

Seven Minute Briefing: Domestic Homicide Review - Anna

7. Professionals from any sector to have increased understanding of domestic abuse and local services

- Anna's solicitor recommended she take up counselling due to the issues she was facing with her relationship breakdown.
- All professionals irrespective of sector, to complete the [Domestic Abuse awareness \(somersetsurvivors.co.uk\)](https://www.somersetsurvivors.co.uk) training

About Anna (pseudonym)

- Anna in her 60's and had recently divorced from her husband
- Anna died as a result of suicide, and there'd been a history of domestic abuse in her relationship, which continued post-separation.

1. Professionals to understand separation from a domestically abusive relationship as a risk factor for escalation of harm

- Separation can lead to a perpetrator exerting more coercion and control and other abusive behaviours when a victim leaves.
- Additionally, a victim leaving an abusive relationship can experience increased risk of stress, mental ill-health and health problems.

6. Professionals to help friends and families to have better understanding of domestic abuse.

- Promote the training at <https://training.somersetsurvivors.co.uk>



2. Professionals to better understand economic abuse as a form of domestic abuse

- The Domestic Abuse Act now defines this as an abuse type and is wider than financial abuse. Do you have a clear understanding of the signs and how to help?

5. Professionals to complete DASH risk assessments even when victim doesn't consent

- If domestic abuse is suspected by a professional, then a DASH should be completed.
 - Consent is always desirable, but should not be a barrier to identifying risk and recording on agency systems.
 - Then if further incidences occur which are DASH assessed, the accumulation enables any escalation of risk to be factually identified
- NB: Any referrals may need consent

4. Professionals to improve understanding of coercive control

- Coercive control can continue occurring both during and post separation.
- Are you confident in identifying the signs of coercion and domestic abuse even when a couple are separating?

3. Professionals to understand impact of domestic abuse on mental health and complete suicide awareness/prevention training

- Are you confident in identifying when someone is at risk of suicide, and how practically support someone. And understand links with domestic abuse?
- Local training is available.