

Domestic Homicide Review - Adela

The Merton Community Safety Partnership has published the findings of a Domestic Homicide Review into the death of a 63-year-old woman killed by her grandson. Adela was found dead at her home in Merton in July 2017.

The independent report was commissioned by the Merton Community Safety Partnership in line with Home Office guidance which seeks to establish what lessons can be learned where someone has been killed by their current, former partner or a family member.

The Merton Community Safety Partnership has worked with South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust which have overseen the completion of recommendations made during this process.

A spokesperson for both South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, and South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust said:

“Our trusts welcome this report and are committed to learning from this tragic case. We are deeply sorry that standards of care fell below those which we strive for. We have each implemented the report's recommendations in full and will continue to ensure these lessons are embedded in the care and treatment we deliver. Our deepest sympathies are with the family and friends of the victim and those affected.”

Following the death in July 2017, service providers have reflected upon working practice and identified improvements which are being implemented and will continue to be developed and improved. We have used this review period to conduct investigations, learn from emerging issues and take action in response to the recommendations made in the reports published today.

Merton Community Safety Partnership, South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust wish to express our sadness at the senseless and tragic events of 2017. We once again offer our condolences to family and friends of those affected.

This report is thorough, independent and probing. It identifies areas where service providers could and should have acted differently, where we fell short of the standards expected and identifies how we should address such failings moving forward. Service providers have done a great deal to increase the profile and awareness throughout their organisations of domestic abuse.

This greater understanding of the issues, danger-signs and need to support victims has been embedded more fully at all levels. The full Domestic Homicide report is available via www.merton.gov.uk/domesticviolence