

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)

A Quick Guide

What is a DHR?

A DHR is carried out when a person aged 16 and over dies as the result of violence, abuse or neglect by a partner or family member.

The Redbridge Community Safety Partnership is responsible for DHRs in Redbridge. They were made a statutory requirement under the [Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act \(2004\) in April 2011](#). Statutory guidance on conducting DHRs can be found on the [Government website](#).

What is the purpose of a DHR?

The purpose of a domestic homicide review 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 those lessons to service responses, including changes to policies and procedures as appropriate
- prevent domestic violence homicide and improve service responses for all domestic violence victims and their children through improved intra- and inter-agency working

Key themes from DHRs

An analysis on a sample of 50 the DHRs by the Home Office identified the following areas for improvement:

Contact

the need for greater contact with victims and recognition that the perpetrator can control the victim's contacts with agencies

Records

information can be missing and not shared between agencies

Support

for staff whose work involved cases of domestic abuse and cases where support for victim was not identified or, where the need for support was identified, but there was no plan to provide it

Risk

the right risk level needs to be identified, with information held by other agencies included

Policy

occasions when action taken was not in line with policy and there were agencies without a domestic abuse policy

Training

the need to update training and make it accessible

Assessment

the need to improve risk assessments, carer's assessments, or mental health assessments

Referrals

are not always made when needed

Information

the need to improve information sharing between agencies, to hold accurate information and then use it effectively to manage risk

Our additional local priority

In all but one of our completed and proposed DHRs the victims were not known to local DA support services. To address this, the council with support from our partners are working on a multi-year domestic abuse training strategy for local professionals and an awareness and behaviour change campaign for residents and communities in Redbridge. The aim will be to increase understanding of domestic abuse and to know where to get help, whether as a professional supporting someone experiencing it, a victim/survivor (including children) or a perpetrator wanting to change their behaviour.

Redbridge's published DHRs can be found on the [Council website](#).

Process for a DHR

1. A domestic homicide or a suicide due to domestic abuse takes place where the victim is a Redbridge resident.

2. Local agencies are informed and asked to scope involvement of the victim, perpetrator, and any children within the family.

3. Agencies who flag involvement are asked to complete an internal management review (IMR) to look at their policy and practice around the individual and identify areas of learning for their agency.

4. From 2023, the Redbridge One Panel review the case and agency involvement to decide whether a DHR is appropriate. The decision is shared with the Home Office who have the power to reverse this decision.

5. If the DHR is agreed, an Independent Chair is appointed who will work with agencies to compile an overview report of the circumstances, learning points and recommendations based on the IMRs and good practice.

6. The DHR is presented to the Redbridge Community Safety Partnership Team for final sign and it is sent to the Home Office for approval. Once it has been approved, the review is published for public consumption on the Council's website.