



## **LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD**

**28 JANUARY 2014**

### **DOMESTIC ABUSE – DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS**

#### **Introduction**

1. The purpose of this report is to present spend on Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), outline proposed developments of the process for carrying out DHRs and the plan for dissemination of learning from current DHRs in Leicestershire.

#### **Background**

2. A joint procedure for DHRs in Leicestershire & Rutland was agreed through the Board in 2012. Through the Board CSPs jointly commission the Business Office of the Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Boards to co-ordinate the process on their behalf alongside the processes for Serious Case Reviews.
3. The joint procedure is funded by annual contributions from District Councils, the County Council and the Police to provide for the infrequent nature of domestic homicides in the County.
4. The budget was set to cover 3 DHRs per year, however previous DHRs in Leicestershire have proved more costly than initially forecast. The Board agreed a revised process in March 2014 in order to reduce the cost of DHRs in the future.

#### **Progress of DHRs**

5. Both the DHR reports previously reported have now been published on the dedicated DHR website for Leicestershire County and Rutland [www.lrdhr.org.uk](http://www.lrdhr.org.uk).
6. Another DHR is in progress following an incident in late 2014 and a learning event regarding a homicide earlier in 2014 that did not meet the criteria for a domestic homicide review, is being planned.
7. It is proposed that up to £3,000 be allocated towards the learning event mentioned above to take place in 2015.

#### **Spend on DHRs 2014-15**

8. There has been some minimal spend on Domestic Homicide Reviews in 2014/15 relating to the involvement of the independent chairs and authors in publication of the DHRs.

**Budget**

Carried forward from previous years	£11,439
LCC budget	£30,000
Partner contributions	£36,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£77,439</b>

**Expenditure**

Business office	£40,500
Independent Chairs/Authors	£1,549
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£42,049</b>

<b>Balance</b>	<b>£35,390</b>
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**DHR Budgets going forward**

9. Whilst we have one DHR which is just commencing that is likely to require some further funding before the end of the March, and propose to use some funding for the learning event a significant balance will remain to carry forward into 2015/16.
10. The number of Domestic Homicide Reviews required cannot be predicted, however the balance, plus the County Council's contribution to the DHR budget for 2014-15, would cover the contribution to the Safeguarding Boards' Business Office for capacity to manage the process and two full DHRs (including the one underway).
11. To ensure there is the appropriate resource in case of an increase in Domestic Homicide Reviews it is proposed that partners retain the budget for their current level of contribution as follows:
 

• Leicestershire County Council	£30,000
• Leicestershire Police	£16,000
• Rutland County Council	£2,500
• District Councils x 7 @ £2,500	£17,500
12. However to ensure we are not just increasing an unnecessary reserve it is proposed that this contribution is not drawn down by the County Council unless the requirement for this resource becomes apparent. This would be determined by reviewing the situation by the end of October 2015.
13. To take account the unknown future need it is also proposed that the broader approach and budget breakdown is reviewed in 2017 when we have had a five-year period of the current arrangements to base future decisions upon.

**Changes to process**

14. A number of lessons have been learned through the recent DHRs regarding the process itself, and consideration of alignment with the City process has been taken.
15. Revisions to the process are being drafted and the revised process will be brought to a future meeting.

### **Recommendations**

16. That:

- (a) The Board members note and comment on the expenditure on DHRs.
- (b) Board members agree the proposals regarding the level of financial contribution for DHRs for 2015-16 in paragraphs 11 to 13.
- (c) The revised DHR process is brought to a future meeting.

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