

7 Minute Briefing: Rapid Review/2023/EP

Date: 27 March 2023

7. Next Steps

For the SSCP to ensure that the findings from the Rapid Review are fed through to the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) panel.

For the SSCP to share the learning from this Rapid Review as quickly as possible with all agencies

For the SSCP to take further advice around the holding of personal licenced firearms on school premises and offer more formal guidance to Schools on how this could be managed to reduce safeguarding risks.

On completion of the DHR, to undertake a themed analysis of reviews in Surrey and to create a 7-minute briefing on the learning for publication and dissemination.

6. Findings and Recommendations (2)

The panel agreed that Surrey should encourage all schools to review their existing tenancy agreements as soon as possible in light of this case so that school leader's and governors can identify and mitigate against any risks in the future.

5. Findings and Recommendations (1)

There is a need to check for and overcome unconscious bias and strengthen professional curiosity and challenge when working with all parents, regardless of their socioeconomic background and standing.

Asking pertinent questions around potential Domestic Abuse (DA) and Domestic Violence (DV) should be standard practice when an adult has presented with injuries that could have been caused by DA/DV. There was ample opportunity to ask these questions in this case but professionals missed those opportunities.

Anyone who holds a position of authority and trust in working with children, who is arrested for potential DA/DV should automatically be referred to the LADO, so that any potential safeguarding issues can be discussed and addressed.

1. Background

This case relates to a 7 year old child who was shot and killed along with her Mother by her own Father. Father then took his own life. The incident took place on school premises where the family were residing in a property allocated for the Head Teacher's use (Mother was the Head Teacher) . Father held a licence to hold a firearm which he kept on the School premises. The family were unknown to children's services prior to this incident

2. Learning Point 1

There appeared to be no real investigation into possible Domestic Abuse when Mother attended A&E with facial injuries in Feb 2022. Explanations given by Mother in relation to the cause of the injuries were taken at face value and there was no evidence that further questions were asked by professionals to explore any potential links to Domestic Violence. The panel agreed that pertinent questions about possible DV should be asked as a matter of routine in situations such as this.

3. Learning Point 2

There had been an incident some years earlier where Father had reported Mother to the Police for an alleged attack on him. Mother was subsequently arrested at the time but NOT charged. The LADO was not informed about this incident by the School but regardless of the outcome and Mother's position at that time, such incidents should always be reported to the LADO.

4. Learning Point 3

Father legitimately held a firearms licence however he was living in School property on School premises. Did the School Managers and Governors know about the gun being held on their property and how was this covered in the tenancy agreement? There is an expectation that the tenancy arrangements would forbid the holding of guns (and shotguns) on the premises but this is not a legal requirement at present.

