



Minute Briefing – Liam

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Background

Liam was referred to Safer Lincolnshire Partnership following his death in June 2021. Liam was 25 at his death and was discovered hanged at his home address by his parents.

The Partnership agreed the criteria for a Domestic Homicide Review was met.

Liam met his girlfriend when he was 15 and they were together for ten years. The final five years the relationship came to the attention of the police for domestic abuse incidents which they were both perpetrator and victim at different times.

Liam lived between his parents and girlfriend's home. Liam drank alcohol to excess, had identified mental health needs, and received support from mental health services.

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The Purpose of a Domestic Homicide Review:

- Establish the facts that led to the death and whether there are any lessons to be learned from the case about how local professionals and agencies worked together to safeguard Liam.
- Identify these lessons, both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they will be acted on, and what is expected to change.
- Prevent domestic abuse and related deaths and improve service responses for all domestic violence and abuse victims. Domestic abuse is identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity.
- Contribute to a better understanding of the nature of domestic abuse.
- Ensure that Liam's voice is heard regarding his lived experiences and the impact of the domestic abuse on his mental health.

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Themes:

Trauma Bond

Liam and his mum felt he could not survive without his girlfriend. He felt his girlfriend needed support and would often rebuff the support he was offered.

Male Victims

To strengthen practice and for practitioners to be aware of male support services

Bidirectional Abuse

Both Liam and his girlfriend had been arrested for being perpetrators of abuse and given support when presented as victims of domestic abuse from each other.

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Resources and further information:

https://hubble-live-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/respect/file_asset/file/24/Respect-Toolkit-for-Work-with-Male-Victims-of-Domestic-Abuse-2019.pdf
<https://twitter.com/JMoncktonSmith/status/1495129374886174728>

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Implementing change:

Discuss the themes with your team or service and consider how they may affect your practice. Determine what you or your team could do to act on these and implement any necessary changes.

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Practice implications:

When disclosure of abuse is made, it is crucial to listen to the victim/survivor and work together to ensure their safety. Involve others as needed to support safety planning and ensure that all agencies working with the victim/survivor have an understanding of the care plan. To ensure that services adopt a trauma-informed approach when working with victims/survivors and that any information communicated with them is easily accessible and comprehensible

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Themes: Trilogy of Risk

Liam used alcohol to excess and experienced anxiety and low mood, and his relationship with his girlfriend was marked by domestic abuse.

Coercion and Control

Liam acknowledged his girlfriend was controlling and would tell services of these instances; however, he insisted she was the one who needed help to see what she was doing.

