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Background

Georgina was 46 years old when she was killed by her partner, Gary (G), who was 48 years old. They had been in an 'on and off' relationship for 4 years. G had been a victim of domestic abuse in previous relationships and was a victim of physical abuse and coercive control in her relationship with G. G was alcohol dependant and known to agencies for her alcohol dependency, mental health, suicidal ideation and as a victim of domestic abuse in previous relationships.

7-Minute Briefing Re: Domestic Homicide Review in respect of 'Georgina'

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Purpose

The key purpose for undertaking DHRs is to enable lessons to be learned from homicides where a person is killed because of domestic abuse. For those 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.

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Recommendations

- Professionals' recognition and responses to coercive control, including criteria for
- Multi-agency processes to review, analyse and manage risk around domestic abuse and where an individual's alcohol consumption gives rise for concern including potential impact on their capacity.



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Family

G was described by her family as a happy person who always made time for others and was happy to help anyone. G's relationship with G was described as being 'fast moving' and they quickly became engaged. In the month's prior to G's death contact with her family declined. The family told the review in hindsight they now recognised this as controlling behaviour. The Review Panel acknowledged that coercive control is not always well understood by the general public and that the family may have had difficulty in recognising it.

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Conclusions

G spoke openly about her relationship with G and described to professionals' incidents of coercive control. G's family also reported their concerns about G. The response to the domestic abuse was inconsistent, at times the Police were not notified of the abuse, and incidents were not progressed through a criminal justice route.

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Learning

Ensuring professionals are trained in relation to domestic abuse and coercive control and expectations on professionals to respond to escalation in risks in a multi-agency forum to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to the management of those risks. The availability of information and policies and procedures to support professionals responding to and engaging with individuals where there are concerns around alcohol consumption, can lead to increased support being offered or provided

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Analysis

Evidence identified that G was a victim of domestic abuse; and opportunities to gather and analyse information within a multi-agency forum on the presentation of risks, vulnerabilities, domestic abuse, alcohol use and self-neglect were not fully utilised. The MARAC needs to ensure that presenting risks considered at this multi-agency forum are fully reviewed, analysed and responded to effectively.