

Executive Summary

Huntingdonshire CSP



A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) concerning the death of Dan & Paul (pseudonyms) (March 2023)

Author – Jackie Dadd

Date completed – June 2025

Family tribute

The below tributes are taken from extracts of eulogies heard at the funeral of Paul and Dan provided from all of the family members.

Paul was extremely kind, generous, kind and loyal. He was someone who made the most of life and would do anything for his family. He was a hard grafter and a good friend to many.

His hobbies included eating custard creams, a love of cars, his motorbikes and putting a smile on people's faces.

Paul's family clearly meant the world to him, and that showed in everything he did for us and the support he continuously gave to us. If you ever needed him, he was always there for you.

Dan was at the heart of a very big family. He was loved very much by so many people and his smile and laughter will be missed. Dan was a brilliant uncle and dad who had grown from a shy little boy into a confident young man.

Dan was patient, kind and the very best friend you could hope to ever find. We will always remember his cheeky ways, his big heart, his infectious personality and his love for life. He will live on through Ashley who will never forget him.

We all love you.

The Domestic Homicide Review Panel and the members of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership would like to offer their sincere condolences to the family of Dan and Paul, who have lost their loved one in tragic circumstances.

Contents

| | | |
|------------|--|-----------|
| 1. | The Review process | 4 |
| 2. | Review panel members | 5 |
| 3. | Contributors to the review | 6 |
| 4. | Author of the Overview report and Chair | 6 |
| 5. | Terms of Reference | 7 |
| 6. | Summary Chronology | 8 |
| 7. | Key issues arising from the review | 9 |
| 8. | Conclusions | 10 |
| 9. | Lessons to be learnt | 12 |
| 10. | Recommendations | 12 |

1. The review process

1.1 This review examines agencies responses, provisions and support available to Dan and Paul in Cambridgeshire prior to their deaths in March 2023. Dan and Paul, a father and son who were 57 and 32 years of age respectively, were fatally shot in their respective homes on the same night by the Perpetrator, Ray, who was the maternal grandfather of Dan's child, Ashley. This report will explore the private family court proceedings in relation to parental contact and custody of Ashley and the relationship between Dan and his ex-partner, Clare, Ashley's mother.

1.2 Ray was subsequently charged with two counts of murder and pleaded guilty at Cambridge Crown Court where he received life imprisonment for each of the murders with a minimum term of 25 years to be served. The Judge described their murders as an "execution" and stated to Ray that "You took the decision to take the law into your own hands and end the lives of two innocent men."

1.3 Cambridgeshire Police made a referral to Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in November 2023 for consideration for a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) and following a meeting held the same day with representatives from local Authorities, a decision was made to undertake a Domestic Homicide Review as the definition in Section 9 of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act (2004) had been met.

1.4 In accordance with Home Office guidelines to ensure confidentiality, pseudonyms have been utilised throughout this report for the following: (All ages are recorded at the time of Dan & Paul's deaths).

Paul – Deceased. Father of Dan and Grandfather to Ashley. A white British male who was 57 years old.

Dan – Deceased. Father of Ashley and ex-partner of Clare. A white British male who was 32 years old.

Clare – Mother of Ashley and ex-partner of Dan.

Ashley – Child of Dan and Clare. Under 10 years of age.

Ray – Perpetrator. Father of Clare. A white British male who was 66 years old.

Lynne – Mother of Dan, Grandmother of Ashley and previously married to Paul.

Mary – Mother of Paul, Grandmother of Dan.

Andrew – Father of Paul, Grandfather of Dan.

Tony – Best friend of Dan.

Neil – Partner of Clare.

Emily – Cousin of Dan

1.5 The Author spoke to a number of family members who provided information that was pivotal to providing context and information about Dan and Paul and ensuring they were at the centre of this review. Dan’s mother attended the second panel meeting and chose the pseudonym of Dan and Paul’s sons chose his pseudonym. They have had the opportunity to read the overview report and are happy that it is accurate and portrays the reality of the relationship between Dan and Clare and how innocent Paul had been and didn’t deserve what had happened to either of them.

1.6 The Author made contact with Ray via letter to His Majesty’s Prison (HMP) to ascertain if he wished to partake in the review but had no response.

2. Review panel members

2.1 The following agencies/organisations/voluntary bodies have contributed to the Domestic Homicide Review by the provision of IMRs, Summary reports and chronologies.

2.2 The panel comprised of the following:

| Name | Area of responsibility | Organisation |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Vickie Crompton | Manager | Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership |
| Liz Clarke | Service Director – Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement | Children, Education & Families – Cambridgeshire County Council |
| Claire Saggiorato | Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children | NHS Cambs and Peterborough Primary Care Integrated Care Board (ICB) |
| Alicia Yorke | Detective Inspector – Public Protection | Cambridgeshire Police |
| Emma Graves | Neighbourhood & Community Safety Team Leader | East Cambs District Council & East Cambs CSP |
| Clare Owen | Regional Manager | Hastoe Housing |
| Sam Hunt | Acting Deputy Chief Nurse/ Associate Director of Safeguarding | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust – CPFT |
| Mandi George | Lead Officer for Domestic Abuse & Safe Accommodation | Huntingdonshire District Council |
| David Savill | DCI – DA Lead | Cambridgeshire Police |

2.3 Thanks go to all who have assisted and contributed to this review with their valued time and cooperation.

3. Contributors to the review

3.1 The following agencies/organisations/voluntary bodies have contributed to the Domestic Homicide Review by the provision of scoping their records and if necessary, providing reports and chronologies.

| Agency | Contribution |
|--|------------------------------|
| Huntingdonshire District Council | Scoping |
| Cambridgeshire Police | IMR, Panel member |
| Cambridge Children Services | Scoping, Panel member |
| East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) | Scoping |
| Northwest Anglia NHS Foundation Trust (NWAFT) | Scoping, Panel member |
| Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) | Scoping |
| Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership | Oversight, Panel member |
| Cambridgeshire IDVA/MARAC service | Scoping |
| Cambridgeshire Adult Social Care | Scoping |
| East Cambs District Elections Department | Scoping |
| Department of work and Pensions (DWP) | Scoping |
| Hastoe Housing | Scoping, Panel member |
| East Cambs District Council | Scoping, Panel member |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust - CPFT | Scoping, first panel meeting |

Scoping was completed and the following agencies had no record of any contact with Paul, Dan or any other party within this report:

DWP

Cambridgeshire Adult Social Care

Cambridgeshire IDVA Service (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate)

Elections Department – East Cambs Council

4. Author of the Overview report and Chair

4.1 The chair of the review panel and Author of this report is Mrs Jackie Dadd, an independent consultant who is independent of the organisation and agencies contributing to this report. She has no knowledge or association with any of the subjects in this report prior to the commissioning of this review. She is a retired Detective Chief Inspector with

Bedfordshire Police with vast experience of safeguarding and domestic abuse related issues, having been the Force Lead for domestic abuse, stalking and harassment and serious sexual offences and has been involved in the DHR process since its inception in 2011.

4.2 She has completed several training courses including the Home Office online training, the Continuous Professional Development accredited AAFDA (Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse) DHR Chair training, the domestic Abuse and suicide accredited course, and is a member of the AAFDA DHR network, regularly attending the monthly forums for CPD and discussion. Mrs Dadd has obtained the accredited Home Office qualification of a level three certificate in Chairing a Domestic Homicide Review.

4.3 Mrs Dadd has completed and published several DHRs.

5. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (ToR) were not formed until the second panel meeting as it was not felt that enough was known about the circumstances or subjects during the first panel meeting. The family had a pivotal part in forming the Terms of Reference based on their experiences and the ToR focussed on the support provided for a child in circumstances of domestic abuse and the loss of a parent and also the identification of domestic abuse by friends and family, particularly in the case of a male victim.

The full Terms of Reference are below:

- The data parameters under consideration are from 2020 up to the deaths of Paul and Dan to incorporate the child proceedings and anything relevant thereafter as it has been established that there was minimal contact with agencies prior to this.
- This is to be reviewed as a Homicide based on the investigation by appropriate authorities and the findings of the Crown Court.
- Ensure the review seeks to involve the family in the process and takes account of who the family may wish to have involved as lead members. Identify any other people the family think may assist or be relevant in the review process.
- What support mechanisms are available to children who have lost their parent through DA and has this been available to Dan's child?
- What specialist support is provided for those taking on a parental role when a child has lost their parent due to DA?
- What provisions are available for male victims in Cambridgeshire and are there any barriers identified to prevent a male asking for support?
- Do communications and publications within Cambridgeshire provide sufficient accessibility to information for the public in relation to identifying domestic abuse within their family or friendships?
- Identify good practice

- Were procedures sensitive to any protected characteristics of the deceased's that are relevant in this case?

6. Summary chronology

6.1 Paul and Lynne were married in 1990 and had three boys, with Dan being the middle child. They had a large extended family and were all close. Their marriage ended in 1996 on good terms with them maintaining contact for the children, always ensuring they were the main priority with them both remaining a constant in their lives.

6.2 Dan and Clare met in a pub in Cambridgeshire around 2010 and Dan embarked on his first relationship. Different members of the family and friends observed Clare's behaviour throughout their relationship. Clare had a jealousy issue which meant that Dan was not allowed to look in the direction of or speak to any females while he was out. He had a close relationship with his cousin, Emily and if he spoke to her at family parties, Clare would sit away from everyone and sit and sulk and then not speak to him afterwards.

6.3 Dan went on a football trip with his friends to Marbella and Clare turned up in the hotel to check up on him as she would if he was on a night out with them. He once gave Emily a lift and made her lie on the back seat as Clare would park opposite the house and then ring him to see if he was where he said he was.

6.4 Dan tried to end the relationship on a number of occasions. Clare would cry and threaten to kill herself and this would upset Dan so the relationship would resume a few days later. Dan tried to let her down gently and informed her that he was going to go travelling with his cousin, Emily to Australia. Clare fell pregnant very shortly afterwards and therefore, he didn't go.

6.5 Dan did not want a relationship with Clare and did not move in during the pregnancy but took his responsibilities as a father seriously and therefore, moved in two weeks after Ashley had been born. Dan was very 'hands on' as a father but when Ashley was three months old, he told his mum that he couldn't deal with her behaviour anymore as she had 'kicked off' when he had told her he was popping out to see his cousin Emily and he moved out.

6.6 Access to Ashley was problematic for Dan as Clare would find reasons for him not to see him. He managed to save up for his own property by living with Paul and applied to the family courts for formalised arrangements which were granted.

6.7 Clare began a relationship with a US Military man named Neil, and they were married shortly after and Clare fell pregnant. She would stop Ashley going to school on a Monday if he had been with Dan, stating he was too tired and allege Dan had caused any bruising if he fell over. She had a fear of him choking and would not let him eat solid foods, even though the Health Visitor advised her to.

6.8 Clare made constant applications to the Courts for changes to access, change of Ashley's name all of which were declined. Dan had made the decision to apply for joint custody of Ashley and Paul and Lynne stated that they would support him and help him financially. Clare asked for a meeting with Dan and his parents in which they met with her father and Neil. Clare had initially told Dan that Neil was being recalled to America for three years but admitted during this meeting that it would be permanent and that they were going to take Ashley and their new baby back with them.

6.9 Dan applied to the court to stop this happening and during March 2023, they attended an interim Family Court hearing in which the Judge made the ruling that Ashley was not to be taken out of the country. It appears from information gathered that Clare and Ray believed this was the final decision.

6.10 A few days later, Ray attended the home addresses of Dan and Paul, where he brutally shot them multiple times and they both died of their catastrophic injuries. Ray pleaded guilty to both murders and received life imprisonment for each with a minimum sentence of 25 years to serve.

7. Key issues arising from the review

Recognising and identifying domestic abuse towards males

7.1 Many different behaviours of Clare and incidents involving her that were strains of domestic abuse were witnessed by Dan, his family members and his friends. He would openly discuss these with those closest to them and they all described her behaviour as 'weird,' 'bizarre' and they knew it wasn't right, with many of them feeling that she had 'trapped' him by getting pregnant to stop him going travelling with his female cousin and ending the relationship. However, they did not, at the time, (including Dan himself), recognise this to be domestic abuse and therefore, did not consider what support he may need from either themselves or trained advocates.

7.2 Using the threat of suicide when Dan told her that the relationship was over is identified as stage 7 of the Homicide Timeline outlined by Jane Monckton-Smith¹ which is a high-risk stage of last attempts to maintain the relationship with control which saw Dan return to Clare a few days later.

7.3 The panel discussed that the fact that Dan was male may have been a reason not to recognise DA and also discussed how other forms of abuse such as stalking and emotional abuse can be recognised by others and how to break the stereotypical myth of physical assault as the only means of domestic abuse, specifically with male victims. Previous projects were discussed in relation to promotions within sports clubs but they received

¹ In control -Jane Monckton-Smith - Bloomsbury

'pushback' and it was felt that this was due to there still being embarrassment and shame around the subject. (Recommendation refers)

8. Conclusions

8.1 From the beginning of their relationship, Clare attempted to control Dan by her behaviour towards him in relation to his female cousin and other female friends, showing jealousy and moods, attempting to isolate him and not being afraid to do this in front of others.

8.2 Dan changed the way in which he lived his life in relation to looking at the floor when he was walking out in public and asking his cousin to duck down in the car so that she couldn't be seen, even though he was not doing anything wrong.

8.3 The stalking element began as Clare initially followed Dan abroad whilst he was away with his football team and then continued by sitting outside his house in her car and phoning him to check if he was where he said he was. During the Police investigation and subsequent court procedures, it was disclosed that Ray had also been stalking Dan and Paul as he had photographs on his phone that he had taken when Dan and Paul, with the family had taken Ashley for a day to the seaside amongst others.

8.4 Although Dan and his family and friends were aware that Clare's behaviour was wrong, they did not recognise it as domestic abuse and from what they can say, Dan didn't either although he was open to them about her actions and how it made him feel. Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) partnership have completed a number of pieces of work in the community since 2021 in relation to male victims and have a male IDVA available and the panel is satisfied that this work is the correct strategy in the area and they are committed to continuing this good work. However, it is recognised by the panel and re-iterated by Paul and Dan's family and friends, that there is still more work to be done to assist those living in Cambridgeshire in both recognising that they are victim's or friends and family recognising that they are victims of domestic abuse and then how they can support and advise their loved one in these circumstances.

8.5 Clare continued to apply control over Dan and although, at times, he ended the relationship, Clare would use methods such as emotionally blackmailing him with threats of suicide and he would return to the relationship. At the time when he was going to end it and go travelling to Australia with his female cousin, Clare informed him shortly afterwards that she was pregnant, knowing that Dan would take his responsibility as a father seriously and therefore, he cancelled his travelling plans.

8.6 From the moment Ashley was born, Clare used Dan's love for him as leverage and another angle of control over him. Once he had finally ended the relationship, she would dictate contact, afford blame for any bruises or illnesses a child ordinarily receives as they grow up and stop him from seeing him. Emotional abuse was directed towards Dan as Clare

applied to the courts for a change of Ashley's surname, fought the application for contact and then joint custody and then planned to take Ashley to live in America with her away from Dan.

8.7 The panel acknowledges and commends both the family court and the judge's ability to recognise the abuse that was being directed towards Dan and the damaging effect that this may have on Ashley both before and after Dan's death. The judge commented on 'the dishonest picture' Clare tried to present on Dan's parenting capacity and 'her lack of insight and ability to meet Ashley's emotional needs.' He went on to state, "In my judgement, Ashley was suffering harm for a long time as a result of the animosity towards his father and the desire to reduce his father's role in his life."

8.8 The panel recognises that the police had insufficient evidence to prosecute either Clare or Neil for conspiracy to murder. From Ray's comments to the court, following his guilty plea that the motive for the murders was to ensure that Ashley could go abroad with Clare, serves as a stark reminder for Family Courts who deal with these circumstances on a regular basis of the lengths that people may go to in order to ensure that they get their desired outcome.

8.9 The police comment on the escalation in veracity of the texts that were found between Clare and Ray in relation to Dan, specifically following Court hearings. From information told to Dan's family from their solicitor, he believed Clare and Ray were under the incorrect impression that the last Family Court hearing that they attended, where the Judge made the order that Ashley was not to be taken out of the country, was the final one and this appeared to be the catalyst to Ray's actions a couple of days later as he thought that they had 'lost'. When considering the Homicide timeline as aforementioned, he moved very quickly through the stages of 6-8 with homicidal ideation due to irretrievable last chance thinking, the gathering of weapons and then the final act of committing the homicides.

8.10 The circumstances prior to Dan and Paul's death are very different. Dan suffered from domestic abuse in his relationship and Clare continued with emotional abusive and coercive and controlling behaviour by orchestrating numerous court applications, restricting Dan's access to his child and exchanging texts with her father Ray, that were of such that the prosecution states that it displayed a joint hatred of Dan. Paul became involved out of pure love and support for his son in being able to continue to see Ashley and did this through assisting him financially and attending Court with him. His death was a chain of causation due to the domestic abuse inflicted on Dan as without the abuse and child proceedings, there was no intervening act.

8.11 Both were murdered by the maternal grandfather of their son and grandson.

9. Lessons to be learnt

The effects that the media can have on a grieving family

9.1 Lynne informed both the Author and then the panel of the awful footage shown on television of her son being put into the back of a vehicle in a body bag without her knowing that he had been taken from the scene or where he was being taken and the impact this had on her. Also, the number of reporters that contacted their home and waited outside their home, intruding on their privacy at what was the worst time in their lives and not allowing them to grieve in private.

9.2 Although the Police deploy Family Liaison Officers who work with the Police communications department, they do not have control over the fact that photographs can be taken from social media accounts and technology gives the press and media far greater access to events than in previous times.

9.3 Media actions are not recognising that families are also the victims of domestic abuse when they have lost a loved one, as has been recognised in the Victims and prisoners bill 2024. Press and media regulations need to reflect this and implement processes to take families and loved ones into consideration in this circumstance ahead of prioritising providing information to the public. ([Recommendation refers](#))

10. Recommendations

Some of the recommendations from this review have come directly from feedback from the family.

National

- 1. The Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) to review and regulate the timing of the release of footage to the public by consulting the police first to ensure the family are aware of the content.**

This is to prevent the traumatic events that Lynne and her family witnessed hours after the death of her son and ex-husband being repeated. It will bring a level of both respect and regulation to an area that the police are unable to control.

- 2. The Independent Standards Organisation (IPSO) to regulate journalists approaching and contacting family members following the death of a loved one.**

This will provide privacy to family members in the aftermath of losing a loved one and ensure that journalists go through the appropriate channels i.e. Corporate Communication Departments of the Police, to gain accurate information.

Local

- 3. Cambridgeshire DASV partners to form a working group to identify methods of reaching the community to promote identification of domestic abuse in all forms on male victims.**

The purpose of this is to build on the work that has already been completed but reach further and in more depth as it is apparent from the family's feedback that male victims of domestic abuse are not being identified.

- 4. Cambridgeshire Police to implement training to all frontline officers of the processes and procedures of the deployment of FLO's.**

This will ensure that correct information is provided both at the scene and if any enquiries are made by the family that do not go directly to the MCU. Thus, negating providing any false expectations to the family and creating confusion.

- 5. Cambridgeshire Police to ensure that as part of their processes with any media releases following a major incident, that communication is made with the FLO to ensure the family are aware beforehand.**

This is to negate any information being released by Cambridgeshire Police to the media of which the family did not have prior knowledge.