



Teri Learning Summary

A Domestic Abuse Related Death Review was commissioned in March 2023 following the death by suicide of Teri in November 2022.

Teri was a deeply loved mother, daughter, sister, aunty and friend and had many qualities.

Agency intervention focussed on managing Teri's increasingly complex mental health diagnosis, supporting her children and ensuring she was receiving the right support at the right time. Evidence indicates that Teri was increasingly unhappy in her relationship and the behaviour of her partner impacted her ability to parent, care for herself, return to work and manage competing family dynamics. Her family expressed concerns to professionals supporting Teri, that she was a victim of coercive and controlling behaviour.

Key themes and learning

Controlling and coercive behaviour: can be normalised by the victim. Impacted by 'traditional' family roles and power dynamics.

Mental Health: presentations and evidence of domestic abuse and coercive control can be new experiences for family and friends. Agencies need to understand this in the context of assessment and interventions.

Disclosure: disclosure is one part of a victim's story that should not be considered the only indicator of harm.

Economic abuse: should be explored and considered in agency assessment where domestic abuse and coercive control are identified as a potential risk factor.

Family and friends: testimonial should hold equal weight to agency information and families given time and space to explore their own feelings and thoughts.

Suicide prevention and domestic abuse: should be highlighted in strategy, policy and practice developments including impact of domestic abuse and coercive control on the victim's mental health. Families bereaved by suicide should also be provided with specialist support.

Rural communities: access to services in rural areas needs to be considered, for both mental health and domestic abuse. Understanding the distinct barriers faced by victims in rural communities is also critical to ensuring access to support.