

## 7 Minute Briefing: What is a DARDR?

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Plain Text Version

### 1. Introduction

A **Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR)** examines deaths where domestic abuse may have been a factor, helping agencies understand what happened and how practice can improve. Formerly called DHRs, the name changed to reflect the updated definition in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which includes coercive and controlling behaviour and extends reviews to suicides linked to domestic abuse, ensuring the full spectrum of harm is captured. This ensures reviews capture the full spectrum of harm, not just homicides. Governance for these reviews sits with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

### 2. Legal Framework

The **Domestic Abuse Act 2021** sets out the statutory definition of domestic abuse, covering physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, economic abuse, and controlling or coercive behaviour.

#### A review should be considered when:

- An adult (16+) has died where domestic abuse is known or suspected, including non-physical forms of abuse.
- The death appears linked to domestic abuse under the Act's definition.
- Suicide may be connected to domestic abuse, reflecting the expanded scope in updated statutory guidance.

### 3. Statutory Framework

The Home Office sets the national framework for DARDRs and issues the statutory guidance that governs how reviews are commissioned, conducted and quality assured. This guidance outlines the legal criteria and core principles, ensuring reviews are consistent, victim-centred, trauma-informed and aligned with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. It also drives ongoing reforms to strengthen oversight and improve practice.

### 4. Purpose of DARDRs

DARDRs ensure that agencies involved with the adult reflect on practice, decision making, and system responses when domestic abuse is a factor. This includes taking into consideration previous missed opportunities to engage with the perpetrator, hold them to account, and offer a platform for change. DARDR help identify any missed opportunities, highlight good practice, and strengthen safeguarding arrangements across partners.

### 5. The DARDR Process

In Salford, the CSP commissions an Independent Chair/Author to lead the review. The review brings together timelines, key decisions, and multi-agency perspectives to identify themes and learning.

The review should be completed within six months of criteria decision, then submitted to the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel, and shared or published locally only once approved.

## 6. Learning from DARRDs

In Salford, learning from DARRDs is translated into clear, measurable actions that support sustainable improvements in policy, practice, and systems. Action plans are monitored by governance boards to ensure learning leads to real change.

Key messages from the Learning are disseminated across teams, agencies, and networks to embed learning into everyday practice. Briefings, training, and reflective sessions help ensure the learning leads to safer, more effective responses to domestic abuse.

### Useful Resources

- [Published Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews \(DARRDs\) | Partners in Salford](#)
- [Information about Domestic Abuse including the Toolkit](#)
- [Safe in Salford - Salford Foundation](#)
- [I am being abused - Salford City Council](#)

### Contact:

- [Domestic Abuse - Salford City Council](#)
- [Salford Safeguarding Adults Board](#)
- **Worried about an adult? Call 0161 206 0604**