DARDR Bulletin

Anne

Background

Anne had met Richard whilst studying at college. Anne and Richard initially lived together and later married.

There was domestic abuse within Anne and Richard's relationship. Domestic abuse was known to agencies, and they had both been identified by professionals as victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse.

The abuse perpetrated by Richard towards Anne included physical abuse and coercive control. Part of Richard's control over Anne resulted in her having limited contact with her family and him inflicting abuse on animals owned by Anne.

In the two years prior to her death, Anne and Richard had little contact with agencies. Whilst there was no direct evidence as to the reasons for the lack of contact, the Review Panel concluded that this was likely to be further evidence of the control that Richard exerted over Anne.

In March 2023, the police commenced a missing person's investigation after receiving concerns for the safety of Anne. Later that month, Anne was found deceased and the police commenced a murder investigation.

Richard was arrested and later charged with the murder of Anne. In February 2024, Richard pleaded guilty to the murder of Anne. At a later court hearing, Richard was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 19 years and 316 days.

Findings

- Professionals understanding of the link between animal abuse and domestic abuse.
- Professionals' recognition of and responding to cases where individuals are undertaking a 'caring' role within an intimate relationship and how this can identify indicators of risk.
- Where victims have moved out of Lincolnshire ensuring they are signposted and, where appropriate referred to domestic abuse agencies within the area they are residing.
- Professional curiosity to explore with the victim their access to wider support networks, including those within their family, friends, and the wider community.

What should Professionals do?

- Be aware of toolkits and pathways that can be used to help identify animal abuse as an indicator of domestic abuse and use this information to implement safeguarding processes.
- Have access to information, including training on how to identify and respond to carer roles which identify indicators of domestic abuse.
- Signpost and refer victims to local domestic abuse services within the area they are living.
- Use professional curiosity to explore understand a victim's access to their wider support network.