

**Overview report**  
**Huntingdonshire CSP**



**A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)**  
**concerning the death of Paul and Dan**  
**(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 Abuse Related Death Review Panel and the members of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership would like to offer their sincere condolences to the whole family of Paul and Dan, who have lost their loved ones in tragic circumstances.

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## Preface

The key purpose of any Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) given to a victim of domestic abuse prior to their death and to enable lessons to be learnt where there may be links with domestic abuse. For these lessons to be learnt as widely and thoroughly as possible, professionals need to be able to understand fully what happened in each death, and most importantly, what needs to change in order to reduce the risk of such tragedies happening in the future. The victim's death in this case met the criteria for conducting a DHR according to Statutory Guidance<sup>1</sup> under Section 9 (3)(1) of the Domestic Violence, Crime, and Victims Act 2004. The Act states that there should be a "review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by-

(a) a person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or

(b) a member of the same household as himself, held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death".

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and the Home Office defines Domestic Abuse as:

Behaviour of a person ("A") towards another person ("B") is "domestic abuse" if—

- (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and
- (b) the behaviour is abusive.

Behaviour is "abusive" if it consists of any of the following—

- (a) Physical or sexual abuse
- (b) Violent or threatening behaviour
- (c) Controlling or coercive behaviour
- (d) Economic abuse
- (e) Psychological, emotional or other abuse

and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

"Economic abuse" means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on B's ability to—

- (a) Acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or
- (b) Obtain goods or services.

For the purposes of this Act A's behaviour may be behaviour "towards" B despite the fact that it consists of conduct directed at another person (for example, B's child).

Controlling behaviour is:

A range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is:

An act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim. The term domestic abuse will be used throughout this review as it reflects the range of behaviours encapsulated within the above definition and avoids the inclination to view domestic abuse in terms of physical assault only.

Recommendations will be made at the end of this report, however, there has been an ongoing action plan introduced by the panel, parallel to this review to ensure that the areas that can be immediately addressed have not incurred unnecessary delay.

## **Glossary**

**AAFDA** – Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse

**CAFCASS** – Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

**CSP** – Community Safety Partnership

**DHR** – Domestic Homicide Review

**FLC** – Family Liaison Co-ordinator

**FLO** – Family Liaison Officer

**GP** – General Practitioner (Doctor)

**HMP** – His Majesty's Prison

**MCU** – Major Crime Unit

## Section 1 - Introduction

### 1.1 The commissioning of the review

**1.1.1** 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.

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.”

Cambridgeshire Police made a referral to Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the same day, a decision was made to undertake a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) as the definition in section 9 of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act (2004) had been met.

#### 1.1.2 Contributors to the review

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

### 1.1.3 Review Panel

The following agencies/organisations/voluntary bodies have contributed to the Domestic Homicide Review by the provision of reports and chronology. Individual Management Reviews (IMRs) have been requested and supplied:

1.1.4 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

1.1.5 There was initial representation from CPFT in regard to mental health, but they requested to withdraw from the panel following the first meeting due to capacity and there not being any perceived mental health issues. They agreed that they would re-engage if required.

1.1.6 All members of the panel and authors of the IMRs have complete independence from any subject in this review. The Review Chair and Panel gave due consideration for the content of the DHR and it was agreed that reports, chronologies, IMRs and other supplementary details would form the basis of the information provided. Thanks go to all who have assisted and contributed to this review with their valued time and cooperation.

### **1.1.7 Author of the Overview report**

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.

She has completed several training courses including the Home Office online training, the Continuous Professional Development accredited AAFDA 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.

Mrs Dadd has completed and published several DHRs.

## **1.2 Purpose of the review**

The purposes of a DHR are to:

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) Apply these lessons to service responses including changes to inform national and local policies and procedures as appropriate.
- d) 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.
- e) Contribute to a better understanding of the nature of domestic violence and abuse; and
- f) Highlight good practice.

DHRs are not inquiries into how the victim died or into who is culpable; that is a matter for the Coroner and criminal courts, respectively, to determine as appropriate. DHRs are not part of any disciplinary inquiry or process. Part of the rationale for the review is to ensure that agencies are responding appropriately to victims of domestic abuse by offering and putting in place appropriate support mechanisms, procedures, resources and interventions

with an aim to avoid future incidents of domestic homicide and domestic abuse. The review also assesses whether agencies have sufficient and effective procedures and protocols in place which were understood and adhered to by their staff.

This review will ascertain whether domestic abuse could have been the cause or a contributory factor to the deaths of Paul and Dan. It is not to apportion blame, but to view the circumstances through their eyes.

## 1.3 Timescales

**1.3.1** Following the deaths of Paul and Dan, Cambridgeshire Police made a referral to Huntingdonshire CSP based on the circumstances of the death and the application to the court to remove Ashley to the USA, for the consideration of a DHR.

The same day, Huntingdonshire CSP, in accordance with the December 2016 Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance for the conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews commissioned this Domestic Homicide Review. Mrs Jackie Dadd was commissioned to provide an independent Chair and Author for this DHR a few days later. The Home Office were notified later the same month.

Three separate panel meetings then took place. The completed report was handed to the Huntingdonshire CSP on the 23<sup>RD</sup> of June 2025.

### 1.3.2 Table outlining timeline of review

March 2023	Fatal shootings of Paul and Dan
06/07/23	Cambridgeshire Police make a referral to Huntingdonshire CSP
06/07/23	Decision to commission a DHR made by Huntingdonshire CSP
08/07/23	Mrs Jackie Dadd commissioned as Chair and Author
18/07/23	Home Office notified of the decision to commission a DHR
22/09/23	First Panel meeting
10/02/25	Second Panel meeting
24/04/25	Third Panel meeting
23/06/25	Completed report handed to Huntingdonshire CSP

**1.3.3** Home Office guidance states that the review should be completed within six months of the initial decision to establish one. There was a significant delay in the completion of the review due to awaiting the completion of the judicial process and the Police investigation into the conspiracy to murder of Clare and Neil.

## **1.4 Confidentiality**

This report has been treated as Official Sensitive and dissemination kept to those outlined at 1.9.

The pseudonyms used in this report were chosen by Lynne and her family to protect the identity of those referred to throughout the report. Full details are found at 1.6 of this report.

The Huntingdonshire CSP and Author have ensured that the collation of information and the information contained within this report complies with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

## **1.5 Terms of Reference (ToR)**

**1.5.1** The Terms of Reference 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 can be found at Appendix A at the end of this report.

### **1.5.2 Methodology**

Following the initial scoping phase, it was ascertained that there was little information held on the records of the authorities in relation to Paul or Dan or any other subjects of this review. The Senior Investigating Officer of the murder investigation agreed that information would be shared with the author for the panel to review and include within the report.

Neither the Police or Children's Services had permission to share the Court records of the Judges comments and findings from the private Child Court proceedings.

Family and friends were approached and identified to gain further insight and information into Paul and Dan's lives and their relationship with Ray and Clare, particularly once the Family Court proceedings had begun. The Author sent a letter to the HMP in which Ray is incarcerated, inviting and requesting him to speak to her, but no reply was received.

Three panel meetings were held, with Lynne being present throughout the second panel meeting and having a valued input to form the Terms of Reference and identify potential recommendations.

The Author identified that the Family Court Proceedings and information from CAFCASS would be beneficial to the review. CAFCASS were approached and stated that they were not able to provide any information or partake without a Court Order. Children Social Care and

the Police did not have the authority to share the Family Court Proceedings orders with the review and a Court Order was not applied for by Cambridgeshire County Council.

The report and all recommendations were agreed by the panel.

## **1.6 Subjects of the review/Family and friends' involvement**

**1.6.1** In accordance with Home Office guidelines to ensure confidentiality, pseudonyms have been used throughout this report for the following: (All ages are recorded at the time of Paul and Dan'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.

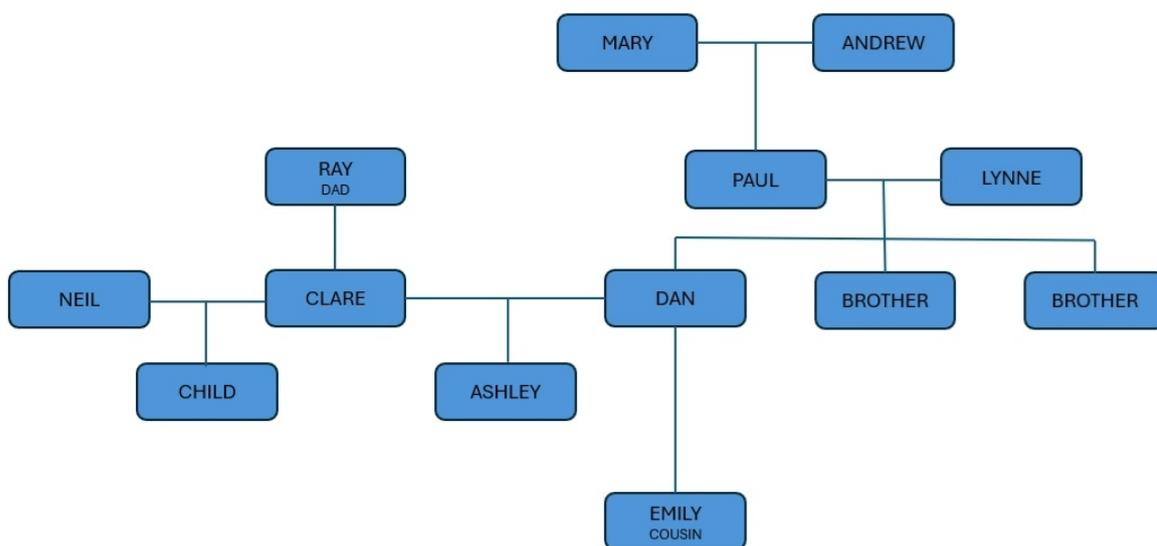
**Neil** – Partner of Clare.

**Emily** – Cousin of Dan

**1.6.2** Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership sent letters to Andrew and Mary, the parents of Paul, and Lynne, the mother of Dan, informing them of the commissioning of the DHR and providing them with the details of AAFDA. The Author spoke to Mary on the phone who provided as much information as she could but did not wish to attend any panel meetings or have support from AAFDA at that time although it was re-iterated to her that it was an ongoing availability.

**1.6.3** The author had contact with Lynne via email and phone on several occasions along with her eldest son and her husband until she felt able to partake in the review. The author then visited her at her home address where they spoke at length and Lynne attended the second panel meeting. Lynne is receiving support from her Homicide Victim Care worker and is receiving counselling so does not feel that she requires AAFDA support at this time.

## 1.6.4 Genogram



**1.6.5** A number of Paul and Dan’s family and friends were contacted and spoken to by the Author in order to provide context and understanding of their lives and their relationships with Clare and Ray.

Both Lynne and Mary were sent a draft copy of the report for their observations and additional input and following a few tweaks for accuracy, were content with the report and felt it portrayed 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.

## 1.7 Parallel reviews

### 1.7.1 Coroner

A Coroner’s Inquest was opened and suspended whilst awaiting the outcome of the criminal proceedings and the Police investigation. A decision has now been made to await the completion of the Domestic Homicide Review prior to the inquest being heard.

A forensic post-mortem was held on both Paul and Dan.

Paul was found to have three gunshot wounds, two to the body and one to the head. The most significant was the head injury, which would have resulted in rapid onset of death. The second, to the right chest caused damage to internal organs including the lungs and heart and would have been rapidly incapacitating and likely fatal in isolation.

The findings of the cause of death for Paul were:

1) Shot Gun Wounds to the head and torso

Dan was found to have two gunshot wounds, one to the head and one to the chest. Due to the presence of the volume of bleeding, it is likely the first to occur was to the left chest with the second to the head. Both wounds were significantly incapacitating and either would have been rapidly fatal.

The findings of the cause of death for Dan were:

1) Shotgun Wounds to the Head and Chest

## 1.8 Equality and Diversity

**1.8.1** The review gave due consideration to each of the protected characteristics under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The relevant legislation that provided the context for the panel was The Equality Act 2010.

Throughout this review process the Panel has considered the issues of equality in particular the nine protective characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. These are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage or civil partnership (in employment only)
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

**1.8.2** Key considerations for the panel were the sex and age of both Paul and Dan.

From 2012/3 to 2022/23, statistics of domestic homicides in England and Wales show that the proportion of victims who are male has increased from 23% to 35%.<sup>1</sup>

In October 2023, Coodes Solicitors published an article referring to how approximately 1 in 6 men in the UK have experienced some form of domestic abuse during their lifetime with over 700,000 men falling victim to domestic abuse each year. It is reported that male victims often suffer in silence, with fewer than 1 in 10 seeking formal help.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Key findings from analysis of domestic homicide reviews: September 2021 to October 2022 \(accessible\) - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Breaking the silence: Men suffering Domestic Abuse - Coodes Solicitors](#)

Dan's age of 32 years at the time of his death is relevant for the panel to ascertain whether it was recognised that a person of his young age with a young child who had additional needs and an ongoing contact and custody issues would need additional support from the few agencies he was in contact with. Between April 2023 and March 2024, there were 44 homicides of white males between 25-34 years and 55 homicides of the same grouping aged 45 – 54 years (Paul's age) which is the highest of any age group.<sup>3</sup>

The panel considered race. Race was not seen as relevant to this review in relation to quality and diversity as all persons were defined as white British apart from Neil, who was white American. Although his nationality was poignant due to the issue of whether Ashley would go with his mother, Clare, to live in America, it was not seen as relevant relating to the essence of this section.

That is also the case for pregnancy and maternity as although Clare's pregnancy and birth of Ashley form part of the controlling and coercive behaviour towards Dan, the relevance of the Equality Act 2010 is in relation to unfavourable treatment in the workplace in this area so the panel have not included analysis on this.

**1.8.3** Equality is about ensuring everybody has an equal opportunity and is not treated differently or discriminated against because of their characteristics. Diversity is about taking account of the differences between people and groups of people and placing a positive value on those differences.

## 1.9 Dissemination

Recipients who received copies of this report prior to publication:

Relevant members of Huntingdonshire CSP

Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Family members

Domestic Abuse Commissioner

Panel members as at 1.1

Cambridgeshire Coroner's office

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<sup>3</sup> ONS Homicides 2024

## Section 2 – The Facts

### 2.1 Background information

#### 2.1.1 Paul and Dan

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.

Paul and Lynne continued to speak most days as Lynne remained with the boys and even when Lynne re-married, Paul and Dan built Lynne and her husband's home due to them being builders. Everyone always got on, with their sons seemingly unaffected by the break-up and Paul would still attend family events and parties.

Paul was a builder and taught Dan the skills of the trade. Dan was easy-going with different groups of friends. He was health conscious and went boxing training at a local boxing club. Dan was shy at school to begin with because of his dyslexia, but he thrived at secondary school where he was likeable and good-looking. He was very close to his brothers and once he had become a builder, he would sometimes work on projects with Paul.

#### 2.1.2 Combined chronology

(The information and observations of the relationship are made by family and friends due to the lack of agency contact)

**2.1.3** Dan and Clare met in a pub in Cambridgeshire around 2010 and settled into a relationship shortly after Clare had been on holiday to America. Dan would confide in his mum, Lynne about his relationship as this was his first girlfriend. They seemed to have fun together and she would come round the house and cook for Dan and his younger brother if he was there.

**2.1.4** The issues were more apparent when they went out together outside of the house. They used to argue if Dan spoke to any other females or if Dan's friends were there, Clare would sit and sulk with her legs jiggling and not speak. Dan liked to have a laugh and was a different personality to Clare who was far more reserved and Lynne would say to him that she may be a bit shy as she is an only child and he was from a large family to try and be balanced about it when he asked her advice.

**2.1.5** On one occasion when they had been away for a week on holiday, Dan told his mum that it had been a nightmare and outlines some differences between himself and Clare. He said it wasn't an enjoyable holiday. Problems with women continued in the vein of, if he was watching Motocross on television with females in bikinis, Clare would turn the television off and he would have to look at the floor when walking along the street with her in case he glanced or made eye contact with any females. Dan told his mum how she was getting

obsessive and it was ridiculous, but Lynne thought he must be exaggerating and did not take too much notice at the time until Lynne witnessed concerning behaviour from Clare for herself.

**2.1.6** Dan had always had a close friendship with his cousin, Emily since they were little. This was an apparent issue with Clare and she did not like her. On one occasion, following a family party at Lynne's house, everyone went up to the pub where Dan and Clare had left for earlier in the evening. As soon as they arrived, there was an atmosphere and when Dan began to talk to Emily, Clare went and sat over the other side of the bar and ignored everyone all evening. Her face looked angry and when they all returned home, she sat outside in the car and refused to go in. Dan said at the time that he had done nothing wrong and so he didn't go outside to talk her into coming in.

**2.1.7** Dan's best friend, Tony tells how if they were on a boys night out, Clare would just turn up and they would try and hide from her. Dan would find her behaviour annoying and frustrating but would 'laugh it off' with his mates.

On one occasion, Tony, Dan and others from the football team went to Marbella on holiday and one day whilst at the hotel, Clare turned up unannounced to 'check up on him' and had booked into the hotel next door.

**2.1.8** Dan told Lynne that he was going to end the relationship. After meeting her to tell her, he returned home upset and informed his mum that it was absolutely horrendous and that she had cried and threatened to kill herself. Over the next few days, she sent him texts saying that she would not behave that way again and would not be so possessive, so he gave her another chance.

**2.1.9** Things were ok for a while but then Clare began to slip back to her old ways. Dan would arrive at home and state that he had seen her outside in her car hidden up the street. She would ring him and ask where he was to check if he was where she had followed him to. On one occasion, Dan had offered to give Emily and her friend a lift somewhere and he asked them to duck down in the back seat of the car so that they could not be seen in case Clare was watching him.

**2.1.10** Dan tried to end the relationship on more than one occasion, not daring to be on social media in case he did something that would anger her. He had decided to try and let her down gradually and had decided to go travelling, potentially to Australia. Clare then fell pregnant which did not surprise his friends in whom he had confided. Dan did not move in with Clare during her pregnancy as he did not want to be with her but took his responsibilities as a father seriously and therefore, moved in two weeks after Ashley had been born.

**2.1.11** 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.

**2.1.12** There was no structure to Dan seeing Ashley initially and it was only when Clare said so in which he had to persuade her beforehand. He was not allowed to have Ashley

overnight. Both Paul and Lynne continued to offer support to Clare but only saw Ashley when Dan had him as their offers to take him to the park and suchlike were declined.

**2.1.13** Dan had moved in with his dad, Paul to save money on rent so that he could save to get somewhere big enough for him and Ashley when he came to stay. He became frustrated that Clare would not let Ashley mix or play with other children. Whenever Dan was allowed to have him, Lynne would go over to Paul's house and they would all do something or go out somewhere together. Lynne would host Ashley's birthday parties and Clare would attend but would not speak to anyone.

**2.1.14** On one occasion, whilst Dan was looking after Ashley, he fell over and bumped his head. Paul and Dan took him to the hospital to get him checked over, just to be on the safe side and contacted Clare to let her know. Whilst they were at the hospital, Clare arrived with her dad, Ray and both of them were 'fuming' with Ray making comments to Dan in a slightly threatening manner. The consultant informed them all that Ashley was fine and Ray questioned this in an accusing manner towards Dan and the consultant had to re-iterate this.

**2.1.15** Whenever Ashley returned home after being with Dan, Clare would inspect him all over and if she found the smallest bruise on his legs, she would 'have a go' at Dan and blamed him for any bruises he obtained even when he started school. In 2017, there were referrals made to Children's Services from Ray and the NSPCC (believed to be instigated by Ray) in relation to bruising following Ashley being with Dan but this did not require any further action as they were satisfied there was no foul play. It got to the point where Dan would panic if Ashley fell over as he knew he would be blamed and it used against him in relation to access.

**2.1.16** Clare had a fear of Ashley choking to the point where the Health Visitor had to tell her that she had to feed him solid food. There were never any toys about her house as she said it made it look a mess. When her mum died, her dad used to visit her every day. Clare still didn't go out much and would keep Ashley away from school for any excuse, including that it was too icy and had been snowing. She wouldn't let Ashley go to any friend's birthday parties, even when Lynne, Paul or Dan offered to be the ones to transport and escort.

**2.1.17** Clare then met Neil who was from the US Military but based in England. Dan was relieved as he thought this may make her happier and subsequently make his life easier. Neil and Dan got on well initially but access to Ashley became far more difficult again and within two months of meeting Neil, Clare was pregnant.

**2.1.18** Some solicitor's arrangements had been put in place for access of Ashley for a couple of years but issues had still continued with Clare still wanting to control visits.

**2.1.19** During 2020, Paul, Dan, Ashley, Clare, Neil and the new baby all caught Covid. Clare blamed Dan for this as he had gone to watch a football match outside and there was no evidence he had caught it first. Dan's contact with Ashley became limited as Clare would stop his contact and worried what Ashley thought, Dan made the decision to apply for joint

custody and numerous solicitors letters began to go back and forth and relationships became worse.

**2.1.20** It was at this time that Dan began to have severe dermatological issues and had to contact the doctor frequently. He was receiving nasty messages from Clare who had stopped him seeing Ashley for some time and he therefore wanted it official with the Courts that he had access to Ashley. The order initially stated that Dan could have Ashley every other weekend and one night in the week.

**2.1.21** A pattern then started to emerge of Clare picking trivial things to 'have a go' at Dan for following him having Ashley. It did change slightly with both parties agreeable as the school had mentioned that it was unsettling Ashley for him to stay with Dan during the week so this day changed to a Friday. However, Clare then began to stop Ashley going to school on a Monday, stating that he was too tired, blaming Dan for this. Dan only found this out through the school informing him. All of these accusations were beginning to take their toll on Dan who would ask his mum 'What will be next'?

**2.1.22** Clare then took Dan to court as she wished to change Ashley's surname to which Dan refused and the Judge also decided against this. Dan had always bought clothes for Ashley to wear whilst he was with him but did not mind returning him to Clare whilst he was in them. Following her not being able to change Ashley's name, she bagged up all of the clothes and her dad, Ray handed them back to him one evening when he dropped Ashley off saying 'We don't want these.'

**2.1.23** Dan had made the decision with his family that he was going to apply for joint custody to ensure Clare could not stop him seeing Ashley. Contrary to what Dan had initially been told when Neil and Clare began their relationship, Dan found out that Neil was being posted back to America and that Clare wanted to take Ashley with them.

**2.1.24** Ray suggested a meeting between the families at a coffee shop in which Ray and Clare met Dan, Paul, Lynne and her husband. Clare initially said that it was only for three years and Dan tried to offer suggestions of how he could look after Ashley to save disruption and keep his routine due to his additional needs. When pushed on the matter, Clare admitted that the move would be permanent and it appeared that Ray was going to buy property over there and spend six months out of the year there.

**2.1.25** Family Court proceedings had begun in which they had to attend on a few occasions. During March 2023, they attended the Family Court where the Judge made the ruling that Ashley was not to be taken out of the country to America. This was an interim hearing although it appeared from what Dan's solicitor said to him and Paul and also from findings during the police investigation that Clare and Ray thought that this was a final hearing. Clare and Neil were living in a hotel at this point. Ashley then spent the weekend with Dan.

## **2.2 Circumstances of the deaths of Paul and Dan**

**2.2.1** On the Sunday evening, Paul went with Dan to drop Ashley back with Clare as there had been a lot of hostility towards him at the Court a few days previously. This took place in a coffee shop car park. Paul stayed in the car and Ashley was met by Neil who took Ashley from him, saluted him and then walked off back to his car. Paul told Lynne how strange and hostile this was.

**2.2.2** Paul called Lynne to make sure she was ok as he knew how worried she was about Dan and the concern that Ashley could be taken out of the country without them knowing. She describes it as a lovely call in which he told her not to worry and reassured her. He sounded really happy. This was the last time she spoke to him.

**2.2.3** She went to see Dan at his home to make sure he was ok following the Court attendance and he said that they should all go on holiday when it was all over. He seemed relaxed as he was talking with his solicitor when she left. This was the last time Lynne saw her son.

**2.2.4** At 21.06hrs on the Wednesday evening, neighbours reported hearing gunshots and had seen a male putting a shotgun in the boot of his car. Dan was found deceased in his home having received two gunshot wounds.

**2.2.5** Twenty minutes later, in a village nearby, a neighbour reported hearing a smashing sound and then gunshots. Paul was found deceased in his home having received three gunshot wounds. Members of Paul's family attended his home having heard of his death and were taken to a nearby Police station with few details known at that time. They were informed that an FLO was on the way to their home, but this was not the case.

**2.2.6** Ray was arrested on suspicion of murder in his bloodstained vehicle with 2 x spent cartridges in the boot whilst travelling north that same night and the bloodstained shotgun with spent casing was found in his campervan which he lived in.

**2.2.7** Clare and Neil were also arrested and the two children taken into Police Protection and then placed into emergency foster care. They were returned to Clare following a Family Court hearing after she was released under investigation. Ray admitted murdering both Dan and Paul alluding to this being over the Family Court proceedings.

**2.2.8** Ray was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum of 25 years to serve at Cambridge Crown Court in which the Judge described the killings as an 'execution'. The Court of Appeal extended this sentence to a minimum of 30 years to be served.

**2.2.9** An investigation continued in regard to Clare and Neil for conspiracy to murder. Whilst this was ongoing, Family Court proceedings took place in relation to the custody of Ashley in which a psychological report was written on Clare and CAFCASS provided a report on Ashley. The Court awarded Legal Guardianship of Ashley to Lynne.

**2.2.10** No charges were brought against Clare or Neil in relation to Conspiracy to murder due to a lack of evidence.

## 2.3 Individual management reviews (IMRs)

### 2.3.1 Cambridgeshire Police & Major Crime Unit (MCU)

The Major Crime Unit is a collaborated unit under Joint Protective Services (JPS) and completes Major investigations including murders for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Constabulary's. When implementing any policies or processes for JPS, agreement must be sought from all three Constabulary's. The Family Liaison Co-ordinator oversees the deployment, training and strategies of the Family Liaison Officers (FLO).

When a homicide occurs, the MCU will investigate the circumstances following the initial attendance in all three counties. Family Liaison Officers will be assigned to the family in order to both provide them with information and gain information for the investigation. The FLO's will be deployed and contact the family within the first 24 hours of an incident.

On this occasion, the Family Liaison Coordinator can confirm that the Family Liaison Officers were deployed the following morning within twelve hours of their deaths with both Dan's mother and Paul's parents having them assigned to assist them.

## 2.4 Summary reports

### 2.4.1 GP Surgery – Dan

Between 2020 and 2023, Dan suffered from dermatological issues in different forms around his head area and also suffered loss of hair. Due to Covid, most of his treatment was via email. Photos were used during Covid by GPs to enable effective and timely advice and treatment on skin conditions etc when people could not visit into the GP practices due to lockdown restrictions etc. This was endorsed NHS practice at the time i.e. from 2020/21 The [NHS Transformation Directorate](#) is actively exploring and implementing digital tools that allow patients to send images (photos) of skin conditions or other relevant information to clinicians for review. This can improve the efficiency and convenience of care, particularly for patients with chronic conditions or those who may not have easy access to in-person appointments

**NB:** The success of the use of photography and digital during Covid has continued as NHS becomes further digitalised [NHS England » Digital transformation](#) as part of NHS ten year plan in meeting needs of population.

Dan's blood tests were returned as normal. There is no record of him being asked if he had any stresses in his life.

### 2.4.2 Cambridgeshire Children Social Care (CSC)

Proceedings at Family Court prior to the deaths of Dan and Paul involved CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) and the only involvement at that time by Children Social Care was to review their records and provide them with any information they held. The only information held on record was that of the referrals aforementioned at 2.1.15.

There was a judgement made in Private proceedings where a Prohibited steps order was obtained by Dan just prior to his death. This was to stop his son being taken out of the country. The s.7 report by CAFCASS in those proceedings had agreed that Ashley should not be moved to live in the USA.

Following the murders of Dan and Paul, both children were taken into care and then returned initially but then taken back into care because of concerns re Clare and Neil and what had taken place.

### **2.4.3 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership – DASV**

Within the last few years, leaflets and posters of DA literature have been placed within the community at GP Surgeries, public buildings, libraries ensuring its availability in multiple languages. The website contains an easy search facility for domestic abuse and outlines familial abuse within the vast array of information contained. The website provides information for support and has a page aimed at male victims of domestic abuse [Welcome to Cambridgeshire DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk)

There is a poster on the website free to download which includes the number of the Men’s Advice Line and includes a section on male victims.

In 2021, there were a number of training sessions to professionals across the County in regard to male victims. At the time of Dan’s death, a specialist male IDVA was available but since then, funding has been re-distributed and it is no longer available.

In 2023, the DASV Partnership offered four free webinars to employers regarding domestic abuse and what to be aware of. This has been commissioned from “Domestic Abuse Education” – an agency that works closely with EIDA – Employers Initiative on Domestic Abuse.

## **Section 3 - Analysis**

### **3.1 Family and friends’ involvement and perspective**

#### **3.1.1 Lynne**

Lynne was made the Legal Guardian of Ashley following family court proceedings after the death of Dan and Paul.

She describes Ray as being a bully, not through threatening words, but the threatening manner he says them in and how he, as a big man, bears over you to try and intimidate. She

found this when they met him at the coffee shop and realised that he was the type of person who wanted everything his way and would not compromise.

Lynne spoke to the Author and the panel on the devastating effect media reporting has on the family as she turned her television on to see filming of her son in a black bag being put into the back of an undertakers vehicle and at that time, didn't even know he was being taken from the scene or where he was being taken to. She also had reporters outside and contacting her home and other members of the family trying to get quotes and information at a time when they could not even comprehend what had happened as her sons had lost their father and their brother.

Lynne tells how Dan was suffering weight loss through stress and the whole situation and fear of losing Ashley was affecting him mentally and that her and Paul were worried about him. She tells of the behaviour of Clare at the Court hearings and how their solicitor informed them how angry she was at the Court findings that she could not take Ashley out of the country.

Lynne is aware that the reason Ray murdered Dan was to try and ensure Clare could take Ashley to America but feels that he only murdered Paul out of spite and nastiness because Paul was supporting his son financially through the family court proceedings.

Lynne states that she can now see that the Dan suffered domestic abuse but did not realise that this was what it was at the time, otherwise she would have taken notice of Clare's behaviour on a more serious level.

Lynne remains angry and frustrated that no charges were brought against Clare and Neil as she believes they knew what Ray was planning to do. Lynne is still unsatisfied with the early investigation decision making by the Police following the deaths of Dan and Paul and has made a complaint to the IOPC which will be dealt with outside of this DHR.

Lynne's trauma was outlined during the second panel meeting when following her stating to the Author previously that the Police had not deployed FLO's until days afterwards, the records showed that they spoke to her the following morning after Dan's death and she explained how everything becomes a haze and time stands still.

### **3.1.2 Mary**

Mary states that she does not know too many details about what was going on with the custody case of Ashley as Paul protected her from it so that she would not worry. She describes him as a superhero to his three grandchildren who he would do anything for.

He was a 'family man' who looked after everyone and when he saw the bullying and domineering towards Dan from Ray and Clare, he stepped in to try and help his son. She is devastated at the evil manner that took her child and her grandson. She heard in the court case that Ray was stalking them and states that Paul was totally unaware, otherwise he would have said something about that.

Mary states that the police were amazing and brilliant but that there was a misunderstanding in the first instance that FLOs were on the way to her home when they were not which is unnecessary confusion at the worst time.

### **3.1.3 Tony**

Tony was Dan's best friend. They had known each other for most of their lives but became close when Tony started to work in the local pub in the village Paul lived in. They would often stay at each other's houses as Dan was renting and lived alone and they would see each other often. Tony and Dan played football together.

Tony first met Clare at one of the football matches and then a number of times after that. She was a few years older than him. He describes her as always very well presented, very needy and a jealous person.

Tony speaks about how proud Dan was of Ashley. Dan would confide in him about the court case but did not speak openly to anyone else for fear of jeopardising anything. Dan hardly ever went out and became isolated due to stress and also saving money to pay for his legal fees.

The last time Tony saw Dan was two weeks prior to his death when they managed to have a catch up over a few drinks. Dan was upset and hesitant to see what the outcome of the court case would be and was 'all over the place.' Throughout the whole family court case and custody case, Dan was not himself. He would normally be happy, outgoing and never sad. This case had resulted in him being isolated and wanting to be alone.

Tony states that neither he nor Dan recognised that Clare's behaviour was domestic abuse, just that it was annoying and weird. He describes her as manipulative and says that she would have acted differently and 'played the system' if she was reported to the police. Tony thinks that more should be done to communicate to the public the signs of domestic abuse, particularly if the victim is male as they may have been able to do something about Clare sooner.

### **3.1.4 Voice of the child**

A decision was made by the author in conjunction with Lynne not to directly speak to Ashley as it was felt that this may be detrimental to his health and wellbeing. Ashley had additional needs and needed a set routine which Dan always tried to provide for him as it would affect him if he didn't go to school or his routine was broken when he was not expecting it. Ashley is high-functioning and following the death of Paul and Dan, Clare initially told him that they had gone away on holiday. As time went on and parental responsibility was given to Lynne, she worked with the Courts and Children's Services as to how best he should learn the truth, which he now knows.

This has been told progressively and he receives counselling and support that was initiated and arranged through the family court. Ashley still can't watch videos of his Dad and Grandad with him as he finds it too upsetting.

The family Court and Judge recognised the harm that the domestic abuse that Ashley was part of had impacted him both before and after Dan's death and reflected this in the orders and decisions that he made. These decisions were partly due to the reports by CAFCASS who had spoken with him.

## 3.2 Terms of reference areas

**3.2.1** 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.

**3.2.2** 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-Smith<sup>4</sup> 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.

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

**3.2.4** The impact of a tragedy such as this on their loved ones can never be underestimated. Lynne provided a number of different insights into this area of which there is still a lack of understanding that the families are also the victims of domestic abuse when they lose someone who has been abused. In this specific circumstance, the fact that Paul lost his life due to the fact that he was supporting his son is evidence of this. Lynne was mistaken as to when the FLO's first spoke to her as in her mind, she thought it was days, yet it was the following morning. With the Major Crime Unit servicing three Police Constabularies in specialist areas, it is important that there is not a disconnect with frontline officers and that processes are understood so that the correct information is provided in the very first instance. ([Recommendation refers](#))

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<sup>4</sup> In control -Jane Monckton-Smith - Bloomsbury

## Section 4 – Conclusions and Recommendations

### 4.1 Conclusions

**4.1.1** 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.

**4.1.2** 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.

**4.1.3** 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 other outings.

**4.1.4** 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.

**4.1.5** 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.

**4.1.6** 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.

**4.1.7** 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."

**4.1.8** The panel recognises that the police had insufficient evidence to prosecute either Clare or Neil for conspiracy to murder and from Ray's comments to the court following his guilty plea that the motive was to ensure that Ashley could go abroad with Clare which is 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.

**4.1.9** 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.

**4.1.10** 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.

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

## **4.2 Lessons to be learnt**

**The effects that the media can have on a grieving family**

**4.2.1** 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.

**4.2.2** 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.

**4.2.3** This is 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](#))

## 4.3 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 Press 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.

## Appendices

### Appendix A

#### Terms of Reference

- 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?