



Rhondda Cynon Taf COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW

Georgina

Date of death: May 2023

Executive Summary

March 2026

Chair and Author: Carol Ellwood-Clarke (QPM)

Supported by: Ged McManus

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1. The Review Process

1.1 This summary outlines the process undertaken by Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Safety Partnership [the statutory Crime and Disorder Partnership] in reviewing the death of 'Georgina', who was a resident in their area.

1.2 The following pseudonyms have been used in this review for the victim, her partner and previous partner.

Name	Relationship	Age	Ethnicity
Georgina	Victim	46	White British Female
Gary	Perpetrator	48	White British Male
Significant Other			
John	Previous partner of Georgina	55	White British Male

1.3 Georgina 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. During the review time period, Georgina had been in a relationship with a male called John. Georgina was a victim of domestic abuse within that relationship. John was convicted of assaulting Georgina, for which he received a custodial sentence. Georgina was not in a relationship with John at the time of her murder.

1.4 Georgina and Gary grew up in the Neath Port Talbot area of South Wales and knew one another from secondary school. They had been in a relationship as teenagers. In 2019, Georgina and Gary renewed their relationship, having met via social media: this relationship was described as being 'on and off'. At the start of their relationship, Georgina was living in the Rhondda Cynon Taf area. Gary lived in a privately rented property in Neath Port Talbot.

1.5 During Georgina's relationship with Gary, she was a victim of domestic abuse. The abuse was perpetrated by Gary and consisted of physical and financial abuse, as well as coercive and controlling behaviour.

1.6 In May 2023, the police received a report of concern for a female reported to be at the home address of Gary. Upon arrival of the police, Georgina was found, deceased. Gary was arrested and later charged with the murder of Georgina. A Home Office post-mortem determined that the

cause of Georgina's death was: pressure to the neck by a ligature with blunt force injuries to the head and face.

- 1.7 In January 2024, Gary was found guilty of the murder of Georgina and sentenced to a mandatory life sentence, with a minimum tariff set at 17.5 years.
- 1.8 The first meeting of the DHR panel was held on 17 July 2024. Thereafter six further meetings were held, and a draft report written. The Review Panel met using online and face-to-face meetings.
- 1.9 The final overview report was agreed by Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board Meeting on 17 June 2025 and Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership on 26 June 2025, when it was sent to the Home Office.

2. Contributors to the review

2.1 Contributors to the review/agencies submitting Independent Management Reviews (IMRs).

Agency	IMR	Chronology
Adult Services – Rhondda Cynon Taf	✓	✓
Barod	✓	✓
Citizens Advice Bureau	✓	✓
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB)	✓	✓
Housing Solutions – Vale of Glamorgan	✓	✓
New Pathways	✓	✓
Outreach and Recovery Team (Adult Community Mental Health Services)	✓	✓
South Wales Police	✓	✓
South Wales Victim Focus	✓	✓
Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB)	✓	✓
Trivallis	✓	✓
Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust (WAST)	✓	✓
British Transport Police	Summary Report	✓
Domestic Abuse Service – Rhondda Cynon Taf	Summary Report	✓
Children’s Social Care – Rhondda Cynon Taf	Summary Report	
Adult and Children’s Social Care – Neath Port Talbot	Summary Report	
Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)	Summary Report	
IDVA Service – Rhondda Cynon Taf	Summary Report	
National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV)	Summary Report	
Probation Service	Summary Report	

2.2 The authors of the Individual Management Reviews included in them a statement of their independence from any operational or management responsibility for the matters under examination.

3. Review Panel Members

3.1 The Review Panel Members were:

Review Panel Members		
Name	Job Title	Organisation
Charlie Arthur	Chief Executive	Domestic Abuse Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Beth Aynsley ¹	Protecting Vulnerable Person Manager	South Wales Police
Elise Bacchetta	Business Coordinator	Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board
Gary Black	Head of Community Safety Partnership	Rhondda Cynon Taf
Carla Blackshaw ²	Health/Clinical Nurse Specialist for Safeguarding	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
David Butt	Senior Investigating Officer	South Wales Police
Carol Ellwood-Clarke	Independent Chair and Author	
Cheryl Emery	Service Manager	Housing, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Deb Farrar	Statutory Review Manager	South Wales Police
Chris Frey-Davies	Principle Officer	Children & Adults, Neath Port Talbot
Rachel Gronow	Housing and Domestic Abuse Service Manager	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
David Harris	Senior Safeguarding Specialist	Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Menna Holcombe	Team Leader	Outreach and Recovery Team
Kate Hollinshead	Team Leader	Housing Solutions and Supporting People, Vale of Glamorgan
Lara Jackson ³	Ambulance Technician	Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Nicola Jones	Senior Nurse	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

¹ Replaced by Deb Farrar following secondment to Welsh Government.

² Observing for professional development.

³ Observing for professional development.

Beth May	Head of Safeguarding Care and Support	Adult Services, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Ged McManus	Independent Reviewer	
Laura Morris ⁴	Safeguarding Lead Nurse	Swansea Bay University Health Board
Emma Richards	Head of Delivery	Probation Service
Nicola Richards	Engagement and Intervention Service Manager	Barod
Derek Streek	Interim Head of Sustaining and Managing Tenancies	Trivallis
Katherine Thomas	Deputy Head of Safeguarding	Swansea Bay, University Health Board

3.2 The Panel Chair was satisfied that the members were independent and did not have operational and management involvement with the events under scrutiny.

⁴ Observing for professional development.

4. Chair and Author of the Overview Report

- 4.1 Sections 36 to 39 of the Home Office Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews December 2016 sets out the requirements for review Chairs and Authors.
- 4.2 Carol Ellwood-Clarke was appointed as the DHR Independent Chair. She is an independent practitioner who has chaired and written previous DHRs and other safeguarding reviews. Carol retired from public service (British policing – not South Wales) in 2017, after 30 years, during which she gained experience of writing Independent Management Reviews, as well as being a panel member for Domestic Homicide Reviews, Child Serious Case Reviews, and Safeguarding Adults Reviews. In January 2017, she was awarded the Queens Police Medal (QPM) for her policing services to safeguarding and family liaison. In addition, she is an Associate Trainer for SafeLives.⁵
- 4.3 Ged McManus is an independent practitioner who has chaired and written previous DHRs and Safeguarding Adults Reviews. He has experience as an Independent Chair of a Safeguarding Adult Board (not South Wales). He served for over 30 years in different police services in England. Prior to leaving the police service in 2016, he was a Superintendent with particular responsibility for partnerships, including Community Safety Partnership and Safeguarding Boards.
- 4.4 Between them, they have undertaken the following types of reviews: child serious case reviews; Safeguarding Adults Reviews; multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPAs) serious case reviews; Domestic Homicide Reviews; and have completed the Home Office online training for undertaking DHRs. In addition, they have undertaken accredited training for DHR Chairs, provided by AAFDA. Both have been awarded a certificate in chairing DHRs from the Open College Network, London.

⁵ <https://safelives.org.uk/>

5. Terms of reference

5.1 These were set as -

The purpose of a DHR is to:

- establish what lessons are to be learned from the domestic homicide regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims;
- identify clearly what those lessons are both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result;
- apply these lessons to service responses including changes to inform national and local policies and procedures as appropriate;
- prevent domestic violence and homicide and improve service responses for all domestic violence and abuse victims and their children by developing a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to ensure that domestic abuse is identified and responded to effectively at the earliest opportunity;
- contribute to a better understanding of the nature of domestic violence and abuse; and
- highlight good practice.

(Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews [2016] Section 2 Paragraph 7)

5.2 Specific Terms

1. What indicators of domestic abuse, including coercive and controlling behaviour,⁶ did your agency identify for Georgina, and what was your response?
2. What knowledge was your agency aware of that indicated Gary and/or John might be a perpetrator of domestic abuse, and what was the response? Did that knowledge identify any controlling or coercive behaviour by Gary and/or John?

⁶ The Serious Crime Act 2015 (the 2015 Act) received royal assent on 3 March 2015. The Act creates a new offence of controlling or coercive behaviour in intimate or familial relationships (section 76).

3. How did your agency assess the level of risk faced by Georgina? In determining the risk, which risk assessment model did you use, and what was your agency's response to the identified risk?
4. How effective was inter-agency information sharing and co-operation in response to the subjects of this review, and was information shared with those agencies who needed it? N.B. Please also consider cross-border information sharing.
5. How did your agency respond to any mental health issues, substance misuse, and/or self-neglect when engaging with Georgina and Gary?
6. What services did your agency provide for Georgina and/or Gary; were they timely, proportionate, and 'fit for purpose' in relation to the identified levels of risk?
7. When, and in what way, were the subjects' wishes and feelings ascertained and considered? Were the subjects advised of options/choices to make informed decisions?
8. Were the subjects of the review signposted to other agencies, and how accessible were these services to the subjects? Were there any barriers that may have prevented access and/or engagement with services?
9. Were single and multi-agency policies and procedures, including the MARAC, followed? Are the procedures embedded in practice, and were any gaps identified?
10. Were there issues in relation to capacity or resources in your agency that affected its ability to provide services to the subjects of this review, or on your agency's ability to work effectively with other agencies? This should consider any impact of amended working arrangements due to COVID-19.
11. What knowledge did family, friends, and employers have of any incidents of domestic abuse, including coercive control, and did they know what to do with that knowledge?
12. Were there any examples of outstanding or innovative practice arising from this review?

13. What learning has emerged for your agency, and how has this been or how will this be embedded into practice?
14. Does this learning appear in other Domestic Homicide Reviews commissioned by Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Safety Partnership?

5.3 **Timescale**

The covers the period from 1 August 2019 to May 2023. The start date was chosen by the Review Panel to capture relevant information within the period of Georgina and Gary's relationship. All agencies were asked to consider and analyse any significant contacts prior to these dates, and this has been included within the review where relevant.

6. Summary Chronology

6.1 Georgina

- 6.1.1 At the age of 14, Georgina was sexually abused by a family member, and she was placed into care. Georgina did not have an extensive family and had limited family contact after this time.
- 6.1.2 Georgina was described by her family as a happy person who always made time for others and was happy to help anyone. Georgina completed a college course on plastering and worked in that trade for a while but then became a carer, working for various domiciliary care companies for nearly nine years.
- 6.1.3 Georgina's daughter stated that life as a child with her mum was fun, and they were always out and about or doing things at home. She recalled one time when Georgina arranged for a bouncy castle in the lounge of the house they were living in.
- 6.1.4 After 2007/2008, Georgina had no contact with her daughters due to their respective father's seeking custody through court proceedings and preventing any contact with Georgina. In addition, Georgina's youngest daughter had moved abroad with her father.
- 6.1.5 Georgina's eldest daughter regained contact with Georgina after she left her father's house at the age of 17. Georgina's daughter described how they went on to have a mutually supportive relationship, speaking frequently.

6.2 Gary

- 6.2.1 Gary has no previous convictions or intelligence in relation to domestic abuse held within the United Kingdom. Gary had previously lived abroad. Information supplied through Interpol, established that Gary was known for a minor traffic violation in 2012.
- 6.2.2 At the start of the review timescales, Gary had been employed as an operating assistant within a charitable medical facility. Gary's employment was understood to have ended by early 2021.

6.3 John

- 6.3.1 John has a significant pattern of violent, racist, and aggressive offending behaviour: this includes 72 convictions for 138 offences relating to offences

against the person, public order offences, and offences relating to courts/police/prison.

6.4 Georgina and Gary's relationship

6.4.1 Georgina and Gary had previously been in a relationship as teenagers. In August 2019, Georgina and Gary renewed their relationship, having met via social media: this relationship was described as being 'on and off' over the review time period.

6.4.2 Georgina's caseworker at Trivallis told the Chair that the relationship was 'very fast moving'. Georgina's daughter told the Chair that in 2020, not long after the relationship resumed, they became engaged; however, by the following year, the relationship ended.

Events within the Terms of Reference

6.5 August 2019 onwards

6.5.1 Throughout this period, Georgina was in regular (often daily) contact with a support officer from Trivallis, the Community Rehabilitation Company, the Community Drug and Alcohol Team, and caseworker from Barod. At times, Georgina was under the influence of alcohol, which resulted in appointments being missed or not progressed.

6.5.2 On 15 August, Georgina made an application under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme⁷ – for information on Gary.

6.5.3 On 25 September, a housing review meeting was held about Georgina. The meeting discussed that Georgina was at risk of eviction. A tenancy enforcement order was implemented.

6.5.4 On 9 October, Georgina was referred for inpatient detox.

6.5.5 On 10 October, Georgina telephoned her support worker from Trivallis. Georgina was whispering during the call, stating that she was in the bathroom and that her partner (believed to be Gary) had shouted at her. Georgina was advised to protect herself and ask Gary to leave if things escalated.

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-factsheets/domestic-violence-disclosure-scheme-factsheet>

- 6.5.6 On 19 October, Georgina was taken to inpatient detox. Georgina was seen with bruising to her back and had a black eye. The injuries were explored with Georgina, and she stated that she had accessed a Claire's Law, which came back clear of information and that Gary needed anger management for his verbal aggression. When asked by staff, Georgina stated that Gary did not hit her.
- 6.5.7 On 26 November, Georgina telephoned her Barod caseworker and stated that Gary was not happy that she would be staying in hospital an extra week. The caseworker telephoned Gary, and it was documented that he challenged the decision for Georgina to remain in hospital, that he felt that Georgina was not being looked after, and that he wanted her home. Gary stated that he struggled to support Georgina, and he was provided with information on Barod's 'Concerned Other'⁸ support service.
- 6.5.8 On 2 December, Georgina was discharged from detox. Georgina was collected by Gary. Barod and Trivallis were not aware that Georgina had been discharged a day earlier.

The below information was gathered by the Chair during the completion of the review.

- 6.5.9 The support worker from Trivallis informed the Chair that Georgina had later told her that Gary had presented her with a bottle of port when he collected her from detox, as he 'did not like her sober'.

6.6 2020

- 6.6.1 On 6 January, Georgina informed her support worker from Trivallis that she was no longer in a relationship with Gary, as he had been too controlling.
- 6.6.2 On 12 January, the police received an abandoned 999 call from Gary's address. Georgina stated that they had both been drinking alcohol, Gary had pushed her onto the bed and raised a metal bar towards Georgina. Gary was arrested by the police. Georgina provided a statement but stated that she did not want to substantiate the allegation and did not support a prosecution or attend court. Gary was interviewed by the police and later released from custody without charge. A Public Protection Notice (PPN) was completed and risk assessed as high. A referral was made to MARAC.

⁸ <https://barod.cymru/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Concerned-Others-Information-for-Professionals.pdf>

This was the first reported incident of domestic abuse to the police. The case was allocated to an IDVA.

- 6.6.4 On 15 January, Georgina attended a meeting with the IDVA. Georgina shared information about financial abuse within her relationship with Gary, including that she had sent Gary money whilst she had been in hospital and that he had withheld her medication.
- 6.6.5 On 28 January, the MARAC referral was discussed at the daily discussion meetings and placed on the agenda for the MARAC meeting on 6 February.
- 6.6.6 On 6 February, the case was heard at MARAC. It was documented that Georgina was in another relationship.
- 6.6.7 By the end of February, Georgina was understood to be back in a relationship with Gary. Georgina had missed an appointment with the IDVA. Georgina had attended an appointment with her GP and reported that she was pregnant. Gary had accompanied Georgina to the GP appointment. Referrals were made to Children's Social Care.
- 6.6.8 On 11 March, Georgina attended an appointment for a scan. Gary was present. The scan confirmed that Georgina was not pregnant.
- 6.6.9 On 24 March, the support worker from Trivallis telephoned Georgina and advised that due to the COVID-19 restrictions, she could only have telephone contact with Gary.
- 6.6.10 On 4 May, Georgina telephoned her support worker from Trivallis and reported that she had been staying at Gary's address and had awoken to find part of her hair shaved off. Georgina explained that she had recently spoken with Gary about getting hair extensions. Georgina stated that she was waiting for Gary to return and then she was going to ask him to take her home. Later that day, Georgina contacted her support worker and stated that she was back at her property and had paid Gary money for the petrol to take her home and money for some 'weed'.⁹ Georgina stated that the relationship was over.
- 6.6.11 On 21 May, the support worker from Trivallis contacted the IDVA and reported that Georgina was spending time staying with Gary, and he was

⁹ Weed is a slang term for cannabis: a drug that comes from the cannabis plant.

reportedly self-harming by cutting with a blade until he collapses, and that Georgina was then 'expected' to look after him. Concerns were also shared that Georgina was supporting Gary financially, and he was questioning where her money was going.

- 6.6.12 On 22 May, the IDVA telephoned Georgina and completed an initial assessment. A DASH and an individual safety and support plan were completed. The DASH score was 13, which detailed that the risk remained high. The IDVA emailed the support worker at Trivallis and stated that they had considered a referral to MARAC but that this was not going to occur because the risk factors had not changed. The decision not to refer to MARAC was supported by a team leader.
- 6.6.13 On 30 May, Georgina attended at hospital with a head injury reported to have occurred three weeks earlier and a potential new head injury caused by a neighbour (not a subject of this review). An Ask and Act Domestic Abuse Assessment was completed by a staff nurse. Georgina was not seen by the hospital-based Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) due to the admission taking place on a weekend. A referral for IDVA support and an Adult Protection Referral were completed. Georgina was also provided with information leaflets.
- 6.6.14 On 5 June, two social workers attended at Georgina's home to see her in response to the Adult Protection Referral and to undertake an enquiry under Section 126 Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.¹⁰ Georgina was not at home. A further visit was undertaken on 11 June, when Georgina was seen. Georgina agreed for a referral to Barod. The Section 126 enquiry closed because it was determined that Georgina was not an adult at risk but may have other needs for care and support services, which were being addressed.
- 6.6.15 On 23 June, the police received a call from the support worker at Trivallis, who reported that Georgina had left a voicemail four days earlier in which Georgina was 'thanking them for all their help and that she couldn't live the way she was anymore'. The support worker had been unable to contact Georgina. The police saw Georgina, and she stated that she was not suicidal and had had an argument with her neighbours and been to stay with her boyfriend.

¹⁰

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/notes/division/2/70#:~:text=Section%20126%20%E2%80%93%20Adults%20at%20risk&text=363.An%20adult%20at%20risk,a%20result%20of%20those%20needs.>

- 6.6.16 On 26 June, the caseworker from Barod telephoned the support worker at Trivallis and reported that during a telephone call with Georgina, she stated that Gary had pushed her down the stairs 'the other week'. The information was shared with the IDVA three days later.
- 6.6.17 On 1 July, Georgina's case with the IDVA was subject of case discussion and overview. It was agreed to close the case.
- 6.6.18 On 27 July, the IDVA received a text message from Georgina, stating: 'I desperately need help please ring me'. Attempts to contact Georgina were unsuccessful, and the IDVA contacted the police to complete a welfare check. Georgina was found at Gary's address and spoken to alone. Georgina denied sending the text message and knowing the recipient. Georgina stated that she did not need help and did not wish to report any concerns to the police.
- 6.6.19 On 4 August, Georgina reported (to the caseworker at Barod) threatening, controlling and coercive behaviour from Gary. Gary was not taking her to appointments with the Community Drug and Alcohol Team, after being given money to do so. Gary was calling her names, putting her down, and losing his temper when alone with her. Georgina reported that he had held her prisoner at his house a few months previously, where police were called but no charges made.
- 6.6.20 On 5 August, Georgina attended an appointment with the Community Drug and Alcohol Team. Gary accompanied Georgina. During the appointment, Gary attempted to look at Georgina's chart. When Georgina asked for the chart to be hidden, Gary stormed out of the room. Georgina then showed the worker a bruise on her arm and stated that Gary had done this. Georgina also stated that Gary had charged her money to bring her to the appointment.
- 6.6.21 On 10 August, the Community Drug and Alcohol Team submitted an A1 safeguarding referral to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in response to the contact with Georgina on 5 August. The Community Drug and Alcohol Team determined that a MARAC referral was required but that this needed Georgina's consent before it could be submitted. A MARAC referral was not submitted.
- 6.6.22 On 13 August, Georgina disclosed further domestic abuse to the caseworker at Barod, including financial, physical abuse, withholding of

prescribed medication, and controlling behaviour from Gary. Georgina declined a referral to Women's Aid or MARAC and stated that she was waiting for money that Gary owed her.

- 6.6.23 On 17 August, Georgina's mother contacted the caseworker at Barod and the Community Drug and Alcohol Team. She expressed concerns about Georgina's relationship with Gary. Gary was described as being controlling, taking Georgina's money, and threatening her with a curtain pole.
- 6.6.24 On 18 August, Georgina was informed that a safeguarding referral had been made to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)¹¹ by Barod, due to Gary's employment within a private hospital. Georgina expressed concerns over the following days regarding the consequences of this, and that the risk of her safety would escalate.
- 6.6.25 On 25 August, a Professional Adults Safeguarding Meeting (PASM) was held in relation to Gary, due to his employment. A further meeting held in January 2021, determined that Gary was no longer in employment.
- 6.6.26 On 25 August, Georgina's mother contacted WAST and expressed concerns for Georgina, as she had been unable to contact her. An ambulance attended at Gary's address, and Gary and Georgina were spoken to. Georgina refused assessment and stated that she was 'happy in the relationship'. Georgina expressed frustration with her mother's activity.
- 6.6.27 On 27 August, the police received concerns from the support worker at Trivallis regarding Georgina's relationship with Gary. The police spoke to Georgina at her address. She denied the concerns, describing them as 'ridiculous'.
- 6.6.28 On 7 September, Georgina informed the caseworker at Barod that the relationship with Gary was over. Two days later, Georgina informed the Community Drug and Alcohol Team that she was still in a relationship with Gary.
- 6.6.29 On 23 September, Georgina's support worker from Trivallis closed the case. The decision had been made because the support needed was in relation

¹¹ [https://www.safeguarding.wales/en/chi-i/chi-i-c5/c5-p2/#:~:text=Local%20Authority%20Designated%20Officer%20\(LADO,Officer%20for%20Safeguarding%20\(DOS](https://www.safeguarding.wales/en/chi-i/chi-i-c5/c5-p2/#:~:text=Local%20Authority%20Designated%20Officer%20(LADO,Officer%20for%20Safeguarding%20(DOS)

to drug and alcohol use, which was being provided by Barod and the Community Drug and Alcohol Team.

- 6.6.30 On 31 October, Georgina attended at hospital with an arm and head injury. Georgina initially stated that it had been caused by her partner, Gary, and then later stated it had been a neighbour.
- 6.6.31 On 4 November, Georgina was admitted to hospital following a report that she had been assaulted. Georgina was admitted to hospital for 10 days and underwent surgery. There was some variation of Georgina's account as to how the injuries were sustained. Georgina denied that she had been assaulted by Gary. Upon discharge, Georgina was reported to be living with Gary.
- 6.6.32 Over the following weeks, Georgina had several telephone calls with the caseworker at Barod. Georgina informed the caseworker that the calls were on loud speaker so that Gary could hear what was being said.
- 6.6.33 On 15 December, the IDVA team received a PPN for the incident from 25 August, following concerns expressed by Georgina's mother. The case was referred to MARAC.

6.7 2021

- 6.7.1 On 7 January, the case was listed at MARAC for 'information only'.
- 6.7.2 By the end of January, Georgina was no longer engaging with the Community Drug and Alcohol Team, and, despite repeated attempts to contact her over the following months, the case was eventually closed in April.
- 6.7.3 On 4 February, Georgina informed the caseworker at Barod that she was continuing to live with Gary and no longer needed support. Georgina declined any follow-on relapse prevention support from Barod, and the case was closed.
- 6.7.4 On 22 September, Georgina reported that John had threatened to kill her. Georgina described John as a friend. Georgina stated that the threat was not genuine, and she did not want to pursue a complaint. The police spoke to John and gave him advice.

- 6.7.5 Throughout September and October, Georgina was in contact with the police, reporting repeated incidents of unknown people banging on her door.
- 6.7.6 On 1 October, a GP completed an A1 safeguarding referral that was sent to the MASH on 5 October. The information was basic, and further information was requested. The information stated that Georgina had attended at the GP surgery with a scalp laceration and stated that she had been physically and sexually assaulted. The referral expressed concerns that Georgina was putting herself at risk. The case was allocated to an officer from the Rape Investigation Team the same day – to make contact with Georgina. This was achieved on 8 October. Georgina stated that she had been physically assaulted by John, who had grabbed her to the throat and tried to strangle her. Georgina described a separate incident, with another male, of sexual assault.
- 6.7.7 Over the following months, the police made repeated attempts to contact Georgina, including arranging appointments to see Georgina to progress gathering her evidence in relation to the sexual assault. All of the attempts were unsuccessful. In February 2022, the case was closed by the police. No further action was taken. Georgina had not provided a statement.
- 6.7.8 Following the submission of the safeguarding referral, the case was allocated to an Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA). The ISVA attempted to make contact over the following months, with one successful contact being completed; however, this call was terminated by Georgina.
- 6.7.9 On 29 October, Georgina was discussed in a monthly Problem Solving Group meeting attended by the police, local authority, and Trivallis. The plan at this stage was to respond to the repeated calls of people knocking on her door and anti-social behaviour.

13.8 2022

- 6.8.1 At the beginning of January, Georgina had contact with health professionals in relation to a sexual assault. Georgina had contact with the Crisis Team, during which she stated that a previous partner had taken £24,000 out of her bank account. A referral was made to New Pathways, and a Wales Applied Risk Research Network (WARRN)¹² was completed.

¹² The Wales Applied Risk Research Network (WARRN) is a risk assessment process for mental health service users in Wales that helps to reduce the risk of suicide and physical harm to others.

- 6.8.2 On 13 January, Georgina self-referred to Barod. The case was closed the following month because engagement with Georgina was not established.
- 6.8.3 On 25 January, Georgina attended a bank and reported that she was a victim of financial abuse and being targeted by the community. The bank reported the concerns to the Domestic Abuse Service, who made contact with Georgina and Trivallis. Georgina informed the Domestic Abuse Service that she had reported the financial matters to the police. There is no record that this matter was reported to the police.
- 6.8.4 Throughout February, there was evidence of agencies sharing information and working together to respond to concerns for Georgina around her vulnerabilities, mental health, alcohol use, missed medical appointments, and anti-social behaviour. Referrals were made to the Citizen's Advice Bureau for support in relation to seeking alternative accommodation. At times, agencies' contact with Georgina was inconsistent and often unsuccessful. The Citizens Advice Bureau closed their case at the beginning of March.
- 6.8.5 On 26 February, Georgina contacted the police and reported she had been threatened by John. The police spoke to Georgina. She described John as a friend, who had been 'sofa surfing' at her property. John was taken from the property.
- 6.8.6 On 5 March, John assaulted Georgina. Georgina was taken to hospital by the police and received treatment for facial injuries sustained in the assault.
- 6.8.7 On 10 March, John was arrested. John denied assaulting Georgina and stated that they were not in an intimate relationship. The case was referred to the Crown Prosecution Service, who determined that no further action would be taken in relation to the assault.
- 6.8.8 In March 2022, a referral for Georgina was made by a service manager for Substance Misuse and Mental Health to the Taf Ely Problem Solving Group. The police created a Plan on a Page (POP), in relation to Georgina, which detailed a multi-agency approach to respond to issues of alcohol, substance use, and anti-social behaviour surrounding her current accommodation. Over the following months, there was detailed evidence

of the multi-agency work and contact with Georgina in response to the POP.

- 6.8.9 On 21 March, John was recalled to prison.
- 6.8.10 By the end of May, the POP documented that Georgina was engaging with agencies and that calls for service from the police had significantly reduced. Georgina was reported to have a good relationship with the police.
- 6.8.11 On 9 June, the police were informed by Probation that John was due to be released from prison and that he harboured 'ill feelings' towards Georgina, whom he blamed for his recall. Georgina was seen on two occasions by the police and advised of John's release.
- 6.8.12 On 17 and 20 June, the police received reports that Georgina had been seen lying in the road, intoxicated. Georgina had reported that she had been assaulted by a neighbour. Over the following weeks, further reports were received that related to incidents between Georgina and neighbours, often involving alcohol and anti-social behaviour. Georgina's engagement with the Community Drug and Alcohol Team had reduced, and her case was closed at the end of July.
- 6.8.13 On 23 June, John was released from custody on Post-sentence Supervision. John's case was escalated to MAPPA Level 2.
- 6.8.14 On 22 July, Georgina contacted the police and reported that she had been sexually assaulted by a male. The male was arrested. The investigation into this matter was still ongoing at the time of Georgina's death.
- 6.8.15 On 16 August, John was deregistered from MAPPA Level 2, as the risk management plan was responding to the presenting risks.
- 6.8.16 On 18 August, Georgina's GP made a referral to primary mental health services due to Georgina experiencing flashbacks and night terrors following reports of the assault in June.
- 6.8.17 On 7 September, following a Local Primary Care Initial Assessment being completed, Georgina was referred to MIND for counselling to support her with historical trauma.
- 6.8.18 By the end of September, the POP was closed.

- 6.8.19 On 30 October, the police received a report that Georgina was being targeted by a group of teenagers. Georgina was seen by a PCSO, and a PPN was submitted. The PPN contained information that John was at the address during the visit, that Georgina had a black eye (caused by Gary), and that she was going 'back and forwards' to Gary, who was described as an ex-boyfriend.
- 6.8.20 On 3 November, Georgina was discussed as part of the GP weekly meetings. These meetings are in place to review cases. Safeguarding cases are also included in these discussions.
- 6.8.21 On 6 November, a PCSO attended at Georgina's address as part of a routine patrol. Georgina informed them that John, whom she described as a friend, was hiding in the bedroom, and she did not want him there. John was removed from the property. A PPN was submitted and shared with Adult Services.
- 6.8.22 On 14 November, the police received two calls – one from a member of the public and another from Georgina – reporting an incident at Georgina's property. Georgina stated that John was outside her address and was being aggressive and kicking the door. Officers attended at the address and spoke to Georgina and a friend. Details of the friend were not recorded.
- 6.8.23 On 25 November, the police received two calls relating to Georgina. A PCSO attended at Georgina's address and spoke to her. Georgina was in the company of an adult male who Georgina asked the PCSO to remove. A PPN was submitted and shared with Adult Services.
- 6.8.24 On 4 December, Georgina contacted the police (via 999) and reported that John had entered her property and threatened to kill her. John was taken from the property by the police. Georgina and John stated that they were not in a relationship. A PPN was submitted and shared with Adult Services.
- 6.8.25 On 8 December, Georgina contacted the police and reported that John had assaulted her and stolen her bank card and property. Georgina was seen by the police and denied anything had occurred. John was not at the address. A PPN was submitted but not shared, as consent was not provided.
- 6.8.26 On 9 December, Georgina contacted the ambulance service via 999. Georgina reported that she had been assaulted and had barricaded herself

in her house. The ambulance service passed the call to the police, who attended and spoke to Georgina; however, she denied that she had been assaulted. A PPN was submitted but not shared, as consent was not provided.

- 6.8.27 On 16 December, the police and Probation attended at John's current address (hotel) to move him to his own accommodation; however, he was not at the address.
- 6.8.28 On 20 and 22 December, Georgina contacted the police and reported that John had been banging on her door. In response to the second incident, the police made enquiries with work men who were working opposite the address: none of whom had seen any incidents at the property. On both occasions, Georgina stated that John was an old school friend.
- 6.8.29 On 24 December, Georgina reported that she had been assaulted by John. When the police attended and spoke to Georgina, she denied that John had been at her property or that she had been assaulted.
- 6.8.30 On 25 December, the police received an abandoned 999 call from Georgina. The police attended at her property. The police forced entry, and Georgina was found inside with serious facial injuries, including lacerations. Georgina stated that John had caused the injuries. John was present in the property and was arrested by the police. A PPN was submitted, and the case was referred to MARAC. John was charged with assaulting Georgina and remanded into custody.

6.9 2023

- 6.9.1 On 1 January, Georgina contacted the police and reported harassment via text messages from Gary, whom she described as her ex-partner. The police attended and reviewed the messages. They determined that they were more of a conversation rather than abuse. A PPN was submitted. A secondary risk assessment was undertaken on 18 January, which determined the risk as medium. The PPN was not shared because consent had not been provided.
- 6.9.2 On 3 January, an IDVA contacted Georgina and discussed the availability of refuge spaces. The following day, Georgina moved into a refuge in the Vale of Glamorgan and was supported by the IDVA with transportation.
- 6.9.3 On 5 January, a MARAC meeting was held.

- 6.9.4 On 11 January, Georgina left the refuge to stay with Gary for a few days. Georgina described Gary as her partner. This was one of several 'stays' that Georgina reported to staff at the refuge over the following weeks.
- 6.9.5 On 26 January, a MARAC meeting was held in Vale of Glamorgan, following transfer from Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 6.9.6 On 31 January, staff at the refuge spoke to Georgina about her relationship with Gary. Staff encouraged Georgina to apply for disclosure under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme. Georgina stated that Gary could be controlling at times, but people change and that she had known him since she had been a teenager.
- 6.9.7 On 9 February, Georgina was admitted onto a waiting list for inpatient detox.
- 6.9.8 On 10 February, Georgina was involved in an altercation with a resident in the refuge. Over the following four days, further incidents occurred in the refuge, and Georgina was evicted. Georgina went to stay with Gary. The refuge sought to find alternative accommodation for Georgina. Georgina declined alternative refuge space, as it was too far away from Gary. The refuge supported Georgina to present as homeless to Vale of Glamorgan Housing.
- 6.9.9 On 16 February, Georgina was placed in temporary hotel accommodation.
- 6.9.10 At the beginning of March, the police and refuge received several calls from members of the public, reporting concerns for Georgina due to her being under the influence of alcohol.
- 6.9.11 On 7 March, Georgina was evicted from the temporary accommodation, and Vale of Glamorgan had ended their involvement under the Housing (Wales) Act.¹³ Georgina was supported with financial costs to move to Gary's address.
- 6.9.12 On 3 May, Georgina had contact with British Transport Police after she had been found under the influence of alcohol and was deemed unsafe to travel. Georgina was taken to Gary's address.

¹³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/7/contents>

6.9.13 On a date in May, the police attended at Gary's address and found Georgina deceased. Gary was arrested by the police and later charged with Georgina's murder.

7. Key issues arising from the review.

7.1 There was limited information known about Gary.

7.2 Professional knowledge on the identification and response to coercive and controlling behaviour.

7.3 Multi-agency responses to presentation of risks including, vulnerabilities, domestic abuse, alcohol use, and self-neglect.

7.4 Knowledge on when and how cases should be referred to MARAC.

7.5 Availability of information for professionals on how they can respond and support individuals whose alcohol consumption gives rise for concern.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 Georgina was murdered by Gary.
- 8.2 Georgina and Gary had initially been in a relationship as teenagers. In 2019, after meeting again via social media, they recommenced their relationship. The relationship continued over the following years; however, it was often described as being an 'on and off' relationship.
- 8.3 Six months prior to her murder, Georgina was in a relationship with another male, John. On Christmas Day 2022, John assaulted Georgina, during which she sustained serious facial injuries. John was arrested, charged, and later received a custodial sentence.
- 8.4 After the assault, Georgina moved into temporary accommodation, out of the area. However, within a short time period, she had recommenced the relationship with Gary. From this point onwards, Georgina was not visible to her family and agencies. Georgina did not return to her own accommodation.
- 8.5 In both her relationships with Gary and John, Georgina was a victim of domestic abuse, including physical assaults and coercive control. Incidents of physical abuse were reported to the police.
- 8.6 Georgina spoke openly about her relationship with Gary and described incidents of coercive control to professionals. Georgina's family also reported their concerns about Gary. The response to the domestic abuse was inconsistent. At times, the police were not notified of the abuse, and Gary was never arrested or questioned.
- 8.7 The Review Panel identified learning in relation to professionals' responses to the disclosures of domestic abuse and the implementation of a multi-agency approach when there is an escalation of risk factors and

vulnerabilities. This learning has been captured in relevant recommendations along with single agency learning.

- 8.8 Georgina’s family contributed to the review process. The Review Panel extends its thanks to them for their contributions and support during the completion of the review.

9. Learning

- 9.1 The DHR panel identified the following learning. Each point is preceded by a narrative which seeks to set the context within which the learning sits. Where learning leads to an action a cross reference is included within the header.

Learning 1 [Panel recommendation 1]
Narrative
The case identified a lack of professionals’ knowledge on the identification and response to coercive and controlling behaviour.
Lesson
Ensuring that professionals are trained in relation to domestic abuse and coercive control is likely to increase the identification of cases, leading to support for victims of domestic abuse.

Learning 2 [Panel recommendation 2]
Narrative
The review identified opportunities to gather and analyse information within a multi-agency forum on the presentation of risks, vulnerabilities, domestic abuse, alcohol use, and self-neglect. This included an option for the MARAC to refer Georgina’s case to a multi-agency forum to review, analyse, and respond to the presenting risks.
Lesson
Responding to escalation in risks, in a multi-agency forum, allows for a co-ordinated approach to the management of those risks.

Learning 3 [Panel recommendation 3, 4 and 6]

Narrative

The review identified the need for information to be available to professionals on how they can respond and support individuals whose alcohol consumption gives rise for concern, including an understanding that individuals who are alcohol dependent or who are known to misuse alcohol may have reduced capacity in decision making and the context of keeping themselves safe.

Lesson

The availability of information and policies and procedures available 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.

Learning 4 [Panel recommendation 5]

Narrative

There were opportunities on this case to refer to MARAC; however, this did not take place as there was a misconception that the victim's consent was required.

Lesson

Understanding of the MARAC criteria and referral process with lead to cases of high risk being referred to MARAC in accordance with MARAC policy.

Learning 5 [Panel recommendation 7]

Narrative

The victim on this case was involved with agencies across a number of Regional Safeguarding Boards.

Lesson

The published report to be shared with both West Glamorgan and Cardiff and Vale Regional Safeguarding Boards for the learning to be disseminated amongst agencies working within those regions.

9.2 Agencies Learning

9.2.1 Adult Social Care – Rhondda Cynon Taf

- Use of 'Ask and Act' when the opportunity presents itself, particularly where individuals have a history of missed appointments and non-engagement.

Action taken to address this learning –

- Establishment of Domestic Abuse Champions across agencies has been recommended in an Adult Practice Review and will be implemented through an action plan linked to that review. This will result in upskilling practitioners to act in a consultative capacity to their colleagues, to raise awareness of how these issues can present in practice settings and to encourage a reflective analysis of the options available to support individuals and address risk.
- Development of an escalation process where information is received that indicates an individual may be at risk of domestic abuse, but there is no ongoing allocation to a worker or no role for Adult Services in relation to meeting their care and support needs.

9.2.2 Barod

- Completion of DASH and Risk Identification Checklist.
- MARAC referrals.

Action taken to address this learning –

- Training delivered by SafeLives (2023) covering DASH and RIC and referral criteria for MARAC.

9.2.3 Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

- Health IDVA was not employed during part of the review period.
- Suspension of safeguarding training due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Action taken to address this learning –

- Continue to embed VAWDASV training programme.
- Bespoke Training for Dietetics, T&O, and A&E departments
- Health documentation to be reviewed to include risk assessment for domestic abuse at triage in Accident and Emergency, and if successful, to consider expanding to other departments.
- Audit to review IDVA referrals following bespoke training packages.
- Produce a combined Health 7-minute briefing.

GP Surgery

- Level 3 Safeguarding Training requirement for GP revalidation.
- Weekly GP meeting to include safeguarding considerations.

- MASH Health to be contacted for advice and support for complex cases.

Action taken to address this learning –

- Designated safeguarding lead within the GP surgery.
- All GPs are IRIS trained.

9.2.4 Housing – Vale of Glamorgan

- Recording keeping.

Action taken to address this learning –

- A new database is being implemented to ensure more timely sharing of support plans and risk assessments between commissioned support providers and the Housing Department. This is due to be implemented by the end of 2025.
- Commissioned support providers will be required to complete and share risk assessments at the end of their involvement with the Housing Department to ensure that any risks are known and acted on, including domestic abuse services.

9.2.5 Outreach and Recovery Team (Adult Community Mental Health Services)

- Communication and recording regarding identified risks in compliance with legislation and policy.
- Strengthening the collaboration between the Community Drug and Alcohol Team, Crisis Resolution Team and Safeguarding Team, and external agencies.
- Improved co-ordination between primary and secondary care.
- Relapse prevention work post detox discharge.

Action taken to address this learning –

- Training – Promotion of compliance with relevant mandatory training and specifically Safeguarding Adults and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence across adult mental health services.
- Improved recording systems – Ongoing consultation to determine a patient recording system across mental health services in Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board to allow all teams to access same up-to-date information on patients, improving co-ordination and responsiveness.
- Regular communication and meetings – Implementation of weekly meetings between primary and secondary care teams as part of single point of entry to discuss and allocate complex patients.

- Risk Assessment – All patients assessed in the Community Drug and Alcohol Team to receive risk assessment as part of the FACE (patient recording system) Comprehensive Assessment. Patients where there is an identified additional mental health need or forensic risk, a full WARRN will be completed.
- Relapse prevention work – Post-detox follow-up includes an individualised care plan that is devised upon pre-detox depending on substance/life situation/patient goal.

9.2.6 South Wales Police

- In line with the sharing of PPNs, as per the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, officers and staff should request a strategy discussion/meeting with Adult Services and be cognisant of the concerns for and vulnerability of the individual and the identification of repeated reports of concern that require action on the part of services.
- Professional curiosity when responding to third-party concerns and submission of PPNs.
- Response to information shared at MARAC.
- Progression of criminal investigations and that all 'lines of enquiry' are progressed, including evidence-led prosecutions.

Action taken to address this learning –

- From August 2023 to May 2024, the Force delivered Operation Amddiffyn, a program of vulnerability and safeguarding upskilling for officers and staff, which included the importance of professional curiosity. Continued messaging around this continues to be a priority.
- Learning from this review to be shared with MARAC Chairs as a reminder of the importance of considering risks outside of the relationship being discussed, with requirement for learning to be cascaded to all agencies via the Chair/Co-ordinator.
- In July 2024, South Wales Police launched a force-wide review of crime investigations to improve investigative standards; therefore, no recommendation is made in relation to this area.
- Production of case study with learning from this review, with specific focus on professional curiosity. This case study to be shared with SWP Learning and Development Department and the Strategic Public Protection & Safeguarding Command for inclusion in relevant professional development sessions/courses.
- The Strategic Public Protection & Safeguarding Department to examine Adults at Risk (AAR) as an area of focus and work with

each of the local authority based AAR units to understand current practice around requesting multi-agency strategy discussions to ensure consistency and best practice across the force area. This work should seek to embed learning from this and other statutory reviews.

9.2.7 Victim Focus

- Professional curiosity when gathering background information rather than a reliance on information contained within the referral.

Action taken to address this learning –

- Learning disseminated through internal training sessions.

9.2.8 Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust

- Enhance understanding of Violence Against Women (and Girls), Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, and how themes intersect with domestic abuse.
- Promote increased recognition of times to undertake a targeted enquiry leading to opportunities for earlier intervention and support.

Action taken to address this learning –

- Create a '7-minute briefing'.
- Incorporate learning within 'Ask and Act' training.
- Promotion and completion of 'Ask and Act' training.
- Create a bespoke 'SWAY' training package on intersectionality, to be hosted and promoted on WAST Learning Zone.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Panel and Agency Recommendations

10.1.1 Panel Recommendations

Number	Recommendation
1	<p>That Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership seeks evidence and assurances from all agencies involved in this review on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The numbers and range of multi-agency staff who have attended regional domestic abuse and coercive control training on an annual basis to support consistency of training attendance within the region and address identified gaps. • Engagement in the provision of multi-agency domestic abuse and coercive control training which may be provided in partnership with a range of other key stakeholders including the Regional Safeguarding Board, VAWDASV Regional Advisor and third sector specialist delivery partners. • The submission of domestic abuse referrals to specialist support agencies operating within the region and to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences. The Community Safety Partnership commits to scrutinizing agency referral and MARAC data bi-annually to support that improvements in knowledge from training into practice are occurring within the region

Number	Recommendation
	The accessibility of information on domestic abuse, including coercive control within agencies via appropriate audit activity eg. survey data, seeking to ensure that a base-line of regional awareness raising information and materials are available for dissemination within all agencies.
2	That Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership disseminates the learning from this case, with particular emphasis on the options for professionals to implement a multi-agency process to review, analyse, and manage risk, including how the MARAC can interact with adult safeguarding processes when dealing with similar cases.
3	That Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership in conjunction with Cwm Taf Morgannwg Substance Misuse Area Planning Board, reviews the information available to professionals on how they can invoke a multi-agency response to individuals whose alcohol consumption gives rise for concern. This could include a review of the 'Multi-Agency Staff Protocol for the Management of Cases of Serious Self-Neglect' to capture this area of learning.
4	That Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership, in conjunction with Cwm Taf Morgannwg Substance Misuse Area Planning Board, disseminates the learning on this review in relation to the guidance that is available to professionals on how they can work with individuals whose alcohol consumption gives rise for concerns.
5	That Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership should support additional training for agencies operating in the region in respect of MARAC criteria and referral process whilst ensuring that agencies understand that where they hold concerns that the MARAC threshold is potentially met for a victim of domestic abuse, they do not require the "permission or consent" of the victim to submit a MARAC referral; and that all agencies should hold a clear understanding of how to refer in to the MARAC and the purpose of this.
6	That Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership seeks evidence and assurances from agencies involved in this review that that individuals who are alcohol dependent or who are known to misuse alcohol may have reduced capacity in decision making and the context of keeping themselves safe. This should include an understanding of the potential of alcohol-related brain damage that may impact on a victim's ability to keep themselves safe or which may impact their ability to engage effectively in support.
7	That Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership share the published report with both West Glamorgan and Cardiff and Vale

Number	Recommendation
	Regional Safeguarding Boards for the learning to be disseminated within those regions.

10.1.3 Agency Recommendations

There were no single agency recommendations arising from this review.