

<b>Committee:</b> Safer City Partnership	<b>Date:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2016
<b>Subject:</b> Domestic Homicide Review	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk  <b>Report Author:</b> David MacKintosh - Community Safety Manager	<b>For Information</b>

### Summary

In October 2015, a resident and employee of the Corporation tragically died in the City of London.

The resident died whilst in a relationship and we have confirmation from the City of London Police they are investigating this as a murder.

Using the definition from the Home Office, the decision was made by the Chair of the SCP to conduct a Domestic Homicide Review.

### Main Report

1. The focus of a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is to understand if there are any lessons the Safer City Partnership can learn from this tragic death.

2. A Domestic Homicide Review is defined as:

*“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.”<sup>1</sup>*

3. Guidelines for conducting a Domestic Homicide Review are laid out by the Home Office and all partners in the Safer City Partnership have a statutory responsibility to be involved. This is detailed in Appendix 1.

4. The purpose of a Domestic Homicide Review is to:

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/97881/DHR-guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97881/DHR-guidance.pdf), Home Office, 2011

- Establish what lessons can be learned about the way in which professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims.
  - Identify clearly what those lessons are both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result; and
  - Improve intra and inter-agency working and so better protect and safeguard people experiencing of domestic abuse.
5. The Community Safety Manager has informed the Home Office we are conducting a DHR.
  6. Home Office guidance local Community Safety Partnership will take the lead and administration of the process.
  7. As per good practice, an Independent Chair (and administration team) has been commissioned. This will be Althea Cribb, an Associate from Standing Together Against Domestic Violence.
  8. The Associates team combined have completed a number of DHRs and therefore have sufficient experience to assist the City of London with gathering information and establishing the learning will come from the review. This is welcomed as this is the City of London's first DHR.
  9. Althea Cribb and her team will be responsible for:
    - a. Chairing and leading the review
    - b. Co-ordinating Individual Management Reviews
    - c. Completing the Overview Report
  10. Individual Management Reviews will be completed by all agencies that had contact with the deceased. This will detail a chronology of engagement and help the Panel to build a picture of their life and interaction with services to see if lessons can be learnt.
  11. This Review will conclude with an Overview Report, which will be sent to the Home Office, and an Action Plan for embedding the learning. The implementation of the action plan will be the responsibility of the Safer City Partnership.
  12. We will be updating the Home Office with an estimated timeframe and plan for completing the DHR after the next Panel meeting.

13. The DHR Panel will meet on 23 February. This will be the second Panel meeting, however the first with a formal Chair. The first Panel meeting was used to gain clarity on what happened, who needs to be involved, review draft Terms of Reference and review recommendations to appoint an Independent Chair.

14. At the Panel meeting on 23 February, the Terms of Reference will be signed off and the Panel will start to construct a clearer picture of agencies, people and services who engaged with the deceased and who will need to conduct an IMR or be interviewed by the Chair and her team. This will happen over two months, with the third Panel meeting taking place in April.

For more information on any matters in this paper contact Robin Newman, Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator & Community Safety Officer:

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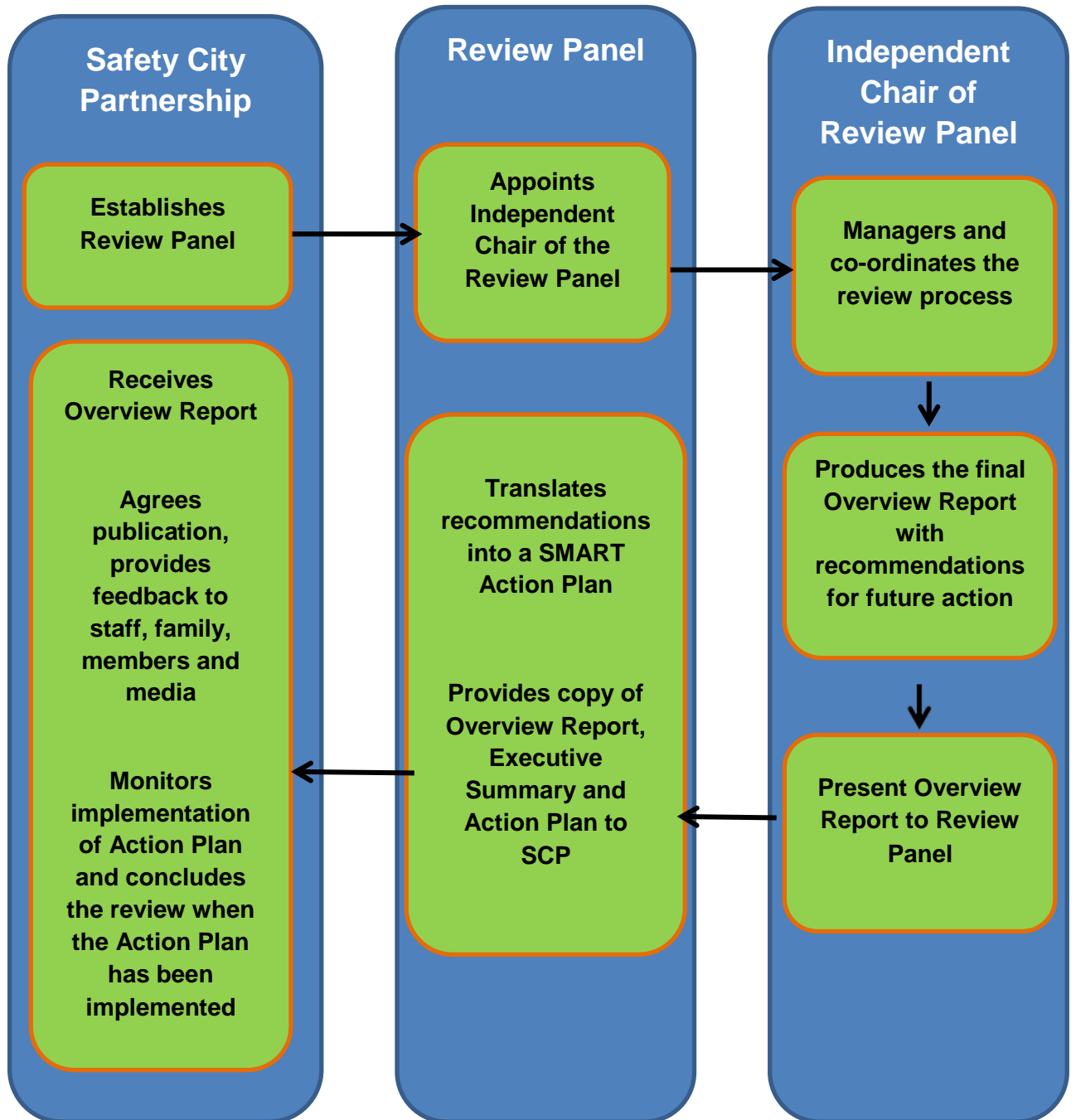
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## Appendix 1: Overview of the Domestic Homicide Review process and Panel responsibilities



(Taken from: Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews)