

Caring and Adult Family Violence (AFV) one page summary

Adult family violence refers to domestic abuse whereby both the victim and perpetrator are personally connected as family members. This is beyond the immediate household and includes partners/ex-partners of family members.

What is known about adult family violence (AFV), caring dynamics, and domestic abuse?

- In an analysis of 124 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), 27% had a family relationship (AFV).¹
- In an analysis of 66 DHRs in which the victim and perpetrator were related (AFV), 30 of the relationships included a caring dynamic.²
 - In 14 cases the victim was a carer for the perpetrator or someone else.
 - In 16 cases the perpetrator was a carer for the victim or someone else
 - 59.1% of victims had physical health problems.
 - In 90% of cases where the victim was a carer, the perpetrator had mental health issues.
 - **This study analysis revealed five interlinked precursors to homicide in cases of AFV: mental health and substance/alcohol misuse, criminal history, childhood trauma, financial factors, and care dynamics. Please read the full briefing [here](#).**

Issues identified in analysis specific to caring dynamics:

- Lack of carers needs assessment.
- Undue confidence in capacity of relatives to act as carers.
- Lack of holistic risk consideration.

Why is this a particular area of focus in Sheffield?

Multiple Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and Serious Incident Reviews (SIRs) from Sheffield have identified that caring dynamics and the impact of caring responsibilities on the lived experiences of the victim and perpetrator was not considered when risk assessments undertaken. Another recurring theme is the lack of a carers assessment being offered.

- **SIR 10:** A woman in her 50s (Adult 10) stabbed by her father (Adult 10F), with whom she was sharing a home alongside her husband. Her husband was a perpetrator of domestic abuse towards her. Adult 10F had complex health needs including Alzheimer's disease, and Adult 10 had a history of mental health and substance misuse issues and required safeguarding. Her sister was the registered carer at the time of the incident. You can read the full learning brief [here](#).
- **Adult F:** A woman in her 90s (Adult F) was found dead whilst her daughter had been caring for her on a short-term basis after a fall. Her daughter had a history of mental illness and Adult F was resistant to outside help which led to her daughter feeling increasingly stressed. You can read the full learning brief [here](#).

What can you do?

- Take a holistic, whole family approach, to risk assessment and management. Where abuse is disclosed complete a DASH risk assessment and refer to IDAS and MARAC as appropriate.
- Consider your duties under the Care Act 2014 and make a safeguarding adult's referral if needed. Find out more from the Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership [here](#).
- Offer a carer needs assessment referral to Sheffield Carers Centre so that the carer can discuss their experience and get further support. Referral guidance can be found [here](#).

¹ [Key findings from analysis of domestic homicide reviews: October 2019 to September 2020 \(accessible\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

² [Beyond intimate partner relationships: utilising domestic homicide reviews to prevent adult family domestic homicide in: Journal of Gender-Based Violence Volume 6 Issue 3 \(2022\) \(bristoluniversitypressdigital.com\)](#)