivio and her team from the Department of Education who are very keen to develop these ideas in compulsory and higher education as well as developing work with the following organisations :

Kandu arts

Streetwise 365

Venturers Academy – to pilot these ideas

A follow up meeting is scheduled for November 2021.

7 Recommendations

Recommendation 1:

That Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership further promotes with agencies, the indicators of domestic abuse in young people's relationships and promotes the sources of help and information available to family and friends

Recommendation 2:

That Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership considers and responds to the evaluation of the pilot of the Young Person's Independent Domestic Violence Advisor being delivered by Splitz Support Service

Recommendation 3:

That Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership should, through local commissioners and specialist services, promote access to specialist domestic abuse services and pathways for young people aged 16 and over.

Recommendation 4:

That Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership considers how evidence-based best practice in whole school approaches to healthy relationships, can be shared and consolidated across Wiltshire schools.

8. Bibliography

Barter, C. (2017) 'Violence in young people's relationships – Reflections on two serious case reviews', *Safe Lives*, 20th February. Available at http://www.safelives.org.uk/practice_blog/violence-young-people%E2%80%99s-relationships-%E2%80%93-reflections-two-serious-case-reviews

Barter, C., McCarry, M., Berridge, D. and Evans, K. (2009) *Partner Exploitation and Violence in Teenage Intimate Relationships*, London, NSPCC. Available at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/partner-exploitation-violence-teenage-intimate-relationships-report.pdf>

Barter, C. and Stanley, N. (2016) Interpersonal Violence and Abuse in Adolescent Intimate Relationships: Mental Health Impact and Implications for Practice. *International Review of Psychiatry*, 28 . pp. 485-503. ISSN 09540261. Available at: <http://cok.uclan.ac.uk/15573/1/Review%2520of%2520Psych%25208-7-%25092016submitted%2520version.pdf>

Department for Education (2019) *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers*. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805781/Relationships_Education__Relationships_and_Sex_Education__RSE__and_Health_Education.pdf

Department of Health and Social Care (2017) *Responding to Domestic Abuse: A Resource for Health Professionals*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-a-resource-for-health-professionals>

Dobash, R.E. and Dobash, R.P. (2015). *When Men Murder Women*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Dobash, R.E., Dobash, R.P., & Cavanagh, K. (2009). "Out of the blue": Men who murder an intimate partner. *Feminist Criminology*, 4(3), 194-225.

Femicide Census (2020) *Femicide Census 10 Year Report. UK Femicides 2009-2018*. Available online at <https://www.femicidecensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Femicide-Census-10-year-report.pdf>

Home Office (2013) *Information for Local Areas on the change to the Definition of Domestic Violence and Abuse*. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/142701/guide-on-definition-of-dv.pdf

Home Office (2015) Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an Intimate or Family Relationship *Statutory Guidance Framework*. Available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/482528/Controlling_or_coercive_behaviour_-_statutory_guidance.pdf

Home Office (2015) *This is Abuse Campaign Summary Report*. Available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/410010/2015-03-08_This_is_Abuse_campaign_summary_report__2_.pdf

Home Office (2016) *Domestic Homicide Reviews*. Available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575232/HO-Domestic-Homicide-Review-Analysis-161206.pdf

Johnson, H., Eriksson, L., Mazerolle, P. & Wortley, R., (2019). Intimate Femicide: The Role of Coercive Control. *Feminist Criminology*. Available at <http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/1547775/>

Mitchell, C., Anglin, A., (2009) *Intimate Partner Violence: A Health-Based Perspective*, p. 325, Oxford University Press.

NICE (2016) *Quality Standard [QS116]*. Available at:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs116/chapter/Quality-statement-3-Referral-to-specialist-support-services-for-people-experiencing-domestic-violence-or-abuse>

Office for National Statistics (ONS) (2019) *Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2019*. Available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2019>

PSHE Association (2019) *Disrespect NoBody Teaching Resources*. Available at:

<https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/resources/disrespect-nobody-teaching-resources-preventing>

SafeLives (2017) *Safe Young Lives: Young People and domestic abuse*. Available at:

<http://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Safe%20Young%20Lives%20web.pdf>

Sanders, C. K. (2015). Economic abuse in the lives of women abused by an intimate partner: A qualitative study. *Violence Against Women*, 21(1), 3-29.

Sloan, E (2016) *Equally Safe: Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme*. February 15, 2016. Scottish Government Blogs. Available at:

<https://blogs.gov.scot/equally-safe/2016/02/15/mentors-in-violence-prevention-programme/>

Stanley N., Ellis J., Farrelly N., Hollinghurst S., Bailey S., Downe S. Preventing Domestic Abuse for Children and Young People (PEACH): A Mixed Knowledge Scoping Review. *Public Health Res* 2015;3(7) Available at: <https://doi.org/10.3310/phr03070>

Stark, E. (2007), *Coercive Control: How Men Entrap Women in Personal Life*. Oxford University Press.

Stonard, K., Bowen, E., Lawrence, T. and Price, S. A. (2014) The relevance of technology to the nature, prevalence and impact of Adolescent Dating Violence and Abuse: A research synthesis. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 19 (4), pp.390–417.

Voth Schrag, R. J., & Edmond, T. (2017). School sabotage as a form of intimate partner violence: Provider perspectives. *Affilia*, 32(2), 171-187.

Voth Schrag, R. J., Edmond, T. and Nordberg, A. (2020) 'Understanding School Sabotage Among Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence From Diverse Populations', *Violence Against Women*, 26(11), pp. 1286–1304.

Wiltshire Council (2017a) *Domestic Abuse Health Needs Assessment*. Available at: <https://www.wiltshireintelligence.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Domestic-Abuse-HNA-2017.pdf>

Wiltshire Council (2017b). *Wiltshire Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey 2017: Community Safety*. Available at: <https://www.wiltshireintelligence.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Community-Safety-School-health-survey-2017.pdf>

Women's Aid and NIA (2018) *The Femicide Census.2017 Findings*. Available at <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/what-we-do/campaigning-and-influencing/femicide-census/>

Women's Aid Federation England (2019) *Women's Aid launches #LoveRespect website for teenage girls at risk of relationship abuse*. WAFE, viewed 20th March 2020, <<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/womens-aid-launches-loverespect-website-for-teenage-girls-at-risk-of-relationship-abuse/>>

Appendix 1: Action Plan

DHR Recommendations

Recommendation 1: *Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership further promotes with agencies the indicators of domestic abuse in young people's relationships and promoted the sources of help and information available to family and friends.* [Supports recommendation 3]

Outcome: Young people and their family and friends are confident in understanding the signs and symptoms associated with domestic abuse and know how and where to access support.

REF	Action	Lead	Key milestones	Target date	Measures	Completion Date and Outcome
1.1	<i>Develop and deliver awareness campaign aimed to raise awareness with young people and parents/friends.</i>	DARC	Pan County Comms Strategy	Nov/Dec'20	Comms campaign delivered	Completed November/December 2020
		DARC/Schools Team	Develop and deliver of 2 x 1hour 'twilight' sessions for Wiltshire school staff focusing on healthy relationships	Nov/Dec '20	No. of schools attending twilight sessions	Pan Wiltshire and Swindon Comms multi agency meeting developed resources for 16 Days of Action 25th Nov – 10th December.
		DARC	Produce 2 factsheets – 1 for schools and 1 for parents/carers with information about recognising unhealthy relationships and sources of support	Nov/Dec'20	No. of referrals requesting support as a result of the factsheet.	2 twilight sessions delivered to schools by DARC and YP IDVA, SPLITZ. Attendance from 5 schools.
		DARC and Schools Team	Provide information for	Nov/Dec		

		DARC/ Wiltshire Comms	<p>inclusion in schools monthly newsletter and on Healthy Schools daily website update</p> <p>Produce a short film clip (10 mins) in conjunction with partners. helping young people identify unhealthy relationships and offer signposting to support.</p>	Nov/Dec	<p>Number of updates included in the newsletters and healthy schools website.</p> <p>Number of schools using the video clip within tutor groups/assemblies</p>	<p>Nick Bolton provided information to schools by email and on the Healthy Schools Website to support the campaign.</p> <p>Lesson plan devised by NSPCC focussing on domestic abuse and young people was highlighted to schools for use during tutor time.</p> <p>Due to time pressures we were unable to produce our own clip. We used one already available on the internet and again promoted this to schools for use during tutor time.</p>
1.2	<i>DA in young people's relationships to be focus of '16 Days of Action' 2020</i>	DA Comms group	<p>Wiltshire and Swindon Comms Group to agree DA in young people will be the focus for 16 Days of Action 2020.</p> <p>Comms meeting arranged for 2nd October to look at planning for 16 Days.</p>	<p>Dec '20</p> <p>Oct '20</p>	<p>Dec 20</p> <p>TBC</p>	Complete – details above

Recommendation 2: *Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership considers and responds to the evaluation of the pilot of the Young People’s Independent Domestic Violence Advisor being delivered by Splitz Support Service.*

Outcome: Understanding the role of the Young Person’s IDVA pilot, to review its reach and impact on young people in Wiltshire, to inform future commissioning intentions and service design.

REF	Action	Lead	Key milestones	Target date	Measures	Completion Date and Outcome
2.1	<i>Complete an evaluation of the Young Persons IDVA Pilot Project and present findings to the DA Sub Group and the Community Safety Partnership.</i>	Splitz	Complete the evaluation of the YP’s IDVA pilot Present findings of evaluation to the DA sub group and CSP	Nov ‘20 Dec ‘20	Evaluation report	Evaluation Report completed by SPLITZ
2.1	<i>Use findings from evaluation to inform any future commissioning intention and service design</i>	DA Commiss- oning Group	Use findings to support future commissioning discussions and service design	Dec – Mar ‘21	Future commissioning intentions	On going work regarding commissioning – this report will be considered as part of that work.

Recommendation 3: <i>Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership should through local commissioners and specialist services, promote access to specialist domestic abuse services and pathways for young people aged 16 and over. [Supports recommendation 1]</i>						
Outcome: Consistent messaging on domestic abuse signs and support services used for young people, their families and friends to feel better informed about recognising domestic abuse and how to access support.						
REF	Action	Lead	Key Milestones	Target Date	Measures	Completion Date and Outcome
3.1	[Links to 1.1] <i>Develop and deliver awareness campaign aimed to raise awareness with young people and parents/friends.</i>	DA Comms Group	Production of a fact sheet for parents and teachers to identify signs of domestic abuse and support available for young people. Ask schools to post on their website. Work with Comms to produce a range of social media messages for young people and parents to provide information and sources of support	Nov/Dec 20 Nov/Dec 20	Number of schools posting fact sheet on their website No of people clicking on social media posts	Completed – information placed on healthy schools website and highlighted to schools by email. Number of clicks TBC
3.2	[Links to 1.2] <i>DA in young people’s relationships to be focus of ‘16 Days of Action’ 2020</i>	DARC/ Schools Team	To provide twilight sessions for staff to provide information around recognising unhealthy relationships and routes of support for young people.	Nov/Dec 20	No of staff attending twilight sessions	2 twilight sessions delivered to schools by DARC and YP IDVA, SPLITZ. Attendance from 5 schools.
3.3	<i>Promote awareness of specific support services available to young people</i>	DA Comms Group & providers	Promote the Virgin Care’s ‘ChatHealth’ text information service providing access to school nurses who can give guidance on	Nov/Dec 20	No. accessing text service	Awareness raising work as part of 16 Days of Action 2020. Information provided to students and schools for a

			<p>a range of issues for those aged 11-19.</p> <p>Incorporate this in the twilight session and on the fact sheet</p> <p>Promote awareness of Splitz TALK Toolkit – Healthy Relationships</p>		<p>No. of schools accessing the twilight session</p>	<p>variety of support available to children and young people</p> <p>See above</p> <p>Contributed to the information made aware of schools ahead of the twilight session.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--	---

Recommendation 4: *Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership considers how evidence-based best practice in whole school approaches to healthy relationships can be shared and consolidated across Wiltshire schools.*

Outcome: 1) Schools across Wiltshire have a greater awareness of the effectiveness of whole-school approaches to ‘healthy relationships’ to make informed choice for local delivery. 2) Improved quality of the messaging being delivered to young people around understanding domestic abuse and how to access local support.

REF	Action	Lead	Milestones	Target date	Measures	Completion Date and Outcome
4.1	<i>Explore ways to ensure the delivery of consistent messages around ‘healthy relationships’ are shared within Wiltshire Schools and to have input on DSL events.</i>	DA Reduction Coordinator / Nick Bolton	Work with Nick Bolton to deliver 2 x 1 hour twilight session via MS Teams for staff at Wiltshire schools to provide an update and signposting for young people who are concerned about their own relationships or those of their friends.	Nov/Dec 20	Number of attendees to twilight sessions	2 twilight sessions delivered to schools by DARC and YP IDVA, SPLITZ. Attendance from 5 schools.
4.2	<i>Work to ensure Schools include DA within their internal policies.</i>	DA Reduction Coordinator / Safeguardin g Advisers	To work with the Safeguarding Advisors/Training Team to ensure that schools have a policy for staff members who are experiencing domestic abuse.	Dec’20	Number of policies across Wiltshire who have DA included.	In progress.
4.3	<i>Working with Healthy Schools to provide information healthy relationships to Wiltshire schools to support Government Guidance on Keeping Children Safe in an education setting.</i>	DA Reduction Coordinator / Nick Bolton	Provide information to be incorporated in the newsletter to schools and information to be updated on healthy school website with information around recognising healthy relationships	Nov/Dec 20	Number of updates included in the newsletters and healthy schools website.	Information sent to schools by email and made available on healthy schools website.

			and support available in Wiltshire			
4.3	<i>Work with Wiltshire Police Youth and Early Intervention Teams to ensure that healthy relationships is part of the Wiltshire Police PCSO classroom delivery programme to KS3</i>	DA Reduction Coordinator / Laura Schell	Work with Wiltshire Police Youth and Early Intervention Team to incorporate domestic abuse within their existing deliver package.	Nov '20	No of sessions delivered to Wiltshire Schools	Due to COVID face to face meetings in schools not taking place. Work is ongoing with Wiltshire Police Youth and Early Intervention to incorporate DA within future sessions.
4.4	<i>Establish links with Wiltshire College and University Centre to promote the awareness of support pathways for young people – focussing on healthy relationships</i>	DA Coordinator	Deliver 1 x twilight session for staff with accompanying fact sheet with information around healthy relationships, signposting to local services and helplines.	Nov '20	No of staff attending twilight session	This did not take place due to difficulties in making contact due to COVID. Will be picked up within the Swindon and Wiltshire Comms Strategy which will identify it as an action for Freshers Week 2021