



Domestic Homicide Review

Report into the death of 'Ryan' in April 2023

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Preface

The Review Panel and the members of the Tameside Community Safety Partnership would like to offer their sincere condolences to the family of 'Ryan'¹ who they have lost in such tragic circumstances.

Family Tribute

Ryan is deeply missed and life will never be the same without him. Those who knew the real Ryan knew a caring, loving person who was fiercely loyal to his family and friends. Despite the horrendous traumas and tragedies life threw at him, and there were many, Ryan never lost his vitality for living and a belief that things would get better for him one day. Sadly, we will never know what the future held for him as this was cruelly taken from him far too soon.

We will never know if, with the correct intervention and support to help manage his ADHD and mental health struggles (help he reached out for on many occasions), he may have been able to overcome some of the challenges life presented him on a daily basis.

Forever in our thoughts, Ryan.

¹ Not his real name

Abbreviations used

ADHD	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
ASB:	Anti-social behaviour
CAMHS	The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CMHJT	Criminal Mental Health Justice Team
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Companies
DAHA	Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance
DASH	Domestic Abuse Stalking and 'Honour' Based Abuse Risk Assessment
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
ED	Emergency Department
GMP	Greater Manchester Police
GMFRS	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
HDC	Home Detention Curfew
HMPPS	His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service
HTT	Home Treatment Team
IAPT	Improving Access to Psychological Therapies
ICB	Integrated Care Board
ICFT	Integrated Care Foundation Trust
IDVA	Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor
IMR	Individual Management Review
IPV	Inter-personal violence
MARAC	Multi-agency risk assessment conference
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
PCFT	Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
PLO	Public Law Outline
PTSD	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
SARA	Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide

1. Introduction

1.1. Summary of circumstances leading to this review

- 1.1.1 In April 2023 Police were called to an address in Tameside. Ryan was found in the hallway with a stab wound to the side of his chest. Collette was present and claimed that there had been an altercation between her and Ryan, and she had pushed him away. Police conducted CPR² on Ryan until paramedics arrived and continued this. However, Ryan was sadly pronounced deceased a short time later.
- 1.1.2 Further enquiries by the Police revealed witness and telecommunications evidence that indicated elements of Collette's account were not truthful, Collette was charged with murder. Collette pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of loss of control and was sentenced in November 2023 to five years and three months imprisonment.
- 1.1.3 A post-mortem identified the cause of death as a single stab wound to the left side of the front of the chest which penetrated the left lung, pulmonary artery and right lung.

1.2. Reasons for conducting this review

- 1.2.1 Domestic Homicide Reviews were established on a statutory basis under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) and came into force in April 2011. 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.
- 1.2.2 Ryan was killed by Collette, and they were known to have been in an intimate relationship, so the criteria for a Domestic Homicide Review was met.

1.3. Purpose of a Domestic Homicide Review

The purpose of a Domestic Homicide Review is to:

- 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.
- 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.
- Apply these lessons to service responses including changes to policies and procedures as appropriate.
- Prevent domestic violence and homicide and improve service responses to 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 possible opportunity.
- Contribute to a better understanding of the nature of domestic violence and abuse.
- Highlight good practice.³

1.4 Cross government definition of domestic abuse.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (Part 1) created a statutory definition of domestic abuse as:

² Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is an emergency treatment that's done when someone's breathing or heartbeat has stopped.

³ Multi-agency statutory guidance for the conduct of domestic homicide reviews; 2016; Home Office.

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.

1.5. Local context

1.5.1 The Tameside Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021 – 2026⁴ sets out the following priority ambitions on tackling domestic abuse:

- Making domestic abuse everybody’s business
- Creating safe spaces for disclosures
- Meeting the needs of victims through local services
- Helping Victim-Survivors stay safe in their home
- Better outcomes for children impacted by domestic abuse
- Identifying problem behaviours early
- Holding perpetrators accountable.

1.5.2 The strategy highlights that, in Greater Manchester, 79,532 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes were recorded in the year ending March 2024 and that the rates of domestic abuse that are reported to the Police in Tameside are higher than all three of their closest statistical neighbours. The strategy also notes, of relevance to this Domestic Homicide Review, that:

- 96% of MARAC⁵ cases in Tameside are of women, who are victims of high-risk domestic abuse.
- The health of Tameside residents is worse than the English average and there are high rates of alcohol related harm.

1.5.3 The Bridges Partnership⁶ provides specialist services and refuge provision within Tameside for adults and their children at risk of domestic abuse and also those causing harm. The service, run by Jigsaw and partners Talk, Listen, Change and Diversity Matters North West, has been commissioned by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council.

2. Timescales

- 2.1 The Tameside Community Safety Partnership received notification of the death and referral for a Domestic Homicide Review from Greater Manchester Police on 28/04/23.
- 2.2 An ‘Initial Information Request’ that was sent out to partner agencies on the 16/05/23 and agencies were asked to secure any records they held related to the case.
- 2.3 A screening meeting took place on 30/06/23, attended by a range of statutory and non-statutory organisations, and it was agreed that a Domestic Homicide Review should be undertaken. The Home Office were informed of this intention on 27/11/23. This was sent later than intended due to an internal oversight whereby the Business Support Manager who was in post at the time thought they had sent notification, following the screening meeting, but could find no evidence of doing so.

⁴ [domestic-abuse-strategy-final-2021-2026.pdf](#)

⁵ Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference.

⁶ [Bridges Partnership](#)

- 2.4 The independent Chair was commissioned in November 2023 and the first panel meeting held in February 2024. The panel met five times and the review concluded in May 2025.
- 2.5 The Overview Report was signed off by the Tameside Community Safety Partnership on 30 June 2025, pending minor amendments and submitted to the Home Office for quality assurance on 16 September 2025.

3. Confidentiality

- 3.1. All information received through the review process and discussed at panel meetings is strictly confidential and cannot be disclosed to third parties without discussion and agreement with the Tameside Community Safety Partnership and Chair.
- 3.2. The findings of this report were confidential to participating professionals and their line managers until it was approved for publication by the Home Office Quality Assurance Board.
- 3.3. This review has been suitably anonymised in accordance with the Statutory Guidance.
- 3.4. The following pseudonyms have been used to protect the identities of the persons involved in this review.

Name	Sex	Age at the time of the death	Relationship with the deceased	Ethnicity
Ryan	Male	28	Deceased	White British
Collette	Female	27	Ex-partner	White British

- 3.5. On the request of the family via the Victim Support worker, the pseudonyms were chosen by the Chair and checked with the family to ensure there was no conflict. The Chair also checked the names were not problematic for Collette via her Probation Officer.

4. Terms of Reference

The full Terms of Reference are provided at Appendix B.

- 4.1. The review considered the involvement of agencies with Ryan and Collette from September 2018 until the date of Ryan's death in April 2023, as this captures the first known incident of domestic abuse reported. The review also considered any other relevant information prior to this period.
- 4.2. The specific lines of enquiry agreed as pertinent to this review were:
 - i. Were there any indications of domestic abuse, including coercive control, within the relationship between Ryan and Collette? If so, what action was taken in response to this and how effective was this?
 - ii. Were there opportunities for Ryan and Collette to disclose concerns about domestic abuse? What barriers may have existed to prevent a disclosure?
 - iii. What does the history tell us about the dynamics of Ryan and Collette's relationship, regarding the typology of abuse.
 - iv. What training, policies and procedures are in place to identify, risk assess, respond to and escalate concerns regarding domestic abuse, and were these effective in this case?
 - v. How effective were multi-agency arrangements in reducing risk and facilitating access to support?
 - vi. What is known about the ADHD, substance use and mental health concerns presented by Ryan, including agency responses to this and their appropriateness?

- vii. What is known about Collette's history of trauma, mental health concerns and substance use, including agency responses to this and their appropriateness?
- viii. Did Children's Services engagement with Ryan and Collette present opportunities for safeguarding and were children given appropriate status as victims of domestic abuse?
- ix. What information sharing protocols exist between agencies? Were they needed, appropriate and effective in this case?
- x. Are there any specific considerations in relation to Ryan or Collette's age, disability (including learning disabilities), gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation that may have had a bearing on access to services or agency responses?
- xi. Were agencies sufficiently resourced and individuals effectively supervised to respond to the needs of Ryan and Collette and any risks presented?
- xii. What lessons can be learnt during the review process and where might practice, policy and resource allocation be improved?
- xiii. Have any changes already been implemented as a result of early learnings from this case?
- xiv. Are there any particular examples of good practice to highlight?

5. Methodology

- 5.1. Initial scoping requests were sent to 38 voluntary and statutory agencies to establish whether they had had any contact with the subjects of the review. Agencies were asked to secure and preserve any written records that they had pertaining to the case.
- 5.2. The following agencies were identified as having had relevant contact with the subjects of the review and so were asked to provide an Individual Management Review (IMR) report and chronology of contact, or a short report where contact was limited:

	Chronology	IMR	Short report
Greater Manchester Police	X	X	
Primary Care GP (completed by NHS Greater Manchester)	X	X	
Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust (PCFT)	X	X	
Change Grow Live	X	X	
Probation Service	X	X	
Jigsaw Homes	X	X	
Bridges Domestic Abuse Service	X	X	
Adult Social Care			X
Tameside Children's Services	X	X	
Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care Foundation Trust (ICFT)	X	X	
Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)			X

- 5.3. Each report was quality assured by the producing organisation and signed off by a senior manager before being shared with the Domestic Homicide Review Panel.

- 5.4. The authors of the IMRs reports were independent of contact with the subjects of this review and were independent of the line management of the frontline practitioners.
- 5.5. A briefing session held for IMR authors to prepare them for and support them with their report writing. Follow up meetings were held to discuss the agency IMRs where necessary.
- 5.6. In addition to the agency reports, the panel and/or Chair also drew upon the following information to inform the review:
- Recording of a MARAC meeting
 - An interview with a Crown Prosecution Service representative
 - An interview with Collette
 - Local strategic documents.
- 5.7. The review panel members:

Name*/Job Title	Organisation
Nicki Norman Panel Chair and report author	Independent
Senior Lawyer	Tameside Metropolitan Council (MBC) (Legal)
Strategic Domestic Abuse Manager	Tameside MBC (Population Health)
Partnership Manager	Tameside MBC (Community Safety)
Interim Head of Safeguarding Children's Services	Tameside MBC (Children's)
Safeguarding Lead	Tameside MBC (Adults)
Operational Manager	Jigsaw / Bridges Domestic Abuse Service
Designated Nurse – Cared for Children	NHS Greater Manchester – and on behalf of the GP Practice within Primary Care for this review
Head of Nursing for Integrated Safeguarding	Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust
Head of Safeguarding	North West Ambulance Service
Services Manager	Change Grow Live
Senior Probation Officer	Probation Service
Safeguarding Families Specialist Practitioner	Pennine Care
Prevention Manager	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
Interim Head of Homelessness	Tameside Housing Advice
Detective Constable	Greater Manchester Police - Serious Case Review Team
Director	Jigsaw Homes

* Other than for the Chair and supporting Chair, names are not provided for panel members. This reflects the draft revised Statutory Guidance (2024) which states that, to maintain anonymity and prevent unnecessary risks to panel members, members of the panel should not be named in the Domestic Homicide Review.

- 5.8. All members of the panel were independent of direct line management or involvement with parties involved in this review.
- 5.9. The panel members committed to conducting the review with the following principles in mind:
- A lack of defensiveness and commitment to seeking the truth.
 - A commitment to learning lessons to prevent future harm, without blame.
 - Objectivity and independence.
 - Transparency, whilst respecting confidential information.
 - Empathy and compassion for the victim, and those impacted by their loss, ensuring their voices are integral to the process.
 - Consideration of equality and diversity, and intersecting disadvantage.

6. Involvement of family, friends and work colleagues

- 6.1 With his permission, the Victim Support Worker shared the contact details for Ryan's father with the Chair. The Chair and Ryan's father spoke on the phone initially and the Chair shared information about the review process and the ways in which Ryan's father could contribute. They agreed to speak again once he had had time to think about this, but the Chair was unable to make contact again. The Chair periodically provided an update on the review process via the Victim Support Worker and reiterated the opportunities to engage in the review.
- 6.2 The Chair checked that the pseudonyms used in the review were suitable via the Victim Support worker and Ryan's father confirmed they were.
- 6.3 Ryan's father was offered the opportunity to review the draft report. He did so and provided some comments which have been incorporated into the report.
- 6.4 The Chair met with Collette in prison and she provided information about her relationship with Ryan and their contact with agencies. Where appropriate, this is reflected throughout the report.
- 6.5 Collette was provided with an opportunity to review the report alongside her Probation Officer, to ensure the Chair had captured her contributions correctly. She did so and confirmed that she did not wish to suggest any changes to the report.

7. Chair and author of the report

- 7.1. The Chair of this review and author of this report, Nicki Norman, has never worked in Tameside, is independent of all agencies involved and has had no prior involvement with any subjects of the review. Nicki is nationally recognised as an expert in domestic abuse, having been active in this area of work for over 35 years. Further details are provided in Appendix B.

8. Parallel reviews

- 8.1 A criminal investigation concluded with Collette pleading guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of loss of control and being sentenced in November 2023 to five years and three months imprisonment.
- 8.2 A preliminary inquest hearing was held in December 2024 where it was agreed to wait for the learnings from this review to be available. A pre-inquest review hearing was delayed until September 2025 and this report was shared with the Coroner prior to this.

9. Equality and diversity

- 9.1 The review sought to be mindful of the nine protected characteristics, in line with the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy

and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation). The review identified the following protected characteristics as being relevant in this case.

- Sex – Collette was at particular risk of domestic abuse as a woman and had experienced domestic abuse from Ryan and a previous partner. Ryan was killed by his ex-partner, so was a male victim of domestic violence at that point.
- Disability – Ryan had attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)⁷ which impacted on his daily life and experiences.

9.2 These protected characteristics and how they might have shaped the experiences of Ryan and Collette and the agency responses to them, are explored in the Analysis section.

10. Dissemination

The following individuals/organisations will receive a copy of this report:

- Family members
- Member agencies of the Tameside Community Safety Partnership
- Agencies contributing to the review
- The Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office
- The Deputy Mayor for Greater Manchester Combined Authority responsible for policing and crime
- The Director of Tameside Children's Social Care
- The Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Taskforce
- The Victim's Commissioner.

11. Background information

- 11.1 Ryan had been in care since he was two years old due to neglect and abuse and was adopted at age four and provided with a loving and supportive family environment. Ryan's adopted father and mother later separated, and his father moved in with his new partner. Ryan remained in the care of his adoptive mother. Ryan's adoptive mother took her own life three months after the parents had separated and when Ryan was 11 years old. Following his mother's death, Ryan went to live with his father and his father's partner.
- 11.2 Ryan's behaviour became more challenging in his teenage years and, in 2008, Ryan's father expressed concerns about Ryan's increasingly risk taking behaviour. The family worked well with a family support worker and were visited on a weekly basis until the case was closed in March 2009. The case closure record reported that Ryan's behaviour was more settled and his relationship with his adoptive father had much improved.
- 11.3 Ryan was diagnosed with ADHD during childhood (recorded within GP records in 2002) and prescribed Ritalin⁸. However, the use of this medication discontinued when Ryan transitioned into adulthood.
- 11.4 Throughout his childhood, Ryan attended approximately 80 appointments with Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust (PCFT) mental health services, including assessment and treatment reviews for ADHD, and appointments with CAMHS⁹ 16–19-year-old team that was in place at that time.
- 11.5 Ryan was known to Adult Social Care in 2012 as a transition case. At this time accommodation options were explored, and it was documented that Ryan had the potential to live independently but did not have the skills to manage a home or tenancy, manage his

⁷ Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a condition that affects people's behaviour. People with ADHD can seem restless, may have trouble concentrating and may act on impulse.

⁸ Used to treat ADHD as it works by changing the amounts of certain natural substances in the brain.

⁹ The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

money, or differentiate between risk situations as he was very trusting and immature, which was possibly a result of his ADHD. At this time Ryan was supported to secure accommodation at a Young Persons Project.

- 11.6 Ryan was arrested in August 2013 for an affray after he refused to leave a property, so Police were called and he was seen by officers waving a knife. He was charged with a Section 4 public order offence¹⁰ for which he received a community order with a curfew. Ryan breached this order and was returned to court in October 2013 where he was then made subject to an electronic tag¹¹. He further breached this community order a number of times.
- 11.7 In November 2013, Ryan's dad contacted the Adult Social Care Out of Hours team as Ryan had been taken into custody following an altercation with his girlfriend. He was living with his girlfriend at this time and was unable to return to her home so was supported by his dad to pay for a privately rented flat.
- 11.8 In 2014 Probation Services advised Adult Social Care that Ryan had been released from prison and had no money and food. Adult Social Care made several attempts to contact Ryan to arrange an assessment to assess his eligibility for services but were unsuccessful.
- 11.9 Between 2012 – 2017 Ryan attended nine appointments with Tameside Access Team mental health practitioners.
- 11.10 Ryan was the father to a child but had very little involvement with them. Children's Social Care have on record that there was domestic abuse between Ryan and his child's mother, after which it was reported he no longer saw his child.
- 11.11 Collette was known to Children's Services since she was two years old and until her 18th birthday. Collette was a child in care for a month when she was 16 years old at her own request. Tameside Council did not hold parental responsibility for her.
- 11.12 Collette was parented by her grandmother. Collette described both a chaotic and traumatic upbringing with her parents who she said had borderline personality disorder. Collette said that her own mother had alcohol issues and that during her childhood her mum kidnapped her and her siblings, and she also reported that she had witnessed her mum stabbing a man in front of her.
- 11.13 Collette self-reported that she had a long history of self-harm beginning at the age of nine years. Collette also had an offending history. Greater Manchester Police (GMP) records show that Collette was first arrested at age 13 for a public order offence. She was heavily intoxicated at the time and received a reprimand¹² for this offence.
- 11.14 In 2014 Collette was convicted for a robbery which had occurred in 2013. She received a 12 month custodial sentence in a Young Offenders Institution.
- 11.15 Collette may have been a victim of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. There were concerns about Collette and her association with older males, which were looked into by Police. A third-party report of rape was made that she declined to substantiate. Collette reported a further rape and provided a video interview, but the Police determined that there was insufficient evidence to support a prosecution, and the crime was filed with no further action taken against the alleged offender. Later in life there were concerns about teenagers attending Collette's address, misusing drugs and alcohol, and in turn Collette being vulnerable to exploitation.

¹⁰ Section 4 of the [Public Order Act 1986](#) establishes an offence of fear of provocation of violence by threatening words or behaviour.

¹¹ Electronic monitoring (known as 'tagging') is used in England and Wales to monitor curfews and conditions of a court or prison order. It will usually be attached to a person's ankle.

¹² A reprimand is a formal verbal warning given by a Police Officer to a young person who admits they are guilty of a minor offence.

- 11.16 As a teenager, Collette was frequently missing from home, particularly when with her then partner, who was seven years older than her when they began their relationship when she was aged 15. There were many domestic incidents and assaults between the couple, including when Collette was pregnant. Collette has two children from this previous relationship. These children were living with their father at the time of the murder of Ryan. MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)¹³ referrals were made as far back as 2012. Numerous allegations of assault were made by Collette, but she rarely felt able to support a prosecution. She was primarily shown as a victim in regard to this relationship, however, her partner at that time did also make criminal allegations against her.
- 11.17 Children's Services became involved with Collette's family in 2012, the concerns were about domestic violence in her relationship with the children's father, and alcohol and substance abuse.
- 11.18 Collette's two children were made subject to Child Protection plans¹⁴ on several occasions, between 2013 and 2023. Concerns for the children were related to the risk of domestic abuse, substance and alcohol misuse.
- 11.19 In December 2016 an ex-partner of Collette's disclosed that she had stabbed him in the lower back following an argument about the end of their relationship and then slashed his car tyres. The ex-partner would not support a prosecution or tell Police what had happened. Collette denied the offence stating the ex-partner had stabbed himself. She also made a counter allegation of assault. Police concluded that there was insufficient evidence to proceed with a prosecution.
- 11.20 Ryan and Collette had been in a relationship since 2017. Collette shared that they had known each other as teenagers when they were also boyfriend and girlfriend.
- 11.21 Ryan was officially living at his father's address at the time of his death but was believed to be staying at Collette's address often. Collette was a tenant of Jigsaw Housing Group at the time of Ryan's death.

12. Chronology

This section sets out the relevant contact that the subjects of the review were known to have had with agencies in chronological order.

Events within the review timeframe - September 2018 to April 2023

2018

- 12.1 Collette contacted Change Grow Live¹⁵ having been asked to refer herself by her Children's Social Worker. Two appointments for assessment were arranged between 20/08/18 and 07/09/18. Collette did not attend these appointments. A further appointment was arranged with Collette for 13/09/18. Collette attended this appointment. An assessment was commenced, although not fully completed as Collette needed to leave to collect her child from school. During this assessment Collette agreed for Change Grow Live to liaise with other professionals and stated that her goal was to achieve abstinence from illicit drugs and to reduce her alcohol use. Collette had been informed by the Social Worker that Change Grow Live would complete Urine Drug Screens. Change Grow Live took an action to inform the Social Worker that drug screens can only be completed for clinical purposes.

¹³ Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) are where representatives from all relevant agencies (e.g. police, IDVAs, housing practitioners, child protection, health etc.) discuss high risk domestic abuse cases. The primary focus of the MARAC is to safeguard the adult victim.

¹⁴ A child protection plan should set out clear actions which aim to ensure the child will be kept safe and well.

¹⁵ Change Grow Live is a national registered charity, commissioned in Tameside by Tameside Public Health to provide drug and alcohol treatment and support, to children, young people and adults, including those impacted by someone else's substance misuse.

- 12.2 A further appointment to complete the assessment with Change Grow Live was arranged for 17/09/18. Collette did not attend this. Further appointments were arranged for 21/09/18 and 28/09/18. Collette did not attend these.
- 12.3 **1 September 2018** – Ryan was referred to PCFT Home Treatment Team (HTT)¹⁶ from the Manchester Royal Infirmary. He was taken by the Police to the Section 136 suite¹⁷ for an assessment after he had threatened to put a brick through a shop window if he did not get help. He was intoxicated at the time of assessment. He shared that he was struggling with issues from his past and that he had recently split from his girlfriend. Ryan was not allowed access to his child due to an assault on his ex-girlfriend and currently had no fixed abode.
- 12.4 Following this there were eight more contacts between Ryan and the HTT – five via telephone and four face to face, incorporating assessment and review. The HTT had attempted to contact Ryan on a daily basis, as would be part of their process to review and attempt to continue assessment, but he did not want to engage or consider other treatment options other than wait for his ADHD appointment.
- 12.5 **4 September 2018** – Ryan attended a Breach Hearing at Tameside Magistrates Court. Ryan had not complied with the requirements of a Community Order imposed on 03/07/18 for driving offences, theft and shoplifting. The outcome of this hearing was that the original order was revoked, and he was resentenced to a Suspended Sentence Order – which comprised of four weeks custody, suspended for 12 months.
- 12.6 **17 September 2018** – Ryan presented as homeless to Tameside Housing Advice. He said he had been sofa surfing with a friend since January 2017 and had stayed with father the previous night but was unable to do this again. Ryan was not assessed as being in priority need under homeless legislation and no duty to provide accommodation was identified. Ryan was advised to make his own arrangements and an appointment made for him to return to discuss housing options and complete housing applications on 18/09/18. Ryan did not attend this appointment and did not respond to contact attempts, so the case was closed in November 2018.
- 12.7 **16 September 2018** - The Police received reports of a disturbance occurring at Collette's address. It was reported that, at about 1.30am, there was a knock at the door and Collette heard her name called from outside. She couldn't see who it was and believed this to be her neighbour so answered the door and was then punched in the face by Ryan. Ryan then pushed his way into the address assaulting Collette, and two other women, by punching and scratching them, smashing glass in the kitchen and damaging other property. A fight then ensued as the women attempted to remove Ryan from the address and the scuffle continued outside the front of the address. A neighbour and his friends then intervened and took hold of Ryan to diffuse the situation, but Ryan lashed out and escaped. Police then arrived two minutes later. Whilst Police were taking a statement Ryan returned to the back of the address and threatened to smash the back windows of the property unless he was allowed in. Police then managed to detain and arrest Ryan.
- 12.8 Ryan was arrested and denied any assaults. He admitted there was some pushing but stated that this was instigated by Collette and that he was defending himself. Ryan stated that he had ADHD, anxiety and depression and that his medication had run out the previous day. The crime was closed with no further action (Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) decision) due to inconsistencies in the initial statements and Collette and the other victims either stating they did not support a prosecution or not being contactable. Signposting for domestic abuse support was undertaken, and a domestic abuse incident was recorded.

¹⁶ The HTT provide an alternative to hospital admission and supportive discharge services, to help people back into the community from inpatient care.

¹⁷ A Section 136 suite is a facility for people who are detained by the Police under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act. It provides a 'place of safety' whilst potential mental health needs are assessed under the Mental Health Act and any necessary arrangements made for on-going care.

When Officers were prompted by the safeguarding team, a referral was made to Children's Social Care.

- 12.9 **8 October 2018** - Collette telephoned to speak to Change Grow Live regarding completing the assessment. Collette stated she had missed the last appointment as her father had died.
- 12.10 **15 October 2018** – Collette telephoned Change Grow Live to cancel her appointment stating her daughter was unwell.
- 12.11 **19 October 2018** - Collette attended an assessment appointment with Change Grow Live. She reported that she had referred herself to the service on the recommendation of the children's Social Worker. She stated that both children were subject to Child Protection. Collette reported using cannabis daily, during the evenings when both children were in bed. She stated that she used alcohol at weekends when the children were with their father. She reported using cocaine once a week. Collette agreed to weekly appointments with Change Grow Live. Collette disclosed that she had previously been a victim of domestic abuse, stating this was historical and that the relationship had ended earlier in the year.
- 12.12 **19 October 2018** - Ryan was named as an offender on a fraud crime, along with three others, after a sale was agreed for goods on Facebook Marketplace. Goods were paid for and never delivered. The crime was filed without further investigation as the Officer felt it was not in the public interest due to buyer protection processes not being followed and the value of goods being low.
- 12.13 **26 October 2018** - Collette missed her appointment with Change Grow Live and a letter was sent asking her to make contact. An appointment was rearranged for 22/11/18 but Collette did not attend. Telephone calls were attempted, and Collette did not answer. The Social Worker was informed that Collette had not attended.
- 12.14 **29 October 2018** – The Family Group Conference¹⁸ team informed Children's Social Care they were to close the case due to not being able to engage with the family.
- 12.15 Between September and December 2018 four planned home visits to Collette and the children were undertaken by Children's Social Care. A further four planned visits were attempted but no one was home. There were also several telephone contacts between Collette and the Social Worker, which mostly related to making arrangements.
- 12.16 **27 November 2018** – Change Grow Live telephoned Collette who stated she had missed an appointment on 22/11/18 as she had been attending a parenting workshop.
- 12.17 **3 December 2018** - A Children's Social Care Core Group meeting was held and attended by Change Grow Live. Collette stated her cannabis use had reduced to one joint per day. She stated she had not consumed any alcohol for four weeks. It was agreed that Collette did not need further involvement from Change Grow Live as her substance use had reduced and it was agreed by the Social Worker and Collette that her case would be closed to Change Grow Live.

2019

- 12.18 **11 January 2019** – The Social Worker undertook a home visit to Collette and the children. Their housing conditions were discussed. No concerns were noted about the children.
- 12.19 **14 January 2019** – Children's Social Care received a call from someone wishing to remain anonymous and raising concern that Ryan was living with Collette but that the children were unable to talk about this. It is noted that there was no evidence to substantiate this, that the

¹⁸ A family group conference is a family-led decision-making process in which the family and friends network come together to make a plan for a child. The process is supported by an independent coordinator who helps the family prepare for the family group conference.

school were to complete direct work with the children and direct work was also to be completed by the Social Worker.

- 12.20 **12 February and 7 March 2019** - The Social Worker undertook home visits to Collette and the children. No concerns were noted about the children.
- 12.21 **11 April 2019** - Collette was arrested for being drunk and disorderly. Ryan attempted to intervene and was violent towards Officers so was also arrested for Affray, Obstructing Police and Assault of an Emergency Worker. No further action was taken against either Ryan or Collette.
- 12.22 **15 April 2019** - The Social Worker undertook a home visit to Collette and the children. Collette told the Social Worker about her recent arrest and said that she had bumped into her ex, Ryan, and they had argued over money she owed him. No concerns were noted about the children.
- 12.23 **20 April 2019** – A neighbour contacted Police to report that they believed Ryan was assaulting Collette. It was alleged that Ryan forced his way into Collette's house, grabbed her by the throat before biting her and a friend on the hand causing injuries. He then made off in the street and was found by Police. Ryan was brought to the Emergency Department (ED) by Police with a possible head injury and intoxication with alcohol and other substances. Ryan was discharged following treatment to Police custody. A number of crimes were recorded, and Ryan was arrested for assault on the females and assault on the Police. Ryan was charged and remanded in Police custody to attend court.
- 12.24 The following day a notification of the incident was submitted to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)¹⁹ team but not assessed until 26/04/19, at which point notifications were sent to Children's Social Care and the Health Visitor.
- 12.24 **25 April 2019** – Collette informed Children's Social Care of the incident on 20/04/19 and said that Ryan had been charged and was remanded in Police custody to attend court.
- 12.25 **3 May 2019** - Ryan self-referred into Talking Therapies (formerly Healthy Minds). An assessment was offered at a later date, but Ryan did not attend due to his father informing the service that he was in custody.
- 12.26 **7 May 2019** - Ryan appeared in court for three offences of Assaulting an Emergency Worker, two offences of Section 39 Assault²⁰ committed against his ex-partner (Collette) and another female associate, and one offence of criminal damage. The Pre-Sentence Report identified concerns in respect of substance misuse, particularly alcohol which was assessed as exacerbating Ryan's ability to appropriately manage his emotions and a common factor in the pattern of violent behaviour towards others and within relationships. Ryan received a 36-week Custodial Sentence. A one year Restraining Order was also imposed prohibiting Ryan from making any contact, directly or indirectly, with Collette or from attending or driving along the road where she lived. Ryan commenced his prison sentence and was allocated a Senior Case Manager Probation Officer.
- 12.27 **10 May 2019** – An alternative Social Worker completing the duty visit to Collette and the children on behalf of the allocated Social Worker. No concerns were noted about the children.
- 12.28 **23 May 2019** - Bridges domestic abuse service received a referral for Collette from Children's Social Care, as a victim of domestic abuse from Ryan. Attempts made by Bridges to contact Collette were unsuccessful.

¹⁹ The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is the single point of contact for all professionals to report safeguarding concerns.

²⁰ A Section 39 assault covers common assault, battery and assault by beating. They are the least serious form of assault and are when there is an assault but no injury.

- 12.29 **6 June 2019** – A review Child Protection conference was held and the Chair expressed concerns that risk has not been reduced and recommended that legal advice was sought.
- 12.30 **24 June 2019** – A Key Worker from Bridges met with Collette at the Jigsaw Hub to complete an initial assessment. Referrals were made to the Freedom Programme²¹ and for volunteering opportunities for Collette.
- 12.31 **9 July 2019** - The Social Worker undertook a home visit to Collette and the children. No concerns were noted about the children.
- 12.32 **16 July 2019** - Following several failed attempts to contact Collette, the case was closed to Bridges.
- 12.33 Ryan was eligible for Home Detention Curfew (HDC). HDC provides a managed transition from prison to community for offenders serving short sentences. It allows certain prisoners to serve the last part of their sentence at home, or another suitable address, for up to a maximum period of six months. During this time, their adherence to set curfew hours are monitored by way of an electronic tag, usually worn around their ankle. Ryan's father provided his consent for Ryan to reside at his address upon his release. HMP Forest Bank granted release on HDC to Ryan on 16/07/19.
- 12.34 Ryan was seen on the day of his release and the terms of his licence explained to him. These included seven standard conditions to:
- Be of good behaviour and not undermine the purpose of the licence period.
 - Not to commit any offence.
 - Keep in touch with the supervising Officer and follow any instructions given.
 - Receive home visits from the supervising Officer.
 - Reside permanently at an address approved by the supervising Officer and obtain the prior permission of the supervising Officer for any stay of one or more nights at a different address.
 - Ensure any work is approved by the supervising Officer.
 - Not travel outside the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, except with the prior permission of the supervising office.

And three additional licence conditions to:

- Engage with Change Live Grow (Substance Misuse Services) in order to address substance misuse.
 - Comply with drug testing.
 - Engage with structured interventions to support change in respect of alcohol misuse and managing emotions.
- 12.35 Ryan was seen weekly by Probation in July. It was noted that his HDC was moved from his father's address to his aunts address at the time of a planned holiday to ensure continued family support for Ryan.
- 12.36 **31 July 2019** - Collette called Police to say that a known female had caused damage to a window at her address. The female was arrested and charged with the damage. On 06/08/19 a Health Visitor passed on concerns to the Social Worker that she had visited Collette and seen the broken window and that Collette had a bruise on her forehead, although she said she had received this from a child throwing a cup.

²¹ <https://www.freedomprogramme.co.uk/>

- 12.37 **5 August 2019** – The OASys²² Risk Assessment was completed by Probation with Ryan. Information informing this included CPS documents, previous assessments completed and domestic abuse incident logs. The conclusion of this assessment determined that Ryan presented as a medium risk of serious harm, given that he indicated no current contact with former partners and that he was not in a relationship. A Risk Management Plan was developed and identified other agencies considered key in supporting risk management. These were:
- Police Domestic Violence Unit in sharing intelligence related to domestic incidents.
 - Substance misuse services to develop a plan to address substance misuse.
 - Children's Social Care to assess any risk related to children in this case.
 - Housing to secure accommodation should this break down.
 - Electronic Monitoring Service in respect of his Home Detention Curfew (HDC).
- 12.38 Sentence Plan objectives were set to complete work in respect of:
- Problem solving.
 - Managing emotions.
 - Creating safer relationships.
 - Interventions to make constructive use of time.
- 12.39 Weekly Probation appointments were offered to Ryan through August 2019 in line with expected practice, but he only attended one. He reported sickness on one occasion and missed two other appointments. Ryan reported some family difficulties as the reason for one of his absences, stating that he was to remain at his aunts address for the duration of his HDC rather than returning to his father's address as planned. Probation determined this absence to be acceptable following contact with his aunt. As Ryan did not provide a reason for one of his absences, he was given a formal warning.
- 12.40 **22 August 2019** – A newly allocated Social Worker undertook a home visit to Collette and the children. Collette was informed that core group members (health and education) had expressed concerns about her lack of engagement, her mother living at the property and that housing had shared that there had been Police call outs at the address. Collette became angry and shared that the Police had not been at her address since her window had been smashed. Collette said that her mother was living next door but that she does not allow her to have contact with the children. Collette said that the call outs were malicious. No concerns were noted about the children.
- 12.41 **4 September 2019** – Ryan attended a planned appointment with Probation. Ryan's engagement with the Princes Trust Programme²³ was discussed and he was reported to be motivated to engage with this. Ryan could not account for the reason he failed to attend his next appointment. and a second formal warning was issued for an unacceptable absence on 17/09/19.
- 12.42 **18 September 2019** – Collette's housing provider shared concerns with the Social Worker that there were constant anti-social behaviour (ASB) reports by neighbours about the address and that Ryan was connected with the address. It was noted that Collette denied this. It was also noted that Police information needed to be requested and a visit carried out the same day. However, there is no record of whether a visit did take place.

²² OASys is the national system/ tool for recording the assessment of the risks and needs of an offender.

²³ Now renamed the Kings Trust, the programme helps young people from disadvantaged communities and those facing the greatest adversity by supporting them to build the confidence and skills to live, learn and earn.

- 12.43 **23 September 2019** - Ryan was no longer subject to the HCD and his residence at his aunt's address was no longer being electronically monitored.
- 12.44 **16 September 2019** - Collette again referred herself to Change Grow Live. Collette stated that she had been encouraged to do so by Children's Social Care. Three appointments were offered between 25/09/19 and 11/11/19. Collette did not attend any of these appointments.
- 12.45 **1 October 2019** - At his appointment with Probation, Ryan reported moving from his aunt's address and that he was staying at a friend's house. This friend was not identified. A condition of Ryan's licence was to reside permanently at an address approved by the supervising Officer and obtain the prior permission of the supervising Officer for any stay of one or more nights at a different address. Therefore, his move from his aunt's house without prior approval meant that he was in breach of this licence condition. Whilst his current place of residence was unknown, weekly reporting was to monitor his situation and no action was taken.
- 12.46 **16 October 2019** – Collette visited her GP who diagnosed her with anxiety. Collette was due in court as she had assaulted a Police Officer when she was drunk. Collette reported drinking large amounts of alcohol on a weekend. The GP advised Collette to self-refer to Healthy Minds.
- 12.47 **17 October 2019** – Collette appeared at Manchester City Magistrates Court in respect of the Assault of a Police Officer on 11/04/19. She was sentenced to a Suspended Sentence Order – 12 weeks custody suspended for 12 months with a curfew requirement. Ryan was a co-defendant in this offence. Ryan was sentenced to a Suspended Sentence Order – 12 weeks custody suspended for 12 months. As this offence had occurred prior to his current custodial sentence, recall was not considered.
- 12.48 **7 November 2019** – Ryan attended an appointment with Probation. Ryan reported that his accommodation status was unstable, stating that he was 'sofa surfing' and therefore could not provide an address at which he was staying. Despite this, Ryan reported continued support from his family.
- 12.49 **12 November 2019** – A crime transferred from Police Scotland that Collette had offered items for sale on Gumtree and then did not send the goods once the money was received. The crime was filed without further investigation in line with GMP's Fraud Investigation Policy at the time.
- 12.50 Ryan failed to attend his appointment with Probation on 21/11/19 and this was deemed an unacceptable absence as he did not provide a reason for his non-attendance. No action was taken.
- 12.51 **November 2019** - Collette sought advice from Tameside Housing Advice service. Collette said she was living in a Housing Association property and had problems at her tenancy as she alleged her neighbours were making accusations to Children's Social Care and her mother, who she said had previously been violent to Collette, was staying next door. Collette also disclosed that she was a victim of domestic abuse and her ex-partner, Ryan, had been seen on her street. Collette told staff that she had injunctions and restraining orders in place to prevent Ryan from approaching or making contact with her. At this stage Collette wanted advice regarding sourcing a new home. This advice was given and the case closed.
- 12.52 **21 November 2019** - Collette attended her appointment with Change Grow Live. However, the Young Adult Worker she had been assigned to was unavailable due to illness

- 12.53 **29 November 2019** - Collette attended an assessment appointment with Change Grow Live at the Women's Centre²⁴. Collette reported binge drinking 25-35 units of vodka at weekends. She stated that she was not using any cannabis or cocaine. Collette said that she was motivated to change her alcohol use. The impact of her alcohol use on her children was explored and a further appointment arranged for 06/12/19 - Collette went on to cancel this appointment, and cancelled a further appointment booked for 17/01/20.
- 12.54 **3 December 2019** - A review Child Protection Conference²⁵ was held and it was the majority view that the Child Protection Plan should end, and the family be supported via Children in Need²⁶ and a referral would be made to the Children in Need Reviewing Officer. It was noted that there had been reports of incidents from neighbours in relation to Ryan presenting on the street. Collette reported that a lot of the allegations from neighbours were malicious and that since her mother had moved into the property next door, there had been incidents involving her having altercations with neighbours.
- 12.55 A different Social Worker undertook a home visit to Collette and the children. Collette expressed a wish to move house and contact with the children's father was discussed. No concerns were noted about the children.
- 12.56 Ryan failed to attend his two appointments with Probation in December and there is no record of any contact with him in December.

2020

- 12.57 **20 January 2020** – The Social Worker undertook a home visit to Collette and the children. A supporting letter to help Collette with moving house was discussed, along with contact arrangements. No concerns were noted about the children.
- 12.58 **27 January 2020** – A Children in Need Core Group meeting was held. An update from Change Grow Live was requested and safe contact arrangements discussed.
- 12.59 Ryan attended appointments with Probation on 20/01/20 and 03/02/20. He reported that he continued to reside between addresses and that he had a temporary job that hindered his ability to attend appointments through December. Ryan reported continued abstinence from alcohol and that he had plans to save money with the aim of gaining independent rented accommodation. On 28/01/20, the Probation Officer recorded a review of this case where a recent lapse in compliance was recognised. This was balanced against Ryan's self-reports of working and not currently drinking which was supported by no recent arrests. It was noted that Probation would increase the frequency of reporting to better monitor Ryan's circumstances and request a domestic abuse incident report. The domestic abuse incident log was returned on 18/02/20 with no additional call out reports recorded.
- 12.60 **10 February 2020** – Ryan's sentence expired, and post sentence supervision commenced²⁷.
- 12.61 Ryan failed to attend an appointment with Probation on 17/02/20. The absence was accepted without formal evidence. Attending on 20/02/20 Ryan indicated that he was now residing between his father and his aunt's address and had been suffering with dental

²⁴ Change Grow Live work closely with the Women and Families Centre in Tameside, offering a safe space in their premises for women experiencing substance use, where they can 'drop in' for support, access assessment and attend for face-to-face appointments as part of their structured treatment.

²⁵ A child protection conference is a discussion about a child's future safety, health, and development with family members, the child (if appropriate), and professionals involved with the family.

²⁶ The legal definition is that 'children in need' have been assessed by a social worker and found to need help and protection because of risks to their development or health, such as neglect, domestic abuse in the family, or because they are disabled.

²⁷ Post Sentence Supervision (PSS) was introduced by the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014. Supervised individuals sentenced to less than two years' custody are now subject to post sentence supervision following the end of their licence. The licence period and PSS combined is a maximum of 12 months.

problems that have meant he was unable to work. Ryan reported no alcohol use and gave no indication of relationships or difficulties coping to indicate increasing risk.

- 12.62 **20 February 2020** - The Social Worker undertook a home visit to Collette and the children. The need to undertake a risk assessment was discussed.
- 12.63 **26 February 2020** – Change Grow Live telephoned Collette. Collette stated she had not recently used alcohol but was required to attend Change Grow Live. A further appointment was booked for 28/02/20. Collette cancelled this appointment via text message on 28/02/20. Between 06/03/20 and 29/05/20, Collette cancelled one appointment and did not attend two other appointments arranged.
- 12.64 **27 February 2020** - The Social Worker undertook a home visit to Collette and the children and noted that Collette appeared to be in a low mood and said she has been sick for couple of days. Collette shared that she was 17 weeks pregnant and was worried about the case escalating to child protection due to her pregnancy. The Social Worker explained that a risk assessment of her new partner would need to be completed to ascertain the level of risk towards the children. Collette said she did not have a partner and that the pregnancy was from a one night stand, that she had not informed the other party of the pregnancy and she was unsure whether she wanted to keep the baby. Collette agreed to inform the person responsible for the pregnancy and to communicate his details to Children's Social Care. There is no record of further communication with Children's Social Care about this and, when interviewed by the Chair, Collette said that she had a termination because she was worried that it was Ryan's baby and that Children's Social Care would intervene.
- 12.65 Ryan missed two appointments with Probation on 09/03/20 and 16/03/20. The first absence was deemed to be unacceptable and recorded as a formal warning. This was the first warning whilst subject to Post Sentence Supervision. A second warning letter was sent in respect of the second absence. However, it was later deemed to be an acceptable absence, with Ryan citing medical reasons for his non-attendance.
- 12.66 The first national lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic began on 23/03/20 and a period of varying levels of restrictions ensued until restrictions were gradually lifted and were mostly ended by August 2021. As Ryan was assessed as posing a medium risk of serious harm with complexities around domestic abuse and mental health, Probation directed weekly remote contact.
- 12.67 **20 March 2020** - The Social Worker held a video call with Collette and the children due to Covid-19 restrictions. Collette had previously told the Social Worker that the children may have Covid-19.
- 12.68 **24 March 2020** – Probation made telephone contact with Ryan and discussed his employment being paused due to the Covid-19 national lockdown. Ryan reported continuing to stay between his aunt and father's address. Ryan was instructed to attend the Probation Office for a next appointment on 21/04/20 by which time, further instructions regarding reporting during lockdown were anticipated.
- 12.69 **5 April 2020** – Ryan contacted Police stating he had been forced to leave his father's address following a domestic argument. He later alleged that he had been stabbed in the arm by a known male. Ryan would not give details of the male or the location of the offence. A safe and well check was completed with Collette who stated that she did not know why Police were there. A crime was filed for no further action. Ryan attended the ED and had his wound cleaned and dressed. Ryan was given numbers for mental health support and emergency housing.
- 12.70 **20 April 2020** - Collette and another named female were alleged to have sent threatening

messages to a named male. Both females were given penalty notices²⁸ and the crime filed.

- 12.71 **21 April 2020** - Ryan did not attend a planned appointment with Probation. In response to the absence, a second warning letter was sent in line with enforcement guidance. As Ryan did not respond to this warning, it was confirmed as his second unacceptable absence.
- 12.72 **30 April 2020** – Ryan missed an appointment with Probation. The Probation Officer spoke with Ryan’s father to ask for support in contacting Ryan with Ryan eventually making contact on 13/05/20. A discussion was held regarding the importance of maintaining contact during this period and that Ryan would need to provide a contact telephone number. Checks were undertaken in respect of Ryan’s current circumstances. Ryan reported he was not residing at his father’s address, but it was unclear from the case record where he was residing.
- 12.73 Ryan did not provide a contact telephone number as instructed to engage with his Probation appointments and, consequently, missed three appointments during May and June 2020. Warning letters were issued for the first two absences. Ryan failed to respond to these letters and both absences were deemed to be unacceptable. After the third unacceptable absence a breach of conditions should have been initiated but was not.
- 12.74 **6 May 2020** – A newly allocated Social Worker held a video call with Collette and the children due to Covid-19 restrictions. Collette informed them that everything was well, and the children were doing fine. The core group meeting had been cancelled on the 19/03/20 due to the lockdown. A new core group meeting was to be arranged, and Collette’s situation reviewed at that time.
- 12.75 **8 June 2020** - Change Grow Live contacted Collette by telephone. Collette stated that she had not used any alcohol since the lockdown had started. Collette declined further support. Harm reduction advice was provided. Collette stated that her mental health was stable. Collette also reported that the involvement with Children’s Social Care was to end so she would not require further support from Change Grow Live. On the same day, Change Grow Live contacted Collette’s Social Worker and explained that Collette had reported no alcohol use. It was agreed that the case would remain open with Change Grow Live until the next Children in Need meeting had taken place.
- 12.76 **12 June 2020** - Ryan made contact with Probation. His non-compliance was discussed and the potential for Ryan to have been in breach. Ryan reported that he was residing with a friend, however, there was no indication of who this friend was. The need to engage with weekly contact was reiterated. Subsequent appointments were maintained, with Ryan stating that he was back staying at either his aunt’s or father’s address.
- 12.77 **16 June and 5 August 2020** - The Social Worker undertook home visits with Collette and the children, but this took place with the Social Worker staying outside and looking through the window, due to Covid-19 restrictions. No concerns about the children were noted.
- 12.78 **20 June 2020** – It was alleged that Ryan and Collette got into an argument with a neighbour. Ryan was alleged to have thrown a drink over the neighbour, gone into Collette’s address and come out with a machete, which he attacked the neighbour with, causing a cut to her hand. A cannabis plant, which Ryan claimed ownership of, was also found under the stairs at Collette’s address. Ryan was arrested for Affray, S18 Wounding and Cultivating Cannabis, but due to evidential difficulties, no further action was taken. Collette was arrested but then released as it came to light that she was not responsible for any offences. There was no prosecution in relation to the cannabis plant.
- 12.79 **30 June 2020** – Change Grow Live did a risk review over the telephone with Collette. Collette disclosed an incident with her neighbour that had resulted in involvement with the

²⁸ Penalty notices for disorder are given to adults for minor offences. Offenders are asked to sign a penalty notice ticket and will not get a criminal conviction if they pay the penalty.

Police. She stated her alcohol use had increased. Collette stated she was requesting a house move due to substance misuse within the neighbourhood. Harm reduction advice was provided, and high-risk situations were explored and advice given to mitigate the risks. The impact of alcohol use on her children was discussed, as was the impact on her mental health.

- 12.80 **3 July 2020** - During his contact with Probation, Ryan reported that he had been arrested the previous week for offences of Section 39 assault against a female, Affray and cultivation of cannabis. Ryan reported that he continued to reside between his aunt and father's address. The Probation Officer recorded a potential escalation in risk and indicated they will monitor this through weekly telephone contact.
- 12.81 Probation maintained regular contact with Ryan via telephone during July and August.
- 12.82 **8 August 2020** – The Police were contacted by an informant stating that Ryan had been beaten up and was bleeding from the head, very distressed, saying he wanted to kill himself. On Police arrival a member of the public was stood with Ryan whose behaviour was erratic. Ryan stated that he wanted to hurt himself and had tried to hang himself with a pair of shorts throughout the night. Ryan had slight reddening around the neck which could have been a ligature mark. Ryan also had a gash to his right hand which was bleeding. A slight bruise was visible also on Ryan's cheek, but he did not disclose an attack. Ryan told Officers that he was struggling with his mental health and was suicidal, but he was deemed to have capacity. An ambulance attended and conveyed Ryan to hospital for treatment.
- 12.83 Security were called to attend the ED due to Ryan being abusive and aggressive. Ryan was placed in a cubicle to await treatment but soon became agitated and abusive towards staff and Security. He was removed from the department using physical restraint and asked to leave the site. Ryan verbally threatened Security and attempted to kick a Security Officer, so was physically removed off site. Security Officers remained as Ryan refused to leave, threatening to stab the Officers. Police were contacted to remove Ryan, but he left before Police arrived and without being assessed by the mental health liaison team.
- 12.84 **11 August 2020** – A Service User Care Plan Review was completed over the telephone by Change Grow Live with Collette. Collette stated she had consumed alcohol once in the most recent four weeks. The impact of her alcohol use upon her children was explored. A transfer of key worker to Change Grow Live My Recovery Tameside Adult Team, as Collette was now 25 years old, was discussed and Collette agreed to this. Change Grow Live spoke with the Social Worker, who informed them that cannabis had been found at Collette's property.
- 12.85 **12 August 2020** - A Children in Need Core Group meeting was held. It was noted that Collette was to report any incidents with neighbours or the community to the Police.
- 12.86 **20 August 2020** – A Change Grow Live Recovery Coordinator contacted Collette by telephone. A telephone appointment was agreed for 28/08/20. This appointment took place and Collette agreed to completing relapse prevention work, and work around self-esteem. Collette self-reported that she was not using drugs or alcohol. The Recovery Coordinator contacted the Social Worker and confirmed the date of the next Children in Need meeting (13/09/20 – the actual date that this meeting was held was 18/09/20 but there is no record of why the dates differ).
- 12.87 **1 September 2020** - Change Grow Live sent workbooks in the post for Collette to complete.
- 12.88 **3 September 2020** – Ryan had a telephone consultation with his GP. It was noted that Ryan was suffering with PTSD²⁹ and had ongoing suicidal thoughts but none at that moment. The GP noted that Ryan sounded cheerful during the consultation. A one-month fit

²⁹ Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

note was provided and Ryan's antidepressants increased. A mental health referral was already done. A follow up was planned for 2-3 weeks later.

- 12.89 **11 September 2020** - Change Grow Live completed a risk review with Collette over the telephone. Collette reported no alcohol or drug use. Collette reported no issues with her physical or mental health. Change Grow Live confirmed that Collette's children are subject to a Children in Need plan. Triggers to Collette using substances were explored.
- 12.90 **15 September 2020** - The Social Worker undertook a home visit to Collette and the children. No concerns were noted about the children.
- 12.91 **18 September 2020** - A Children in Need meeting was held. There was no record of this meeting available. Change Grow Live were unable to attend this and a written report was submitted.
- 12.92 **25 September 2020** - Collette was due to have an appointment with Change Grow Live but she cancelled this.
- 12.93 Ryan complied with just one Probation appointment through September on 03/09/20. He reported no changes to his living arrangements but did indicate that he was due to recommence work. Ryan did not respond to subsequent phone appointments on 17/09/20 and 21/09/20. No further appointments were set as the Post Sentence Supervision expired on 23/09/20.
- 12.94 **3 October 2020** – Ryan was seen outside a supermarket drunk and behaving aggressively towards a security guard. He was then aggressive with Police Officers. Ryan was arrested and charged with being Drunk and Disorderly.
- 12.95 **11 October 2020** - Police attended Collette's home address on two occasions. Both incidents were called in by a neighbour. The first incident reported was a disturbance and a concern for Collette's children. Police attended initially, and Collette stated she was confused as to why they were there. She stated that there was no one else in her property and allowed Police inside to check this. The children were seen safe and well. Collette said she had consumed some alcohol (two drinks) but appeared to be able to handle herself and her children. The children did not appear to be at any immediate risk. Collette stated that there had been some loud music from next door but had nothing to report. Police then left the area.
- 12.96 Another call was made to the Police by 999 stating that there was another disturbance ongoing at the rear of the address. On the second arrival Collette was again spoken to and confirmed that the disturbance on both occasions had been a verbal argument between herself and her mum. She stated that her mum had been next door and had begun banging on Collette's rear door. Collette answered the door, and her mum stated that she was hungry and had no food. Collette then gave her mum some bread and a tin of beans. A verbal altercation occurred and then Collette's mum left.
- 12.97 Police reported the incident to Children's Social Care because both children had been present during the altercation. No other safeguarding concerns were noted in relation to the general care of the children.
- 12.98 **14 October 2020** - Collette attended a telephone appointment with Change Grow Live. Collette stated that she had consumed three alcoholic drinks since the last session and was moving house. Collette stated that a Case Conference was to be held on 26/10/20, where she expected that the Children in Need status for her children would be removed.
- 12.99 **26 October 2020** – Collette started a new tenancy with Jigsaw Homes. This was as a result of a mutual exchange.
- 12.100 The same day, a Case Conference was held regarding Collette's children, and it was agreed that the case could be closed to Children's Social Care and that Change Grow Live involvement would cease once relapse prevention work had been completed.

- 12.101 **29 October 2020** – Collette confirmed to Change Grow Live that she would complete the relapse prevention workbook.
- 12.102 **5 November 2020** – Children’s Social Care visited Collette at home on and explained to Collette that they would undertake a children and family assessment. Collette was upset by this but expressed her willingness to engage with the assessment process.
- 12.103 **12 November 2020** - Collette disclosed a recent incident to Change Grow Live concerning her ex-partner. She stated that the Police had been involved, and a referral had been made to Children’s Social Care. The consequences of her alcohol use were explored. The next day, Change Grow Live attempted unsuccessfully to contact Children’s Social Care.
- 12.104 **Between 02/12/20 and 22/01/21**, Change Grow Live booked five separate appointments with Collette. One of these was cancelled by Collette as she stated she was working. Collette did not attend the other four appointments.
- 12.105 **26 November 2020** - Ryan was stopped by Police in a vehicle with false plates and with no licence or insurance. He admitted that he had been using this to take Collette’s children to school. Ryan was prosecuted for road traffic offences. No referral was made in relation to the children.
- 12.106 **4 December 2020** - The Social Worker undertook a home visit to Collette and the children. During this visit, the Social Worker read a statement about dangers to Collette and asked if she understood the concern and the reason for Children’s Social Care involvement. Collette responded stating that there was no domestic abuse around her children and there had never been. Collette was questioned about the suitability of her sister caring for the children, which she contested. Substance use was discussed with Collette stating that she had not had a problem with this for about three years. Direct work was undertaken with the children and no concerns were noted about the children.
- 12.107 **3 December 2020** - Ryan appeared before the court and was sentenced to a six-month conditional discharge for the offence of Being Drunk and Disorderly committed on 03/10/20.
- 12.108 **19 December 2020** – A domestic abuse incident was reported to the Police by Collette’s sister. Collette denied that this occurred and reported that her sister has been the instigator, arriving at her address intoxicated and already injured. However, Collette’s sister reported that she was at Collette’s having drinks and Ryan was present. She stated that Ryan and Collette get into an argument and Ryan pinned Collette down on the stairs and punched her several times in the face. Officers saw a faint scratch to Collette’s face and a graze to the bottom of her neck. Collette said the injuries to her were not caused by Ryan and he had not been at the address, that he didn’t know where she lived, and she hadn’t seen him in person for a long time. The sister reported that Ryan had assaulted her for intervening and that he had put his hands around her neck and squeezed. He then hit her head off the stairs and punched her in the face.
- 12.109 The sister was taken to hospital by Officers to be checked over as she has visible injuries consisting of lump to the forehead, lump to the back of the head, blooded nose, scratches to her face, bruising marks on her neck and bruising and soreness to her left arm.
- 12.110 The DASH³⁰ risk assessment questions were refused by Collette as she was adamant that no domestic had occurred, and she wasn’t in a relationship and hadn’t ever been in a relationship with Ryan. Ryan was later arrested for assaulting both Collette and her sister. Ryan denied the assault. House to house enquiries were completed but no witnesses were found, nor was there any CCTV evidence. Advice was sought by the Police, and it was deemed that the chances of a conviction were minimal due to the evidential difficulties, so the matter was filed for no further action by Police.

³⁰ Domestic Abuse Stalking and ‘Honour’ Based Abuse Risk Assessment.

- 12.111 The risk level was assessed to be high risk and the case was discussed at the risk management meeting held on 21/12/20. A referral was made to the MARAC to be discussed on 05/01/21. A referral was also made to Children's Social Care and the Health Visitor, as the children were present during the assault.
- 12.112 **21 December 2020** - Bridges received a MARAC referral from the Police for Collette as a victim of domestic abuse from Ryan.
- 12.113 **22 December 2020** – Collette was visited by Children's Social Care regarding the incident on 19/12/20 and informed that a strategy meeting was to be organised and a children and families assessment to be completed.

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- 12.114 **2 January 2021** – Ryan was brought into the ED, having been picked up by ambulance crew after jumping in front of vehicles. Ryan told paramedics he could not cope with memories of finding his mum dead (by suicide) and of witnessing a friend burn to death. Ryan left the department following triage but before a full assessment was completed. Ryan was reported to the Police as missing by staff at the hospital after he left before being seen, and there was concern that he may have suicidal ideation.
- 12.115 The Police missing person report was closed on 05/01/21 when Ryan was seen safe and well. The Police noted that Ryan seemed clear headed and was apologetic as he had not realised he had been reported as missing. He stated he had got drunk because this time of year is the anniversary of his mum's death, and it haunts him. He had gone to his friend's address and had been staying there since. It was also noted that Ryan was anxious due to having lost his job (due to Covid) and was worried about his future. Ryan said that he was not a danger to himself or others - he was just having a bad time due to the anniversary of his mum's death. He said he had a lovely girlfriend and good friends to support him. He was in regular touch with his GP and awaiting an appointment with Healthy Minds. An Adult Care Plan³¹ was submitted to the Police safeguarding team, but due to Ryan not giving consent and having no contact number or fixed abode, no further referrals could be made.
- 12.116 **4 January 2021** - After multiple failed contact attempts, a Bridges IDVA³² spoke to Collette by telephone, who denied the incident had occurred (it had been reported by her sister) and declined support. This information was fed back to the allocated Social Worker.
- 12.117 **5 January 2021** – The case was discussed at the MARAC. Children's Social Care were unable to provide recent information about the family due to staff absences over the Christmas period. Bridges noted that the case was likely to be closed by them due to non-engagement. It was agreed that the Education representative would speak to the school about the children and that Change Grow Live would do a DASH risk assessment.
- 12.118 **6 January 2021** – A strategy discussion was held by Children's Social Care. An outcome was that the Practice Manager was to request that the case was heard as an emergency at a Legal Gateway³³ meeting the next day. The Social Worker and multi-agency view was that the children were not safe in the care of their mother. A Children in Need home visit was undertaken. The children were seen safe and well with Collette. Collette signed an agreement that:
- "No one is allowed to drink alcohol around children.
 - Ryan is not allowed in the property.

³¹ An Adult Care Plan is a form completed when the Police identify a vulnerable adult.

³² An IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) is a trained specialist who provides a service to victims of domestic abuse who are at high risk of serious harm.

³³ The Legal Gateway is the point at which the area team has reached a recommendation that legal action is now required to safeguard a child and plan for their permanence.

- Should Ryan come to the address, Collette will not open her door and will be calling Police immediately.
 - Collette to support children back to school as a place of safety during the lockdown.
 - Collette to ensure that she keeps her children safe at home”.
- 12.119 When Collette was challenged by the Social Worker about denying the events of the 19/12/20, it was noted that she became remorseful saying that her relationship was the issue, that she could not move away from people in her past life because they have ‘got her back’ and that she recognised that this was undermining her parenting.
- 12.120 Collette requested that, in the event that the decision was made to remove her children, she would like them to be placed within the family. Collette was advised that the decision made was to refer this to Legal Gateway tomorrow and the decision would be made there.
- 12.121 **8 January 2021** – Collette had a telephone call with Change Grow Live. Collette requested a face-to-face appointment to complete a relapse prevention session. This was to be arranged at her next appointment. Collette did not attend the next two appointments.
- 12.122 Ryan contacted Tameside Housing Advice again on 18/01/21, disclosing a change in his mental health and was provided with bed and breakfast accommodation. He did not attend the accommodation provided and later told staff he had met a friend and stayed with them. It was explained that Ryan had lost his accommodation duty but could be referred to the Town House (bed for every night accommodation). Ryan declined this and said he would stay with friends. There was no further contact from Ryan and no response to contact attempts by Housing Officers, so the case was closed in April 2021.
- 12.123 **26 January 2021** – Collette’s two children were made the subject of a Child Protection Plan under the category of emotional abuse.
- 12.124 **4 February 2021** - A self-referral was received by Pennine Care from Collette. An assessment was completed, discussed in supervision and accepted by the Neighbourhood Mental Health Team due to emotional dysregulation. The Neighbourhood Mental Health Team are part of the Living Well Tameside model that sits between primary and secondary care. It is an integration of services within Tameside that provide mental health support along with a broader wellbeing offer. Collette engaged in eight sessions in total of which six were via video link and two via telephone contact. No issues relating to domestic abuse were identified during the work undertaken by Talking Therapies.
- 12.125 **11 February 2021** - Collette attended a telephone appointment with Change Grow Live and stated she could control her alcohol use. She also stated Children’s Social Care were again involved with her children and that she was engaging with the Women’s Centre.
- 12.126 **18 February 2021** – Collette was visited by Children’s Social Care and informed that, due to Collette exposing her children to domestic abuse and alcohol abuse at home, there were safeguarding concerns. Collette was told that the Children were in Public Law Outline (PLO) proceedings³⁴ and on a Child Protection plan under the category of emotional harm.
- 12.127 **23 February 2021** – Collette attended a telephone review with Change Grow Live. No changes were noted.
- 12.128 **24 February 2021** – Ryan had a telephone consultation with the GP for anxiety and depression Ryan was noted to have stopped cannabis use three weeks before. Antidepressants were increased and a six-week fit note dated back to 19/01/21.

³⁴ The Public Law Outline (PLO) process takes place when the Local Authority is concerned about a child’s wellbeing and unless positive steps are taken to address and alleviate those concerns, the Local Authority may consider making an application to the Court. The PLO process is therefore the last opportunity for parents to make improvements to their parenting before care proceedings are issued.

- 12.129 **4 March 2021** – Ryan had a telephone consultation with the GP to discuss anxiety, depression and PTSD. He said he had been very close to a murder incident and was having flashbacks, nightmares and poor sleep. Ryan had self-referred to Talking Therapies and was awaiting therapy. Ryan requested an ADHD referral as he had been diagnosed as a child and used to be on medication. Anti-depressants were increased and a referral made to the ADHD clinic (although Ryan never completed the initial questionnaire and was not seen). A one-month fit note was issued for anxiety, depression and PTSD.
- 12.130 **Between 11 March and 24 September 2021** Ryan engaged with Talking Therapies. Three appointments were completed via telephone. An assessment was completed and Ryan reported issues with alcohol misuse, PTSD, low mood and anxiety. Treatment was offered but Ryan was then discharged as per their policy as he missed two appointments. There were no concerns raised around domestic abuse. The GP received a letter regarding the mental health service assessment undertaken with Ryan. Ryan was noted to be fearful of leaving the house for the past five years, experiencing flashbacks and nightmares. Ryan had previously self-harmed but not for 18 months. Ryan was put on the step three CBT³⁵ trauma waiting list.
- 12.131 **18 March 2021** - A Public Law Outline Core Group meeting requested a parenting assessment to be completed with both parents. Children's Social Care requested a report from Change Grow Live in respect of the PLO proceedings. Collette was visited the same day and given the schedule for the parenting assessment as agreed at the PLO. No concerns were noted about the children.
- 12.132 **25 March 2021** – Ryan had a telephone consultation with the GP to discuss depression. Antidepressants were increased and Ryan was noted to be awaiting CBT.
- 12.133 **4 April 2021** – Police were called to an incident during which a male that Collette had started a relationship with was assaulted and received injuries from a knife. Following the incident, that was witnessed by Collette and two other females, the suspect (Ryan) fled the scene and then contacted Collette making threats. Ryan was alleged to have been shouting and made threats saying, "I'm going to kill you, I'm going to finish the job". Ryan was arrested. Collette provided a statement regarding witnessing the incident where the male was assaulted.
- 12.134 Collette and the male victim of the assault were advised to stay at alternative addresses and urgent response markers were added to the addresses. Information was shared with Children's Social Care.
- 12.135 Ryan was arrested and bailed whilst statements and medical evidence were obtained. Ryan had bail conditions not to have any contact with Collette. Following their investigation, GMP submitted a file to the CPS on 07/10/21 for a charging decision. Following a review of the case on 20/12/21, a detailed action plan asking for further enquiries to be conducted was sent by the CPS to GMP. The file was re-submitted to the CPS on 31/12/21.
- 12.136 **8 April 2021** - Collette attended a telephone appointment with Change Grow Live. She reported drinking three cans of cider at the weekend and attributed this to her ex-partner having made contact. She disclosed that this relationship had been abusive and stated she was residing with her grandparents.
- 12.137 The same day a Social Worker visited Collette and the children at her grandparents. The Social Worker recorded concerns about the safety plan that Collette had signed being adhered to. The incident on 04/04/21 was discussed with the Social Worker sharing concerns that Collette continued to associate with the same friends who had landed her in trouble in the past and about Collette's ability to prioritise her children's need when they are around her or when away with their father. Collette was advised that she could return home

³⁵ Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is a talking therapy that can help people manage problems by changing the way they think and behave.

but that she needed to adhere to the safety plan as she had previously agreed to keep Ryan away from the family and ensure her children's safety.

- 12.138 **29 April 2021** – Collette did not attend her planned appointment with Change Grow Live.
- 12.139 Between January and April 2021 Collette missed three national routine screening appointments.
- 12.140 **4 May 2021** - Collette telephoned Change Grow Live and provided her new telephone number. She also requested relapse prevention information.
- 12.141 **11 May 2021** - Collette attended a telephone review with Change Grow Live and stated she had been abstinent from alcohol for four weeks. Collette reported occasional cannabis use. She stated she was looking to apply for college courses.
- 12.142 A Social Worker visited Collette and noted that she continued to 'associate with friends which put her at risk of violence when they socialise, and alcohol is usually a factor'. The parenting assessment was completed. The Legal Gateway had agreed to three months of PLO extension and the Core Group meetings were to review the care plan.
- 12.143 **24 May 2021** – Collette's sister used Collette's mobile telephone to call the Police – this was an abandoned 999 call with a disturbance heard. Both later said it was because a friend had taken Collette's sister's phone and she wanted to scare her into giving it back. The phone was later returned, and the sister declined to name the friend. No further action was taken.
- 12.144 **28 May 2021** – Police responded to a report that Ryan had been slashed with a knife. The suspect was Collette (along with two others). This incident was not recorded as a domestic abuse incident between Ryan and Collette. A referral was made to Bridges domestic abuse service as Collette stated she was in fear of Ryan and wanted to be rehoused. Collette made a 'no comment' interview and the other female stated that the injuries had been sustained when Ryan was disarmed upon attending Collette's address with the knife and she did not know how the injuries had been caused. Ryan would not cooperate with Police and the matter was filed for no further action. A Social Worker happened to be on the street and attended the property having seen Police vehicles and noted that Collette and her sibling were being detained at the house. Collette was advised that the Social Worker would ask the children's father to keep the children and not return them to Collette's care as the agreed safety plan had been breached. Ryan presented at the ED regarding injuries sustained from this alleged assault but left before treatment was completed. Ryan did, however, return the next day for treatment.
- 12.145 **1 June 2021** – Children's Social Care reviewed information about the incident at Collette's home and noted this as a breach of Collette's safety plan. The matter was to return to Legal Gateway for oversight this week and the PLO solicitor was to be informed.
- 12.146 The same day Bridges received a referral from the Police for Collette as a victim from Ryan.
- 12.147 **4 June 2021** – Collette had a telephone appointment with Change Grow Live. She reported binge drinking. She stated her children had been removed and were now residing with their father. Collette was offered group interventions, which she declined. Collette was informed that she would be allocated to a different Recovery Coordinator, as her current one was leaving. An appointment was booked for 14/06/21. Collette did not attend this and two voicemail messages were left for her by her worker. On 06/07/21, Collette telephoned and requested another appointment. Her new telephone number was updated onto the system. On 28/07/21, Change Grow Live returned this call, and an appointment was arranged for 05/08/21. This was then rescheduled for 06/08/21 at Collette's request and then for the 01/09/21 but she did not attend these.
- 12.148 **Through May and June 2021**, Jigsaw Homes received several reports of incidents at Collette's house which concerned loud shouting and items being burnt in the back garden.

These incidents escalated to loud parties, alleged drug taking and fighting at the address, including an incidence where Ryan had been stabbed, allegedly by Collette, but Collette denied this explaining he had turned up with his injuries. At this time Ryan was not supportive of any Police action. It was reported that the parties continued and Collette was witnessed intoxicated or under the influence of drugs. Unsuccessful attempts were made to contact Collette until a further visit to the address was made and Collette was home and allowed access. A tenancy warning was handed to Collette. Collette admitted some of the allegations were true and that 'her head had fallen off', but that she felt like she was getting back on track.

- 12.149 **28 June 2021** - Jigsaw Homes obtained a civil injunction against Collette. The injunction was served on 3 July 2021. This was a without notice application³⁶ so a return hearing was listed for Collette to attend court. This court hearing was held on 19 July and a final order was granted and this was then served to Collette on 30 July 2021 with the following clauses. The court ordered that Collette whether by herself or by instructing or encouraging any other person must not:
- i. Engage in conduct that causes or is likely to cause nuisance or annoying to any person living, visiting or otherwise having lawful reason to be in [the address]
 - ii. Use or threaten to use violence or intimidating behaviour to any person living, visiting or having lawful reason to be in [the address]
 - iii. Allowing more than two visitors to their property, visitors do not include emergency services, professional health workers, employees or contractors of Jigsaw Homes or the local authority.
- 12.156 There were four more complaints to Jigsaw Homes about Collette's address in July, two in August, one in October and two in November.
- 12.157 **6 July 2021** - The male previously stabbed by Ryan called Police to report that Ryan was outside his address in breach of bail, throwing stones at the neighbour's window and asking where he was. It transpired that the victim had not been present at the time and the male outside had his face covered and could not be identified as Ryan by the neighbour. No further action was taken.
- 12.158 **9 July 2021** - After multiple failed contact attempts, Bridges completed an initial assessment with Collette by phone. Collette agreed to support. At this time Collette was attending the Freedom Programme. Following this appointment, despite multiple contact attempts, Collette could not be contacted.
- 12.159 **16 July 2021** – Collette's sister reported an incident to the Police. She described that there had been lots of drinking and possible drug taking at Collette's address. The sister wanted to go home but the others present wanted her to stay to drink some more. This resulted in a disagreement. A male who was present hit the sister to the face, causing her to fall on the floor. Whilst on the floor Collette knelt over her and hit her several times. The sister managed to get up from the floor and get out of the front door to a neighbour's address. During the scuffle, it was claimed that Collette had taken her sister's phone and smashed the screen. The sister was not supportive of a prosecution and the crime was filed with no further action taken.
- 12.160 **26 July 2021** - Ryan was stopped by Police for driving without a licence and with no insurance. Ryan was summonsed to court³⁷.

³⁶ A without notice application is an application made without serving a copy of the application notice on the respondent. They are sometimes referred to as 'ex parte' applications.

³⁷ Many criminal cases, especially motoring matters, begin with a summons to attend court. This is a letter sent by the court hearing the case, giving a date and time to attend.

- 12.161 **2 August 2021** – A Social Worker visited Collette and informed her that the children were to remain in the care of their father and that the parenting assessment was to be updated.
- 12.162 **1 September 2021** – Collette did not attend her appointment with Change Grow Live.
- 12.163 **9 September 2021** – A final PLO meeting was held. Parenting assessments had been completed and it was recommended that the children remain in the care of their father and that contact with Collette was to be supervised.
- 12.164 **16 September 2021** - Police attended Collette's address following a third party report of a female shouting "he's going to stab me". On entering the address, Collette was in the living room with Ryan. Both parties were spoken to separately. Initially Collette stated that nothing was wrong and that an argument had taken place on the street. Collette asked if Police would remove Ryan from the address as she didn't want him there and she stated that Ryan had bail conditions not to contact her. Collette was very upset. She stated that she had had a drink but was not drunk. The Officer noted that Collette presented as very distressed and scared, and that it was very difficult to understand what had happened as she was telling about three different stories at once. Collette then stated that Ryan had pinned her up against the door by her throat and threatened her to drop the charges. Due to the number of different stories she was telling it was unclear what the charges related to. Ryan was arrested but denied the offences of assault and witness intimidation.
- 12.165 GMP submitted the case to CPS for a charging decision on the same day and were directed to obtain further evidence whilst Ryan remained in custody, as it was unclear at this stage whether Collette would support a prosecution. The following was requested: -
- Obtain a statement from Collette and the two males who were present prior to the incident.
 - Review the 999 call to assess whether they could hear the disturbance referred to. The officers who attended the initial incident had not obtained a contact number from her.
- 12.166 Officers were unable to contact Collette when they returned to her home once Ryan was in custody. Police tried to contact Collette using the most recent number on police systems, but that was answered by a male. They were also unable to identify who the males present were.
- 12.167 The CPS concluded that no charges could be authorised, due to insufficient evidence and on 17/09/21 issued an action plan of enquiries to be completed by GMP.
- 12.168 A referral was made by the Police to Children's Social Care as Collette had two children, albeit they were not in her primary care and lived with their biological father at another address. This was confirmed with the out of hours Social Services. A MARAC referral was completed.
- 12.169 **17 September 2021** - Ryan was released from custody and made subject to Police bail conditions. The conditions were as follows:
- i. Not to encourage others to contact Collette directly or indirectly
 - ii. Not to go within 100 yards of [Collette's address]
 - iii. Not to contact in any way Collette
 - iv. Conditions valid until 1200 hours on 14/10/21 when Ryan was to present at the Police station again.
- 12.170 CPS re-opened the case on 29/12/21 at the request of GMP, however no further evidence was provided to the CPS. The case was therefore closed by CPS on 24/03/22 due to no response to the action plan requested. The crimes were finalised with no further action taken.

- 12.171 **29 September 2021** - After several failed contact attempts, the Bridges IDVA managed to speak to Collette and establish her safety and make an appointment to complete an initial assessment.
- 12.172 **September 2021**³⁸ – Tameside Housing Advice was contacted by Jigsaw Homes regarding Collette. Collette had left her tenancy to stay with her grandmother on a temporary basis due to domestic abuse from her ex-partner. Collette felt scared to return to her tenancy following a domestic abuse incident on 16/09/21. She had not spoken to Ryan since the incident but had 17 missed calls from him the following day. She thinks he will go to prison as he “stabbed someone in front of her and their children”. Collette had stated that she was in relationship with Ryan for four years and there was constant abuse. Ryan had assaulted her new partner and hospitalised him due to stabbing. Collette had asked for Jigsaw to move her but this was currently restricted due to Jigsaw obtaining injunctions against Collette related to ASB at her tenancy. The case was closed as Collette had returned to the property and declined the offer of temporary accommodation. Collette was advised regarding privately renting as she was unable to access a managed move at this time to alternate social housing due to the ASB injunction.
- 12.173 **2 October 2021** – The Bridges IDVA called Collette to complete an assessment as planned but Collette stated she didn’t have time and this was rearranged. Her main priority was noted to be rehousing. Collette was staying with her grandmother temporarily as she did not feel safe to go home.
- 12.174 **4 October 2021** - Collette appeared in court to be sentenced for the offence of Section 39 Assault of a male. This related to two males fighting in a service station. CCTV footage showed Collette also attacking one of the men. Collette received a 12-month Community Order with 10 days Rehabilitation Activity Requirements and 80 hours Unpaid Work for this offence.
- 12.175 **6 October 2021** – Probation completed an intelligence check with the Police and were informed of a domestic abuse incident on 16/09/21, where Collette was identified to be the victim of a high-risk incident and Ryan was the perpetrator. The information stated that Collette claimed Ryan was threatening to stab her. The information shared also indicated that Collette had warnings for violence and weapons and was flagged as both a high-risk victim of domestic abuse as well as a perpetrator. No further details regarding the domestic abuse history between Ryan and Collette was shared within this report or any subsequent domestic abuse enquiries that were made during the period of supervision by Probation.
- 12.176 **8 October 2021** - Probation had a discussion with Collette to better understand her background and her needs. Within this discussion, Collette identified that the victim of the index offence was a male friend, however, his name was either not shared or not recorded. Collette’s needs were identified to be in respect of Employment, Training and Education, debt, alcohol misuse and emotional management. Collette was reported to have made links between alcohol misuse and feelings of anger and discussed a pending charge against her for a Section 18 wounding offence. No dates were given of when this alleged offence occurred, but Collette referenced that her children were present and as a result, they were removed from her care.
- 12.177 In response to Safeguarding Enquiries made with the local authority, information was returned to Probation to confirm that Collette’s children were subject to Child Protection arrangements. It was reported that Collette had contact with them five times per week at their grandmother’s house and the children were not allowed at Collette’s home address due to risks regarding associates who may attend her home. In response to this information, the case was transferred to a Probation Officer qualified to supervise cases of

³⁸ Date unavailable.

higher risk, complexity and where there are Child Protection concerns. This was in line with case allocation practice.

- 12.178 **11 October 2021** - Collette attended a risk review appointment with Change Grow Live. She stated she had consumed alcohol twice in seven weeks, 15 units each time. She reported occasional cannabis use and agreed for her next appointment to take place at Probation Offices, as she had a face to face appointment planned with Probation in Tameside.
- 12.179 The same day Collette called the IDVA asking them to chase Jigsaw Homes regarding moving her. The following day, an email exchange took place between Bridges staff and Tameside Housing Advice and also Bridges staff contacted Jigsaw Homes to discuss the possibility of a managed move for Collette.
- 12.180 **12 October 2021** – The case was discussed at the Tameside MARAC. The outcomes were that the IDVA was to support Collette and Change Grow Live were to continue to support her.
- 12.181 **14 October 2021** – The Probation Officer emailed the Social Worker to introduce themselves and to share the sentence requirements. They requested dates for upcoming Core Groups and Conferences and a copy of the Child Protection Plan to assist with their management and support of this case. This information was chased again on 26/10/21 and again on 04/11/21, at which time Probation spoke to the Social Worker on the telephone to gather information.
- 12.182 **19 October 2021** - Collette asked for her planned appointment with Probation to be rescheduled because she had a job interview. The appointment took place the next day by telephone and was used to gather information from Collette to inform the risk assessment and develop Sentence Plan objectives collaboratively. Collette reported her main goal was to have her children residing with her and recognised that this will require her to evidence a change in her behaviours. Collette reported that she had been successful in gaining a job after attending interview the previous day and that she commenced work on 22/10/21.
- 12.183 **21 October 2021** - Collette did not attend for unpaid work as directed. As an acceptable reason for her absence was not received, Probation issued a warning letter to Collette.
- 12.184 **26 October 2021** - Collette did not attend a Probation planned office visit. Collette submitted evidence to indicate that her housing provider attended her property for maintenance. Probation accepted this as a reasonable reason for her non-attendance.
- 12.185 Probation emailed the Social Worker again requesting information, as they had not received a response. Police Intelligence Enquires were also requested. Similar information was returned to that received on 06/10/21 – confirming the last domestic incident was on 16/09/21.
- 12.186 On the same day, Collette did not attend her appointment with Change Grow Live and a further appointment was booked for 09/11/21 via telephone. On the day of this appointment, Probation telephoned Change Grow Live and stated Collette was unable to attend this due to issues with her bus pass, and the appointment was re-booked for 16/11/21.
- 12.187 **28 October 2021** – The Community Order OASys assessment was completed by Probation to review the presenting risk following Collette's conviction. The assessment identified that accommodation, relationships, lifestyle and associates, alcohol misuse, emotional well-being, thinking and behaviour and attitudes are all linked to both the risk of serious harm and further offending behaviours, with alcohol being a key trigger to more recent offences. The assessment concluded that Collette presented as a medium risk of serious harm to:
- Public (violence and damage when under the influence).
 - Known adults – whilst not specifically named as expected, these are identified as male peers who are at risk of assault.

- Children – recognised to be under Child Protection procedures under emotional harm due to witnessing Collette's alcohol misuse and lifestyle that puts them in potentially harmful situations with Collette's associates and domestic abuse.
- Staff – recognising arresting Officers to have been assaulted by Collette.

12.188 The Sentence Plan objectives included:

- Seeking to increase appropriate behaviours within relationships.
- Working within the Child Protection plan.
- Addressing alcohol misuse.
- Completing unpaid work.

12.189 **2 November 2021** – Collette attended a planned appointment with Probation. The need for engagement with the unpaid work element was reinforced, however, Collette reported that employment was a barrier to this. Collette reported there have been antisocial behaviour reports in respect of her accommodation. Child Protection concerns were discussed which Collette recognised were related to her lifestyle. Collette reported that the investigation into the Section 18 offence had been discontinued.

12.190 **4 November 2021** – The Probation Officer contacted the Social Worker to request details of the planned meetings in respect of Child Protection. The Social Worker advised that the next Core Group was on 10/11/21. They also reported that the Review Child Protection Conference was on 16/03/22. They advised that links would be sent to enable Probation's attendance.

12.191 **9 November 2021** - Collette called Probation to advise that she was having travel problems and could not get to her appointment. The absence was accepted. The Probation Officer discussed the accruing absences this with their Line Manager to ensure their approach to enforcement was defensible.

12.192 **10 November 2021** – A Safeguarding Core Group Meeting held. There was no record of this meeting available. Probation was not represented at this meeting as they were not sent the link to enable their attendance.

12.193 **11 November 2021** - Collette missed an unpaid work appointment stating that her child was unwell. This absence was recorded as acceptable.

12.194 **16 November 2021** - Collette attended her appointment with Change Grow Live. She reported drinking two glasses of wine and stated she hadn't consumed any alcohol for six weeks. Relapse prevention advice was given. The impact on her physical and mental health was explored. Collette stated she was progressing well and did want her children back. She stated that she is engaging with Probation and the IDVA. Collette agreed to attend a group delivered by Change Grow Live. An appointment was arranged for 30/11/21. An update was provided to Probation the following day.

12.195 **17 November 2021** – The IDVA completed a comprehensive assessment with Collette. Identified risks and needs were noted around criminal and civil legal matters and housing. The option of moving to a refuge was declined by Collette. Emails were sent to the Police to confirm bail details for Ryan. A referral for civil legal advice was made. The IDVA made email contact with the Probation Officer. Further emails were sent to Jigsaw Homes to explore the possibility of a move. However, Jigsaw were unable to consider a managed move due to ongoing ASB, breaches of orders and impending legal action against Collette's tenancy. Collette was informed of this by the IDVA on 06/12/21.

12.196 **21 November 2021** - Collette was arrested for being drunk and disorderly. This related to an argument with her sister. A fixed penalty notice was issued for a Public Order offence. Collette rang Probation the next day to inform them of this.

- 12.197 **25 November 2021** - Collette missed an unpaid work appointment, stating this was due to one of her children being unwell.
- 12.198 **30 November 2021** – Collette informed Change Grow Live that she had been arrested for a Public Order offence. She stated she had been drinking. Risks were discussed with Collette. An email was sent to Probation providing them with an update of contact.
- 12.199 The same day, Collette attended a Probation appointment at which her unpaid work absences were discussed and alternative approaches to unpaid work that may support Collette in overcoming the barriers to her attendance.
- 12.200 **2 December 2021** – Collette missed an unpaid work appointment.
- 12.201 **3 December 2021** – Children’s Social Care recorded that the PLO had ended and that the children were to remain in care of father who was reported to be meeting their care needs and exercising parental responsibility. The decision was noted that that case did not need to progress to care proceedings.
- 12.202 **7 December 2021** – Collette attended a planned appointment with Probation and case records evidence a formal discussion regarding:
- Attendance and potential breach action.
 - Risks of further offending when under the influence of alcohol.
 - Concerns regarding her children and potential animosity with the children’s father – a Core Group meeting was imminent to discuss this further.
 - Housing – Collette reported a decision that a move will not be considered until July 2022 due to an injunction in place.
- 12.203 The Probation Officer emailed the Social Worker to request the link to ensure that they could attend the Core Group meeting scheduled for 08/12/21. They asked again the following day and received this prior to the meeting.
- 12.204 **8 December 2021** – A Core Group Meeting was held and attended by the school, Children’s Services and Probation, with Collette and the children’s father also present.
- 12.205 Unpaid work appointments were missed by Collette on 09/12/21, 16/12/21 and 30/12/21.
- 12.206 **14 December 2021** - Collette was seen face to face by Change Grow Live at the Women’s Centre. She denied any use of alcohol or drugs since her arrest. Peer pressure was explored, and harm reduction discussed. Collette stated that she had no concerns with her physical or mental health. An appointment was agreed for 11/01/22.
- 12.207 The same day the IDVA made a call to Collette to check on her welfare and obtain updates. Collette said she was back at her home address. She had some home security concerns regarding a damaged window. No recent contact from Ryan was reported. The IDVA emailed housing to chase the window repair.
- 12.208 **20 December 2021** – The IDVA had a telephone call with Collette. It was noted that criminal proceedings had been filed without prosecution. There were no ongoing issues or recent contact from Ryan. Safety planning was completed. The case was closed and Housing and Probation were informed.

2022

- 12.209 Collette missed four unpaid work appointments in January 2022. A Probation supervision appointment was also missed on 11/01/22. Formal breach action was now progressed and a court date set for 02/02/22.
- 12.210 **11 January 2022** - Collette attended a REFLECT group session (an educational group in relation to drugs and alcohol) at the Women’s Centre and was noted to engage well in the

session. She did not attend her planned telephone risk review with Change Grow Live on the same day. A text was sent asking her to make contact.

- 12.211 **13 January 2022** – Probation made a request for any new Police intelligence and information was returned to indicate that there had been no new recorded incidents since the last request made in October 2021.
- 12.212 **18 January 2022** – Collette attended a Probation supervision appointment. Case notes reported that Collette attended late and there was limited time to engage with her. The breach process and next steps were discussed with Collette.
- 12.213 **19 January 2022** – A Core Group Meeting was held. The children were deemed to be at risk of further domestic abuse incidents despite Collette no longer being in a relationship with the children's father nor living with them, as domestic incidents were recorded between Collette and a different former ex-partner.
- 12.214 **25 January 2022** - Collette was seen at the Women's Centre. She reported no alcohol use since New Year's Eve. Risks, consequences, and relapse prevention were discussed. Collette stated she is spending less time with her friends. Collette did report fluctuations in her mood since stopping drinking. Ways in which Collette could spend her time productively were explored and Collette expressed an interest in volunteering. A further appointment was scheduled for 08/02/22. This appointment was rescheduled by Change Grow Live for 14/02/22. Collette did not attend this appointment. Collette did not attend a further four appointments that were booked. Change Grow Live telephoned Collette on 20/04/22, and an appointment was arranged for 03/05/22. Probation were informed of the previously missed appointment and the date for the next appointment booked. Collette did not attend her appointment on 03/05/22.
- 12.215 **26 January 2022** – A review of Collette's OASys Risk assessment and sentence plan objectives was undertaken at the six-month mark, in line with expected practice.
- 12.216 **2 February 2022** - Collette appeared at Tameside Magistrates Court in respect of the breach of licence whilst on probation. The order was allowed to continue with 10 additional hours added in recognition of the breach.
- 12.217 Collette was assessed as suitable to undertake her unpaid work hours through the Project in a Box Scheme³⁹ and was allocated a place at the beginning of February 2022. Unpaid work appointments were attended by Collette on 08/02/22 and 15/02/2022. However, Collette missed an appointment on 22/02/22 which was accepted – the reason cited was that she stayed with the children at grandmother's house given school holidays.
- 12.218 Planned Probation supervision appointments were missed by Collette on 08/02/22 and 22/02/22. Fortnightly reporting was considered appropriate at this stage of supervision with the case assessed as posing a medium risk of serious harm. The Probation Officer recorded professional judgement decisions regarding their rationale for accepting absences through the month of February. They balanced improved engagement with the unpaid work element of the order and the Child Protection Plan against Collette's poor planning over school holidays that had impacted on missed supervision appointments. Communication was recorded to have occurred on two occasions by telephone, indicating ongoing contact with Collette. The Probation Officer noted that they were offering significant leeway to Collette on the understanding there were no current indicators of increasing risk.
- 12.219 **2 March 2022** – Police responded to a 999 call by Collette who reported that someone had been banging on her door for the last half hour but she was too scared to check who it was.

³⁹ Project in a Box (PIAB) was a scheme which allowed People on Probation to complete unpaid work hours at home. These were tasks that delivered societal value and were available to people with protected characteristics following an assessment of suitability. This was introduced during the pandemic and continued to be in place in Greater Manchester until September 2022.

Officers spoke to Collette on the phone and she advised that the person had left. Officers carried out a search of the area but did not find anything of concern.

- 12.220 Collette missed an unpaid work and a Probation supervision appointment on 01/03/22. A supervision appointment was undertaken by telephone on 14/03/22 as Collette reported problems attending. Three unpaid work appointments were attended by Collette during March 2022.
- 12.221 **6 March 2022** - CPS authorised a charge of wounding with intent, related to the incident on 04/04/21. On 18 June 2022, Ryan was charged with a Section 18 assault⁴⁰ via postal charge. The initial court date was 14 July 2022.
- 12.222 **16 March 2022** – A Core Group Meeting was held. Probation was unable to attend but provided an update which includes concerns around Collette's attendance and some disclosure around recent alcohol use. There was no record of this meeting available.
- 12.223 **31 March 2022** - A Probation supervision appointment was attended by Collette with a newly allocated Probation Officer. This session was recorded as a review of progress to date and reiteration of the need to attend all given appointments.
- 12.224 Collette attended unpaid work appointments through April as expected. Collette did not attend two planned Probation supervision appointments through April. One of these absences was marked as unacceptable and a formal warning letter was sent to Collette.
- 12.225 **8 April 2022** – The Police received a call where a male could be heard moaning. Collette came on the line and said that the call was made in error but gave the address. Officers attended and all parties were noted to be drunk but safe and well. All confirmed that call was made in error.
- 12.226 **30 April 2022** – The Police were called to an incident. Ryan had been out drinking with some friends and said he had consumed around 10 pints of lager and some vodka shots. Ryan bumped into Collette at some point during the day, and during the trip home, Ryan and Collette became loud in the street causing someone to shout out of her window for the pair to keep it down. Ryan reacted to this by shouting and calling the victim a "slag". He then walked over to the victim's fence and started pulling on it, causing it to come away from the concrete post that held it in place. Collette then started banging on the front door, followed then by pulling a cable from the side of the house. Police arrived and detained Ryan and Collette. Ryan became aggressive and kicked out, making contact with a Police Officer's thigh. Collette was arrested for criminal damage. Ryan was arrested for criminal damage and assault of an emergency worker.
- 12.227 **3 May 2022** – Change Grow Live and Probation were informed by GMP that Collette had been arrested for Criminal Damage on 30/04/2022.
- 12.228 **3 May 2022** – Collette attended her last unpaid work appointment as all required hours had been completed.
- 12.229 **5 May 2022** - Collette attended a Probation supervision appointment where case records indicate discussion regarding her recent arrest and the circumstances of this. Collette stated that the incident was triggered by a meeting with Ryan during a night out, that they argued and that she became angry, pulling a satellite dish from a wall. Collette reported that both she and Ryan were arrested. The Probation Officer emailed the Social Worker to ensure they had information regarding the recent arrest incident.
- 12.230 **8 May 2022** - Ryan was seen fighting in the street by door staff with unknown males and females and had shouted that he had a knife. On Police arrival no knife was found, and the

⁴⁰ Section 18 assault specifically refers to an offence described as either "wounding with intent" or "causing grievous bodily harm with intent" and is the most serious form of assault (save for murder and manslaughter) that can be committed.

other parties had left the area. A crime was filed with no further action due to insufficient evidence.

- 12.231 **13 May 2022** – Collette attended a planned Probation appointment at which the relationship between Collette and Ryan was discussed. Collette denied any ongoing contact with Ryan and spoke about her steps to create distance between them.
- 12.232 **25 May 2022** – A Core Group meeting was held. The Probation Officer recorded their intention to arrange a three-way meeting with Collette and the Social Worker to review progress. There is no record of this meeting available.
- 12.233 **25 May 2022** - Change Grow Live had arranged a joint appointment for Collette with the Probation Officer. Collette did not attend this appointment. A voicemail was left for Collette. Change Grow Live informed Probation that Collette had not engaged in appointments since January 2022, and her case would therefore be closed. A letter was also sent to Collette informing her to contact the service within seven days if she still required a service.
- 12.234 **27 May 2022** – Collette attended a planned appointment with Probation and engaged in a reflective discussion about the recent Core Group meeting. Change Grow Live received an email from Probation stating that Collette had asked the Probation Office to text her a further appointment with Change Grow Live. An appointment for 07/06/22 was arranged at the Women's Centre
- 12.235 **7 June 2022** – A full risk review was completed by Change Grow Live. Collette reported binge drinking two months previously. She stated that the trigger for this was her mental health and anxiety. She stated that she had an appointment booked with her GP and that her issues were not with alcohol and were related to her mental health. It was agreed that at the next appointment, they would explore whether Collette still required a service from Change Grow Live.
- 12.236 **9 June 2022** – Collette saw her GP regarding mood swings and experiencing anxiety for a long time. The GP diagnosed anxiety and depression. A self-referral to Healthy Minds was suggested.
- 12.237 The same day Ryan was brought into the ED by ambulance following having a seizure lasting 5-7 minutes. There was no previous history of seizures. Ryan had hit the back of his head during the seizure. Ryan left after assessment but before treatment was completed and signed a self-discharge form against medical advice.
- 12.238 **17 June 2022** – Collette missed a Probation supervision appointment. This was being covered by another Probation Officer while Collette's one was on leave. Collette was contacted by telephone and reported that she was awaiting a home visit regarding a house move. The Probation Officer did not issue a warning letter given Collette's account and referred the absence back to the allocated Probation Officer to decide whether to accept the absence upon their return from leave. On their return from leave they recorded the absence as acceptable.
- 12.239 **19 June 2022** - Police were asked to attend an address regarding an abandoned 999 call with a female (Collette) shouting in the background and a male stating "drop all charges". Upon arrival to the address Police noted that Collette appeared to have had a drink and stated that her ex-partner (Ryan) had come to the address telling her to drop all charges in relation to an incident that occurred last year. Collette stated that she was in a relationship with Ryan until it ended three years ago and that she hadn't seen him in eight months. Collette said that she had had a few drinks in the pub with her friends and Ryan was there. As she didn't want any trouble, she had left to go home. When at home Ryan came to the address and began banging on the door. Collette said that she looked out the window and when she saw it was Ryan she locked the door and immediately called 999. Whilst telling Ryan to leave the area she had dropped her phone; this was whilst being on the phone to the Police call handler. An Urgent Response marker was already on the address. Everyone

within the address was seen safe and well and the Police ensured the house was safe and secure. Collette scored three on the DASH risk assessment⁴¹. A crime was recorded for witness intimidation, and Ryan's details were circulated as wanted in relation to this matter.

- 12.240 Collette provided a statement in relation to this incident but then later retracted this. Police enquiries continued during which they established that Collette had willingly been with Ryan earlier in the evening and a number of times since. The Police view was that this information undermined the evidence and a decision was made by the Senior Investigating Officer that there was insufficient evidence to charge Ryan so no further action was taken.
- 12.241 **20 June 2022** - Collette called the Police and reported two males had come to her address and sprayed petrol at her and on her kitchen window, whilst shouting at her to come down and speak to them. The males left when Collette called the Police, apparently making comment that they were going to return and set fire to her house.
- 12.242 Police did attend, but due to Collette receiving a call from a person asking why the Police were at her house, she wanted them to leave, as she did not want to be seen talking to the Officers. Collette left the address and went to her friends for safety. Collette said one of the males was well known in the area for supplying cocaine. Collette did not go to the Police station as planned. She made further plans to attend but failed to turn up.
- 12.243 Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) received an arson threat referral from the Police due to the threats made to burn down Collette's house and petrol poured through letter box and on her front door. GMFRS made several attempts to contact Collette to gain access to the property to carry out a Home Fire Safety Assessment but were unsuccessful, so this was not completed.
- 12.244 **21 June 2022** - Collette did not attend the planned appointment arranged with Change Grow Live and Probation were informed. Collette cancelled an appointment arranged for 28/06/22. On 15/07/22, a further appointment was arranged for 19/07/22. Collette did not attend this. Collette did not attend a further appointment on 09/08/22.
- 12.245 **30 June 2022** – Collette and Ryan appeared at Tameside Magistrates Court. Collette received a fine for the offence of Criminal Damage committed on 30/04/22. Ryan was convicted of assault by beating of an emergency worker and criminal damage and handed a 12-month community order with a rehabilitation activity requirement.
- 12.246 A Pre-Sentence Report was completed regarding Ryan on the day of sentence. An updated Police Domestic Abuse intel report was requested but not returned in time to include details within this report. Domestic abuse was, however, highlighted as an area of risk and a Domestic Abuse History alert was added to case records. Alcohol and cannabis misuse were also identified as factors linked to poor emotional control and instances of violence. A safeguarding enquiry was also made in respect of Ryan's sibling and Collette's children. Ryan indicated he did not currently take medication to manage ADHD symptoms and was provided details of the crisis team in respect of trauma and mental health support. The case was allocated to a Probation Officer who had completed training in managing cases where domestic abuse was identified as a risk factor and whose risk was assessed to be medium.
- 12.247 **30 June 2022** – Collette contacted Jigsaw Homes saying she wanted a fresh start and was applying for a mutual exchange. On 06/07/22, an exchange application was received by Jigsaw.
- 12.248 **4 July 2022** - During a telephone consultation with Healthy Minds, Collette stated that her two children were now living with their father so she felt less fearful about being open about her mental health. It was during this consultation that Collette disclosed that her children

⁴¹ A score of 14 or more would normally meet the MARAC referral criteria, although professional judgement should also be applied.

were removed due to an alcohol related incident and Collette disclosed a lot of information about her childhood and adult trauma, including disclosure of multiple domestic abuse relationships.

- 12.249 **5 July 2022** – Ryan attended for his initial appointment with Probation. It was noted that Ryan was residing with his father, his father's wife and their child. He stated that his co-defendant, Collette, was his ex-partner and that their relationship was toxic. It was noted that Ryan was diagnosed with ADHD and should have been taking medication for this but had not been taking this. Ryan also had Anxiety, Depression and PTSD. His PTSD was diagnosed in 2019 and was caused by a traumatic event in which his friend was burnt alive in a tent. Ryan was accused of 'grassing' on the person and was subsequently attacked by a gang of men. During his rehabilitation activity requirement days his Probation Officer was completing work on alcohol use, domestic abuse and thinking skills. Ryan was also working with an Education and Employment advisor and the Criminal Justice Mental Health Social Worker.
- 12.250 Ryan reported by text message to his Probation Officer that his sister had died and that he could not attend his planned appointment on 12/07/22. He attended an appointment on 14/07/22 where he briefly discussed the death of his sister whom he says he had only recently contacted. He indicated that he was happy to engage with a detailed interview to inform the risk assessment and develop a sentence plan.
- 12.251 **14 July 2022** - Ryan appeared at Tameside Magistrates Court in respect of an offence of Section 18 Wounding committed on 04/04/21. It was alleged that Ryan had entered the property of a male associate and stabbed him in the chest. The CPS suggested that Ryan's actions were motivated by jealousy that Collette had started a new relationship. Collette was identified as a witness to this assault. This matter was transferred to Manchester Crown Court with the next appearance date set for 18/08/22.
- 12.252 **18 July 2022** – Collette attended a joint meeting with the Social Worker and Probation Officer.
- 12.253 **19 July 2022** – Collette was accepted by the Neighbourhood Mental Health Team. Her children were noted to be in their father's care. Collette was noted to have difficulty regulating emotions, impulsive spending, binge drinking, committing crimes such as theft and assault due to her mood. Collette reported concealing things so that she didn't have her children taken away. Self harm from the age of nine was noted and an offending history, and a "chaotic and traumatic upbringing". Collette reported that her parents had a Borderline Personality Disorder and Collette was cared for by grandparents. She said that her mum drank excess alcohol and would "kidnap her" from grandparents which was very distressing. Collette witnessed her mum stabbing a man in front of her when she was four. Collette didn't attend secondary school and had violent relationships from age 16. Healthy Minds assessed her too complex for IAPT⁴² as one needs to commit to weekly sessions with homework. It was recorded that Collette had complex trauma and emotional dysregulation.
- 12.254 **20 July 2022** - A home visit was conducted that enabled the Probation Officer to gather additional information regarding Ryan's accommodation and support networks. Ryan, his father's wife and his half sibling were present. Consent for his residence at their address was confirmed and no issues regarding accommodation were highlighted during this visit.
- 12.255 **21 July 2022** - Ryan was involved in a fight with a number of unknown males. A group ran off from the Police, but Ryan was detained. None of the other males could be traced. A crime was recorded for affray, but as the other parties could not be found and due to evidential difficulties, the crime was filed with no further action taken.

⁴² The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme is run by the NHS in England and offers approved therapies for treating people with anxiety or depression.

- 12.256 **22 July 2022** – The Probation Officer completed an OASys Risk Assessment of Ryan. Ryan was assessed as posing a medium risk of serious harm with victim groups being identified as:
- Children – indirect harm caused by domestic abuse behaviours in intimate relationships where children may be present.
 - Public / Staff – strangers who may encounter or challenge Ryan when intoxicated, emergency workers are specifically identified.
 - Known adults – intimate partners and ex partners (Collette was named here) from behaviours of domestic abuse.
- 12.257 There was an identified risk of self harm and suicide recorded. The Risk Management Plan identified multi agency working as essential in managing the risk, with Police liaison to ensure information regarding any concerns around relationships and further offending to be investigated and appointments offered with the Forensic Social Worker in respect of emotional well-being.
- 12.258 The Probation Officer completed a Sentence Plan – setting objectives to respond to the assessment of risk and need. This plan outlines the work which will be completed with Ryan including:
- Recognising links between alcohol use and offending.
 - Better understand triggers to violence and avoid abusive behaviours within relationships.
 - Gaining appropriate support for ADHD and mental health.
 - Understanding the impact of his actions on others.
- 12.259 **25 July 2022** – Collette saw a mental health practitioner within the GP surgery and reported feeling much better as she had ‘opened up’. Collette said that she previously didn’t feel able to speak for fear of losing children and now she had joint custody with their father, this was less of an issue. Collette was awaiting input from Neighbourhood Mental Health Team.
- 12.260 **7 August 2022** - Ryan was detained within the legal framework of the Mental Health Act under section 136⁴³ by Police Officers after being found on a bridge. Officers are believed to have talked him down. A Mental Health Liaison Nurse had explained that it is the anniversary of mother’s death, and the nursing team could not assess Ryan earlier due to the level of intoxication. The Nurse explained that Ryan had remained within the Police van and the Officers were wanting to support him to the place of safety suite but the suite was already in use. The out of hours Social Worker advised that Ryan should be supported within the ED and not remain in the Police van. The night shift Senior Housing Officer was not available at the time of notification of Ryan’s detention to the out of hours Social Worker. An assessment within the ED was undertaken, the outcome of which was a discharge from section 136 following consultation with the on call consultant. Police Officers agreed to take Ryan to his father’s address with the agreement of Ryan’s father.
- 12.261 The same day, Ryan was referred to the PCFT Home Treatment Team (HTT) who then visited him at his father’s address on the 09/08/22. A detailed assessment was completed, alongside a risk assessment. There was no evidence of mental illness and Ryan was regretful of his actions and recognised his risk to self increased when he was intoxicated. He expressed feeling embarrassed and at the time of the visit Ryan couldn’t identify anything HTT could help with, as he said the incident was due to him drinking heavy amounts of alcohol. He was able to identify how to access help in a crisis. He was

⁴³ Section 136 of the Mental Health Act gives the Police the power to remove a person suffering from a mental disorder from a public place to a place of safety. This provision is used when the individual is deemed to be in immediate need of care and control due to concerning behaviour.

discharged from HTT and a letter sent to his GP asking that the GP progress his ADHD referral. The GP advised that they completed this referral in 2021.

- 12.262 **16 August 2022** – Collette missed a Probation supervision appointment. However, the absence was deemed to be acceptable as Collette made contact by telephone to advise that she was unwell.
- 12.263 The same day, a Change Grow Live appointment was held remotely and, despite being unwell, Collette is reported to have engaged. Collette reported no alcohol use. She stated she was receiving support for her mental health and no longer required a service from Change Grow Live. It was agreed that her case would be closed. A letter was sent to her GP and Probation were informed.
- 12.264 **18 August 2022** – Ryan appeared in court in respect of the offence of Section 18 Wounding committed on 04/04/21 and heard in the Magistrates Court on 14/07/22 for knife crime. A trial date was set for this case at Crown Court for September 2023.⁴⁴
- 12.265 **22 August 2022** – Ryan had an appointment with his Probation Officer and reported that he had not been having contact with his ex-partner, Collette. He stated that she had given a statement to the Police for the Section 18 Wounding that he had been charged with.
- 12.266 **30 August 2022** - Collette attended a planned appointment with Probation. She reported gaining employment as a receptionist.
- 12.267 Ryan attended weekly appointments with Probation throughout August. Structured interventions were delivered in respect of:
- Personal Responsibility and harm.
 - Exploring Change.
 - Exploring alcohol use.
- Ryan declined a referral to Change Live Grow.
- 12.268 **12 September 2022** - Ryan was arrested for breach of bail and driving offences. He stated that he had given Collette a lift and had been drinking. He was not permitted to contact her due to the ongoing Section 18 Wounding offence. There was no further action in relation to these offences.
- 12.269 The same day Police shared information with Probation that Collette had been arrested for driving offences. Collette was released from custody 'under investigation'. No further detail was provided and the Probation Officer was unaware at this junction that the alleged offence was committed with Ryan.
- 12.270 Ryan did not attend planned appointments with Probation through September. He was spoken to by telephone on 15/09/22 where his recent arrest was acknowledged, and instructions given for him to attend an office appointment. Ryan failed to attend this appointment. Ryan was sent warning letters for each appointment missed. When Ryan did not provide a reason for his absence within the required time, the appointments were marked as unacceptable. At the second unacceptable absence, Probation initiated a breach of conditions.
- 12.271 **20 September 2022** - Collette missed a planned appointment with Probation, advising that she was now working at a shop.
- 12.272 **26 September 2022** – Ryan breached his Community Order for non-attendance at his Probation appointments. Despite numerous attempts by his Probation Officer to engage him, including home visits, Ryan continued to not engage with his Order.

⁴⁴ Following Ryan's death in April 2023 the CPS were informed and the case was mentioned in Crown court on 25/7/23 where it was withdrawn.

- 12.273 **29 September 2022** – Intelligence was submitted to the Police that Collette was conducting fraud via Facebook marketplace and was using friends' accounts to take payment. The intelligence was noted.
- 12.274 **3 October 2022** - The Community Order given to Collette expired on this date and there was no further contact between Probation and Collette.
- 12.275 Ryan did not attend any Probation appointments offered to him through the month of October. Case records indicate that he attended an appointment with the Employment Support Programme on 05/10/22. On 27/10/22 Ryan's father called in response to messages sent indicating that Ryan remained at his address and was well. A home visit was scheduled for 31/10/22, however, this was later postponed at Ryan's request.
- 12.276 **14 October 2022** - Derbyshire Police contacted GMP to report a possible domestic disturbance called in by a third party. Officers attended and Collette came to the top window and seemed confused as to why Police were there and was reluctant to come down and let them in. Collette reluctantly came down and opened the door. She was intoxicated and slurring her words. It was believed that she had also been smoking cannabis due to the smell inside the address. Collette stated that she hadn't rang the Police. She then said that her ex-partner had been outside her property and shouted to her. She pointed over the road towards some railings and stated that was where he was stood. Collette then went on to tell Officers that she keeps getting calls from withheld numbers that she thinks is Ryan. She took her phone out of her pocket and said he was ringing her then but there was no one ringing, and she had no missed calls.
- 12.277 Officers searched the address and spoke to Collette's mother. Her mother was half asleep in bed and seemed intoxicated. She seemed confused as to why the Police were there and stated nothing had happened. Collette was advised to recall the Police should Ryan return. The information was passed on to the MASH team.
- 12.278 **22 October 2022** – The Probation Officer completed a domestic abuse check with the Police and was informed of the callout on the 14/10/22.
- 12.279 **31 October 2022** – Collette's exchange request was approved and the move completed. Jigsaw Homes did not receive any nuisance complaints at Collette's new address.
- 12.280 Ryan did not respond to planned telephone contact with Probation on 02/11/22. An unannounced home visit was undertaken on 07/11/22. Case records indicate that Ryan was not present but his father was, who reported that, whilst Ryan is generally ok, he had been in a car accident and that he stayed out various nights through the week with a friend.
- 12.281 **16 November 2022** - Ryan attended an office visit with his Probation Officer. He said that he had buried his head in the sand and realised he was in breach so stopped attending. When asked about the domestic abuse callout with Collette (14/10/22), he denied having contact with her.
- 12.282 **1 December 2022** - Ryan failed to attend a planned appointment with Probation.
- 12.283 **14 December 2022** - Collette called Police reporting two males fighting with two females in the street. She was spoken to by Officers and said she had seen the unknown group fighting, but another woman had said that she was also phoning the Police, so she hung up and left. There was insufficient information for any Police action to be taken.
- 12.284 **15 December 2022** - Ryan reported to the Probation Office. He had been out of contact for several weeks. He talked about being low in mood and said that he tended to feel like this on the lead up to Christmas. He said that he had not had contact with Collette. He was encouraged to attend the arranged appointment with the Criminal Justice Mental Health Social Worker. It is not recorded whether Ryan attended the appointment with the Criminal Justice Mental Health Social Worker on 23/12/22.

12.285 **21 December 2022** – Ryan appeared at Tameside Magistrates Court for breach of his Community Order. The Order was allowed to continue, and he received a fine.

2023

12.286 **5 January 2023** - Ryan attended his initial Probation appointment following the breach. He reported that he had not been drinking over the Christmas period and that he had not had any contact with Collette.

12.287 **9 January 2023** – Ryan attended his appointment with the Criminal Justice Mental Health Social Worker. Probation case records indicate that:

- Ryan had been referred for ADHD screening and was on the waiting list.
- Ryan was tasked with seeing his GP to review medication.
- A next appointment was set for 06/03/23.

12.288 **6 February 2023** – Ryan attended a planned appointment with Probation. Records indicate that he presented with some low mood and reported a developing relationship with a female (not Collette).

12.289 The same day a review Child Protection Conference was held. All professionals were in agreement that the children, who continued to live with their father and have contact with Collette, were not at risk of harm and no longer subjected to child protection plans. Collette reported that she was not in a relationship with anyone and had last used alcohol in October 2022. No domestic abuse incidents had been reported or criminal activities.

12.290 **7 February 2023** - Ryan was referred by the Criminal Justice Mental Health Social Worker to his GP for assessment by Tameside and Glossop Adult ADHD Service and was placed on their waiting list (currently two years) for initial assessment. Ryan was informed by letter of the current waiting times.

12.291 **20 February 2023** - Ryan reported being unwell and asked to rearrange his appointment with Probation. He has then failed to attend the rearranged appointment on 23/02/23.

12.292 Ryan did not attend any planned appointments with Probation through March. There was text and phone communication on 13/03/23 and 21/03/23 where Ryan reported getting mixed up with his appointments but indicated he was ok. However, this contact and rearranged appointments did not prompt his attendance. Ryan was issued with formal warning letters and a breach of conditions was initiated for a second time on 13/03/23 as Ryan's second unacceptable absence. On 29/03/23 Ryan attended court and a breach hearing was set for 24/05/23.

12.293 **6 April 2023** - Ryan attended a meeting with his new Probation Officer. He reported that he had not been drinking alcohol. He stated that he was still residing with his dad and his dad's partner.

12.294 **12 April 2023** – Police were called to an incident in Manchester city centre involving Collette and her sister. Collette had assaulted her sister, which was described by witnesses as punching, pulling the victim's hair and choking her with her legs. Officers arrived at the location and separated both parties. Collette was arrested on suspicion of non-fatal strangulation and common assault and conveyed to the Police station where her detention was authorised awaiting interview. The victim was taken back to her home address by Officers. She has answered no to all DASH questions and refused to give a statement regarding the assault. A decision was made that no further action was to be taken. A Domestic Abuse Incident report was completed and attached to the file.

12.295 On a date in April 2023 Police were called by Collette's grandmother, who stated her other granddaughter had told her that a male was dead at Collette's address. Officers attended and found Ryan at the address, with injuries. CPR was completed by Police and the ambulance service, but Ryan was sadly pronounced deceased. Collette was arrested and

charged with murder. At court, she pleaded guilty to manslaughter due to loss of control and was later sentenced to five years imprisonment.

13. Overview of agency involvement

Change Grow Live

- 13.1 Change Grow Live offers free and confidential support and treatment with drugs, alcohol, recovery housing, and wellbeing issues.
- 13.2 Collette had three episodes of treatment with Change Grow Live. The first commenced on 14/05/18, although as Collette did not attend any of the offered assessments during this time, her case was closed due to non-engagement on 13/07/18.
- 13.3 Collette referred herself on 09/08/18, as instructed by her Children's Social Worker, due to concerns about her cannabis use. Collette attended a personalised assessment on 19/10/18 and was discharged on 03/12/18, as agreed at a core group meeting. At this stage, Collette had attended two face-to-face appointments with Change Grow Live.
- 13.4 Collette referred herself to Change Grow Live again on 16/09/19 and remained involved with the service until 30/08/22.

Probation

- 13.5 The Probation Service is a statutory criminal justice service that supervises offenders serving community sentences or released into the community from prison.
- 13.6 Ryan had two periods of statutory supervision within this period of review. It was the Community Rehabilitation Companies' (CRC) responsibility to manage the presenting risk whilst on licence and deliver the sentence imposed by the Court. He was supervised on his release from custody between July 2019 and September 2020 by the Community Rehabilitation Company. He was allocated to a Senior Case Manager, who was a qualified probation Officer with whom monthly contact was expected. Contact with Ryan during this period was to monitor his adherence to the conditions of his licence and to support Ryan in addressing those behaviours linked to offending and harm.
- 13.7 Ryan was subject to a Community Order from 30/06/22 until his death and was supervised by a Probation Practitioner within the Probation Service. A minimum of monthly contact was expected with Ryan during this time and a plan was developed to monitor and address the influences on his offending behaviour.
- 13.8 Collette had one period of statutory supervision within the period of this review. It was the Probation Services responsibility to deliver the sentence imposed by the Court and manage the presenting risk. Collette was made subject to a Community Order between 04/10/21 and 03/10/22 and was required to have a minimum of monthly contact with her allocated Probation Practitioner.

Jigsaw Homes Group

- 13.9 Jigsaw Homes Group build, renovate and manage affordable housing for rent and sale. They own and manage 35000+ homes across the North West and East Midlands.
- 13.10 Collette held a tenancy with Jigsaw from October 2020.

Jigsaw / Bridges

- 13.11 Jigsaw Support (part of Jigsaw Homes Group) is a Community Benefits Society that delivers services to support vulnerable members of society to overcome challenges they face, enabling them to live better lives. Jigsaw are commissioned to deliver the Bridges Domestic Abuse Service in Tameside on behalf of Tameside Council.
- 13.12 Bridges involvement was with Collette as a victim of domestic abuse from Ryan.

Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care Foundation Trust (ICFT)

- 13.13 ICFT provides acute and community care services. This includes provision of school health. This excludes provision of Mental Health Services and primary care services.

Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust (PCFT)

- 13.14 Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust (PCFT) is a provider of mental health and learning disability services within five boroughs in Greater Manchester, including Tameside.
- 13.15 The following PCFT services have had contact with Ryan and Collette in the review period and include:
- Criminal Justice Mental Health Service (for Ryan). The team offers advice, assessments, risk assessment, and provide some short-term interventions if clients have mental health problems and have committed an offence or show signs of offending behaviour.
 - Mental Health Liaison Team (for Ryan). The team offers assessment and supports people who attend the ED, or who are on a ward, and who have a range of mental health issues.
 - Home Treatment Team (for Ryan). The team support people living in the community, aged 16-65 years who have moderate to complex or serious mental health problems.
 - PCFT Adult ADHD Service (for Ryan). Tameside and Glossop Adult ADHD Service offers diagnosis and treatment in the form of medication for adults aged sixteen plus who have a local GP.
 - Tameside Talking Therapies (for Collette). NHS Talking Therapies is the new name for Healthy Minds and provide a range of talking therapies for anxiety and depression.
 - Neighbourhood Mental Health Team (for Collette). The Living Life Well Neighbourhood Mental Health Team is a multi-agency team collaborating with people with complex multi-faceted needs which would not be effectively addressed within the Primary Care Psychological Therapy Service or within Secondary Care Services.

Primary Care (GP)

- 13.16 The NHS is responsible for commissioning the services provided by General Practice. A general practice, also known as a GP surgery, offers a wide range of primary healthcare services including: medical advice, diagnosis and treatment of common illnesses, prescription of medications, vaccinations, basic examinations, referrals to specialists when needed, health screening checks, and promotion of general wellbeing; essentially providing comprehensive primary care for patients across various health concerns.
- 13.17 Ryan and Collette both sought advice from their GP about mental health concerns and other health issues.

14. Analysis

This section explores the thematic, multi-agency and system analysis that arises from the circumstances leading to the death of Ryan. The key lines of enquiry from the Terms of Reference provide a framework for this analysis.

Were there any indications of domestic abuse, including coercive control, within the relationship between Ryan and Collette? If so, what action was taken in response to this and how effective was this?

- 14.1 There was a history of domestic abuse within the relationship between Ryan and Collette which was clearly evident and responded to by agencies.
- 14.2 Within the review timeframe, Police responded to incidents involving Ryan and/or Collette on at least 30 occasions. 11 of these occasions related to or might have related to domestic abuse.

- 14.3 The first incident in September 2018, when Ryan pushed his way into the address, punched Collette in the face and assaulted two other women present, resulted in Ryan's arrest. The case was referred to the CPS and it was concluded that the crime be closed with no further action due to inconsistencies in the initial statements and Collette and the other victims either stating they did not support a prosecution or not being contactable. The review was unable to explore CPS's decision making in relation to this incident as the file had been destroyed in February 2024 in accordance with CPS Retention Policy.
- 14.4 The IMR author noted that there is no record that a Clare's Law⁴⁵ disclosure was considered or given at this incident. It would have been good practice to give such a disclosure at this stage, given the background of both Ryan and Collette.
- 14.5 In April 2019 Ryan was arrested following an assault on Collette and other females at Collette's home, in addition to an assault on the Police. For this, in May 2019, Ryan received a custodial sentence and a Restraining Order was also imposed, prohibiting Ryan from making any contact, directly or indirectly, with Collette or from attending or driving along the road where she lived. In July 2019 Ryan was released from custody on a Home Detention Curfew (HDC) with strict compliance conditions. There was no evidence, however, of a licence condition not to contact the victims being requested. Whilst it is acknowledged that a restraining order was in place, failure to adhere to a licence condition could have resulted in revocation of Ryan's licence, providing another opportunity for risk management.
- 14.6 During this period Collette was appropriately referred to Bridges domestic abuse service who were initially unsuccessful in their attempts to make contact with Collette but did so in July 2019. This contact was, however, unable to be maintained. The Bridges IMR author acknowledged that there was little exploration of the domestic abuse risk at this time and no mention of civil legal protective measures being explored, which may have impacted on Collette's confidence in the service. In 2022 Bridges implemented a new case management system, which contains a risk and outcomes assessment tool with mandatory fields, requiring completion, ensuring that all relevant risks are identified and addressed. There was also no evidence of the Social Worker for the children receiving feedback that Collette had disengaged. In 2023 Bridges implemented a new file closure policy outlining actions which need to be taken by the worker, prior to cases being closed. This involves feeding back to the referrer and the manager review of all cases prior to closure and ensuring all possible actions have been completed.
- 14.7 It was Collette's sister who reported to Police in December 2020 that Ryan had assaulted Collette and herself when she tried to intervene. Injuries on both women were noted but Collette denied the sister's account and was adamant that no domestic had occurred, and that she wasn't in a relationship with Ryan. Ryan was later arrested for assaulting both Collette and her sister. Due to evidential difficulties, however, the matter was filed for no further action by Police. The risk level was assessed to be high enough to merit a referral to the MARAC and Collette was referred to Bridges domestic abuse service again.
- 14.8 The IMR author noted that a decision could have been made to refer the case to the CPS for an evidence based prosecution to be considered. However, they also note that this is unlikely to have changed the outcome due to the evidential difficulties.
- 14.9 The incident in April 2021 related to the stabbing of a male, Collette's new partner, by Ryan, that was witnessed by Collette and two other females. Ryan then fled the scene and contacted Collette making threats. Collette provided a statement on this occasion.
- 14.10 This was not recorded as a domestic incident, due to Collette being a witness to events rather than the victim. Knowing the apparent motivation for the crime and the threats to

⁴⁵ The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), also known as Clare's Law, gives people the right to ask Police if their current or ex-partner has any previous history of violence or abuse. The Police may also decide to proactively share information about someone's previous abusive behaviour with a new or an ex-partner.

Collette following the stabbing, consideration should be given to whether it should have been, given the circumstances and history.

- 14.11 It was 15 months after the offence that Ryan attended Magistrates court and then a trial date was set for 14 months later (September 2023), but Ryan was killed in April 2023. The impact on victims, witnesses and defendants of such extensive delays is significant, preventing them from moving on from the crime and hindering their recovery. Furthermore, there is some evidence that long waiting times may diminish the quality of the evidence given by witnesses or at worst result in them failing to attend court altogether⁴⁶.
- 14.12 Recent figures from the Ministry of Justice show that the backlog in courts handling the most serious crimes in England and Wales has reached an unprecedented high and is likely to continue to rise⁴⁷. At the time of this review, the Victims' Commissioner was undertaking work to explore the impact court waiting times have on victims across England and Wales and the services in place to support them noting that these conditions place unprecedented strain on both victims and the services in place to support them as well as keep them engaged with the criminal justice system⁴⁸.
- 14.13 Collette shared with the Chair that she and Ryan got back together during this time but that she was biding her time, placating Ryan, knowing that he might receive a prison sentence which provided the opportunity for separation.
- 14.14 In May 2021 Police were called to reports of a male who had been stabbed and found Ryan with a cut near his eye, a cut to his lip and a stab wound to his thigh. Ryan was present with a female, but both gave false details to Police. Ryan eventually provided his correct details, stating that he had not wanted to give these due to being on bail for a Section 18 wounding. Officers suspected that the female that he was with may have been Collette and that this would put him in breach of his bail, but this could not be confirmed. Ryan was asked if he had been assaulted as a result of that prior incident and he said that he had, but he declined to give any further detail or say who had caused his injuries.
- 14.15 Despite the lack of information and cooperation, Officers showed good professional practice and curiosity and attended the home address of Collette, which was nearby to where the ambulance had located Ryan. Collette was inside with another female who had blood on her clothing. Neither female could account for the blood at the address, and they were both arrested on suspicion of Section 18 Assault.
- 14.16 Collette gave a 'no comment' interview other than to say she was in fear of Ryan. The other female denied assault. She gave the account that Ryan had arrived at the address armed with a knife and there had been a struggle where Collette took the knife off him. Ryan declined to tell Police what had happened or allow photography of his injuries. Given this and the lack of supporting evidence, the crime was filed with no further action taken.
- 14.17 Ryan was on Police bail at the time of this alleged offence; however, no action could be taken in relation to this as it was pre-charge Police bail only⁴⁹ and the case was not charge ready. No Domestic Abuse Record was created, and it was not possible to complete a DASH risk assessment. Officers could have still considered submitting a Domestic Abuse Record and referring the incident to MARAC. However, Children's Social Care had been present at Collette's address at the time of Police attendance and were therefore aware of all the circumstances of the incident and additional referrals were made by Officers including a referral to Bridges Domestic Abuse Service due to Collette stating she was in

⁴⁶ Waiting for Justice: how victims of crime are waiting longer than ever for criminal trials; Polly Rossetti (2015).

⁴⁷ [Criminal Justice System - All metrics - CJS Dashboard](#)

⁴⁸ [New Victims' Commissioner survey looks at impact of court delays on victims - Victims Commissioner](#)

⁴⁹ The police have a power of arrest where an officer has reasonable grounds for believing that conditions imposed on pre-charge bail have been breached but a breach of pre-charge bail conditions is not of itself a criminal offence. There is no provision for alleged breaches of pre-charge bail to be put before the court as there is with post-charge bail.

fear of Ryan and that she needed to be rehoused. Bridges note, however, that the support plan completed with Collette was vague and didn't address safety measures.

- 14.18 In September 2021 Collette alleged that Ryan grabbed her around the throat and threatened her not to attend court in relation to the Section 18 assault allegations against him. Officers stated that Collette was intoxicated and gave a number of different accounts.
- 14.19 Ryan was arrested for assault and witness intimidation and Officers left to take him to Police custody. When they returned Collette was no longer present and did not respond to attempts to contact her. The matter was referred to the CPS who declined to charge without further evidence from Collette. Ryan was, therefore, bailed. A high risk Domestic Abuse Record was submitted, and the matter referred to MARAC. On this Domestic Abuse Record, the Officer identified the previous incidents that had not been flagged domestic abuse incidents and included them in this referral. This showed a good assessment of risk and a good multi-agency approach to safeguarding.
- 14.20 Extensive efforts were made over the next month to contact Collette so that CPS would consider the case, but with no success. The IMR author noted that there was insufficient supporting evidence to pursue an evidence led prosecution. The crimes were therefore filed with no further action taken against Ryan. It would not be possible for a Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN)⁵⁰ application to be made without the views of Collette who was not contactable. As the prior assault case was not charge ready, it was not possible to bring charges in relation to a breach of bail at that stage.
- 14.21 Once the Police case was filed without further action, the Bridges IDVA could have taken the opportunity to explore further civil legal protective measures with Collette but did not. Due to the ASB and subsequent legal issues relating to this, in addition to Collette's complex needs, her options for accommodation were very limited. She did not wish to access a refuge and had very limited options in terms of rehousing. It's unlikely that Collette would have agreed to relocate to another area due to her local connections and support network.
- 14.22 In March 2022 Collette reported being in fear due to someone banging on her door in the early hours of the morning. On recall to Collette, she stated the person had left and asked that Officers not call at her address. They did search the area but did not find anyone present. Given the risk and history, more efforts could have been made to establish who the perpetrator was, and Officers could have called at the address to carry out a safe and well check. However, Collette stated she had not looked to see who was outside her address and that she didn't want Officers to attend her home.
- 14.23 In June 2022 Collette called Police to report that Ryan was outside her home shouting at her to drop the charges against him in relation to the Section 18 assault. It is to be noted that this is the day following the postal charge being issued. On the arrival of Police, Collette was present and was intoxicated. She reported that she had encountered Ryan in a local pub and had left to return home. She alleged that Ryan had then arrived at the address and begun banging on the door and shouting at her to drop the charges.
- 14.24 The Police note that, upon further investigation, it became apparent that Collette and Ryan had attended the pub together, getting into an altercation with a third party. Following initially providing a statement, Collette then chose not to support the Police investigation.
- 14.25 The Police concluded that, due to the lack of cooperation and any corroborating evidence, coupled with the fact that Collette was subsequently arrested with Ryan being willingly in his company, the two alleged offences of witness intimidation were closed for no further action due to lack of evidence. This decision making suggests a lack of understanding or

⁵⁰ A DVPN is an emergency non-molestation and eviction notice which can be issued by the police, when attending to a domestic abuse incident, to a perpetrator.

consideration of the complex dynamics of domestic abuse and coercive control and how this might affect the behaviour of victims.

- 14.26 In October 2022 Collette told Police that Ryan had been standing outside her address and that she had been receiving calls from him on withheld numbers. Her account was not taken as credible because she was intoxicated and not receiving a call on her phone when she said she was and no missed calls were showing. No offences were recorded and Officers were unaware of the breach of bail, which was not disclosed by Collette. A Domestic Abuse Record was created, and a referral sent to Children's Social Care.
- 14.27 In November 2022, the GMP launched 'DA (domestic abuse) Matters' training in response to these issues, a Force-wide programme for all front line Officers which was completed in March 2023. The aim is to create long term sustainable improvements and consistency in the response to domestic abuse. It tackles all issues relating to domestic abuse and also covers issues of coercive control, 'victim blaming' and recognition of manipulation used by perpetrators. The training is mandatory for all public facing roles within GMP. Evidence led prosecutions are a focus within this training, as are DVPNs and Clare's Law disclosures.
- 14.28 Further to this, in March 2024 GMP Public Protection Governance Unit commissioned and delivered bespoke training to all Officers in Triage roles across the Force, implementing revisions to the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS)/Clare's Law policy and ensuring accurate training in the correct processes.
- 14.29 The Probation OASys risk assessment referenced acknowledged that Collette was identified as a perpetrator of seven domestic abuse incidents and a victim of 21. Despite this, Probation note an absence of a full domestic abuse history. Whilst Police domestic abuse reports were requested regularly through the period of this review in line with expected practice, the practitioner did not seek to gather information regarding the historic incidents and new enquiries made only indicated there to be '*no new recorded incidents since the last request*'.
- 14.30 As a result there was an omission in gathering a full history of abusive behaviours between Ryan and Collette during her period of supervision and this was not, therefore, factored into the risk assessments completed. This undermined the concluding risk assessment of Collette's behaviour both as a potential perpetrator and victim and fell short of expected risk assessment practice. The Risk Management Plan and Sentence Plan did include domestic abuse as factors to monitor and address but were lacking in the depth necessary to tease out the actions required to both mitigate against the risks Collette posed to others, whilst supporting her as a victim of domestic abuse. Work was planned and undertaken to some degree to raise Collette's awareness of the impact of abuse within the home.
- 14.31 Probation did hold a full domestic abuse history report in respect of Ryan which was uploaded to case records in February 2017, which was updated regularly through 2022 as Police domestic abuse enquiries were made in line with expected practice. This provided comprehensive information which identified Ryan as the perpetrator and Collette as the victim in six domestic incidents between September 2018 and October 2022.
- 14.32 In conversations with Collette about the ASB, she did not disclose any details of a partner or concerns about domestic abuse to her housing provider, Jigsaw. Jigsaw dealt with the reports from neighbours as ASB and domestic abuse was not identified as a factor either by the neighbours. The ASB was escalated to injunction in line with their ASB policy. The Jigsaw Homes Neighbourhood Safety Team became aware that Collette was open to Bridges domestic abuse service, but not until after they had instigated a formal response to the ASB. Furthermore, the injunction served as a barrier to Collette being moved by Jigsaw when, in September 2021, she told them she was fearful to return to the property due to domestic abuse.

- 14.33 The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)⁵¹ notes that domestic abuse is commonly labelled by housing providers as antisocial behaviour and that, while domestic abuse is a form of ASB, the use of this label can position victims as part of the problem and misses identification of their support and safety needs, and the actions that need to be taken against the abuser. A survey of housing providers shows that 40% of tenants experiencing domestic abuse had an ASB complaint made against them⁵². DAHA's mission is to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse and one of the ways it does this is through an accreditation scheme, which offers housing providers a framework and benchmark for how they can respond effectively to domestic abuse.
- 14.34 Jigsaw has previously been through the DAHA accreditation process over an 18-month period, implementing the best practice highlighted by this, including domestic abuse policies for customers and a bespoke one for employees. However, with increasing subscription fees, this accreditation no longer represented value for money for them. The panel were reassured that work had begun to improve communication between Bridges domestic abuse service and Jigsaw, as the host of the domestic abuse service, to improve the coordination of responses to domestic abuse between the two of them.
- 14.35 Collette stated that she had been a victim of domestic abuse with her former partner, but did not disclose any further domestic abuse to Change Grow Live whilst in treatment. Change Grow Live was informed via the MARAC in January, and again in October, 2021 that Collette was a victim of domestic abuse, with instructions not to share information with Collette. Change Grow Live also had access to information via the Spotlight meetings⁵³, of Police incidents involving Collette. These incidents were discussed with Collette by the Recovery Worker; however, the case records indicate that Collette's explanations were not explored further.
- 14.36 When Ryan was referred to the Home Treatment Team (HTT) there was intelligence that he had "stabbed an ex-girlfriend" and then later that he was under probation for stabbing a male friend of his then girlfriend whom he believed was cheating on him. There are two different accounts of this stabbing on PCFT records.
- 14.37 The domestic abuse between Ryan and Collette was considered high risk enough to be referred to and discussed at a MARAC on two occasions (January and October 2021). Notes of these meetings were unavailable for review. The Chair did, however, listen to a recording of a MARAC meeting. This highlighted that there was a very limited focus on risk by the MARAC panel and that victim blaming language was used on occasion.

Were there opportunities for Ryan and Collette to disclose concerns about domestic abuse? What barriers may have existed to prevent a disclosure?

- 14.38 Ryan and Collette were given numerous opportunities to disclose concerns about domestic abuse to the Police. However, they regularly felt unable or unwilling to disclose that domestic abuse had occurred. In particular, Collette frequently denied any relationship with Ryan and made denials of any domestic abuse having occurred. When interviewed, Collette said that she lied to the Police a lot because she wanted to protect Ryan. When the Police did arrest Ryan, Collette said she didn't hear any more about this from them anyway.
- 14.39 The involvement of Children's Social Care was in response to concerns about domestic abuse. However, Collette was closed and guarded about her involvement with Ryan, denying if and when the relationship was ongoing. When interviewed by the Chair, Collette said that she lied to Children's Social Care as she was frightened of her children being

⁵¹ [DAHA - Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance](#)

⁵² Jackson, R. (2013) 'The Role of Registered Social Landlords in tackling domestic abuse in Gwent and the wider implications.'

⁵³ Spotlight meetings are multi-agency and relate to the management of prolific offenders.

removed. Collette felt it would have been helpful to have Children's Social Care work with herself and Ryan together, as it was clear she was not leaving him.

- 14.40 Ryan's father reiterated this point, noting that it seemed clear that the intervention required was to support them as a couple because they were clearly in a relationship and residing together.
- 14.41 A particular opportunity that was missed by the Social Worker was in January 2021 when Collette acknowledged that her relationship was the issue but that she struggled to move away from people who 'have her back'. The honesty from Collette in this instance provided an opportune moment to engage her in exploration of her relationship with Ryan and her related support needs. There is, however, no record of this statement by Collette being discussed any further.
- 14.42 Collette did attend the Freedom Programme. The worker's view was that there was disguised compliance from Collette. Disguised compliance involves parents and carers appearing to co-operate with professionals in order to allay concerns and stop professional engagement⁵⁴. NSPCC notes that some parents and carers may say the right things or engage 'just enough' to satisfy practitioners. Published case reviews highlight the importance of practitioners being able to recognise disguised compliance, establishing the facts and gathering evidence about what is actually happening in a child's life.
- 14.43 Relationships was an area of discussion evidenced within the Probation case records for both Collette and Ryan through each of their periods of supervision. The opportunity to share current or historic concerns regarding domestic abuse victimisation was available to both. Case records demonstrate that Collette openly spoke of her experience as a victim of domestic abuse behaviours from both Ryan and former partners to her Probation Officer. She was signposted to support networks in respect of this and seen to have support available to her from the IDVA.
- 14.44 Ryan described the relationship with Collette as toxic. However, when asked to elaborate upon this by Probation, he referred to their joint use of alcohol as the factor that exacerbated conflict between them. There is no indication that Ryan was directly asked about any experience of domestic abuse as a victim, although life mapping work and a positive working relationship between him and his Probation Officer practitioner appear to have been in place to support any such disclosure, should he have chosen to make this.
- 14.45 Both Collette and Ryan attended the GP with mental health issues; Ryan attended the ED following assaults; Collette was heard at MARAC twice and the GP had this within the records. There is, however, no record of any enquiries made in relation to potential domestic abuse to either Collette or Ryan. This is at odds with the NICE domestic abuse guideline which requires that frontline staff in all services are trained to recognise the indicators of domestic abuse (of which substance use and mental health concerns are included) and can ask relevant questions to help people disclose their past or current experiences of such violence or abuse. The IMR author reflected that it appears that often professionals may rely on direct disclosures of domestic abuse rather than having professional curiosity and routinely asking when service users are seen for mental health issues. Collette was referred to the mental health services but there was no routine enquiry by her GP about any present domestic abuse.
- 14.46 Ryan disclosed that he found it hard to open up to GPs as he saw different GPs all the time, which may have been another barrier to talking about domestic abuse
- 14.47 Pennine Care proactively enquired about risk and safety via their approved Trust Risk Assessment Tool within the PARIS electronic patient record. This risk assessment template consists of four domains, which ensures a systematic approach is taken to identify key risk factors that include: Harm to Self, Harm to Others, Self-Neglect and

⁵⁴ Reder et al, 1993

Exploitation/Vulnerability. The Exploitation/Vulnerability domain asks questions around safeguarding issues including domestic abuse. This tool was completed for both Ryan and Collette separately. Ryan disclosed the incident when he stabbed a male and Collette disclosed being involved in a domestic abusive relationship with her ex-husband during her assessment with the Neighbourhood Mental Health Team, but neither disclosed concerns in their current relationship.

What does the history tell us about the dynamics of Ryan and Collette's relationship, regarding the typology of abuse.

- 14.48 In recent decades, numerous typologies of interpersonal violence have been suggested: some of which are based on the characteristics of the violence, some based on individual characteristics of the perpetrator, whilst others suggest a combination of these approaches.⁵⁵ An understanding the typology of abuse can help us to understand the experiences of victims and inform appropriate responses and interventions.
- 14.49 A theoretical model around intimate partner violence (IPV), first published by Michael Johnson in 1995,⁵⁶ argues that there are three major types of IPV, which are different from each other and have different development and dynamics and require different responses and interventions. These types are:
 - i. Intimate Terrorism: defined by patterns of violent coercive control, with one partner terrorising the other and attempting to gain complete control. Resistance can lead to an escalation in the violence. This type of IPV is perpetrated predominantly by men against women.
 - ii. Violent Resistance: this may be perpetrated while resisting violence or can be in retaliation for violence experienced. This type of IPV is perpetrated more by women in self-defence.
 - iii. Situational Couple Violence: this is where conflicts can escalate from arguments to physical aggression. This type of IPV is perpetrated by both men and women.
- 14.50 Johnson's typology model has been criticised as not being particularly useful in supporting interventions and services for victims, it has, however, been extremely influential in helping to demonstrate complexities when attempting to understand toxic and/or violent relationships. Indeed, Johnson's typology of abuse has underpinned risk assessment methodologies, such as the DASH, which is used to assess whether victims of domestic violence have standard, moderate or high risk of serious harm in the UK.⁵⁷
- 14.51 Bridges state that Collette was clearly a repeat, high risk victim of domestic abuse from Ryan and that it was clear from their evidence that she was frightened of him – for example – when she was afraid to return to her home address.
- 14.52 In other agency settings Collette was identified as both a domestic abuse perpetrator and domestic abuse victim at times, but it has also been highlighted that there is a lack of clarity around these behaviours and circumstances and/or that the assessor did not have access to all information that may have given a fuller picture.
- 14.53 Police domestic incident reports suggest that Ryan's unwanted attendance at Collette's address was influenced by feelings of jealousy at her commencing a new relationship and feelings of betrayal when she had given evidence against him in respect of the alleged

⁵⁵ See for example, Johnson MP, Ferraro KJ. Research on domestic violence in the 1990s: Making distinctions. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*. 2000;62:948–963; Swan S, Snow D. The development of a theory of women's use of violence in intimate relationships. *Violence Against Women*. 2006;12:1026–1045; Ross, J. M., & Babcock, J. C. (2009). Proactive and reactive violence among intimate partner violent men diagnosed with antisocial and borderline personality disorder. *Journal of Family Violence*, 24(8), 607–617

⁵⁶ Michael P. Johnson A Typology of Domestic Violence: Intimate Terrorism, Violent Resistance, and Situational Couple Violence (2008) Published by Northeastern University Press

⁵⁷ (Robinson AL, Pinchevsky GM, Guthrie JA (2016) A small constellation. *Policing and Society*. Epub ahead of print 29 February 2016).

offence of Section 18 Wounding. At such times, Ryan is reported to have used high-risk behaviours such as gripping Collette's neck and making threats to cause her serious harm (16/09/21) in an attempt to coerce her into supporting him. When interviewed by the Chair, Collette said that, unbeknown to her, her snapchat location was on and so Ryan was watching where she was going, and this is how he came to her new partner's address.

- 14.54 Coercive and controlling behaviour - which is a pattern of psychological abuse and intimidation used to harm and frighten a victim - has been a criminal offence in the UK since 2015.⁵⁸ It often occurs alongside other forms of domestic abuse and can include behaviours such as:
- Isolation from friends and family
 - Monitoring of time
 - Monitoring via online communication tools or spyware
 - Taking control over aspects of everyday life, such as where you can go, who you can see, what you can wear and when you can sleep
 - Humiliating, degrading or dehumanising
 - Controlling finances
 - Making threats or using intimidation.⁵⁹
- 14.55 Furthermore, Ryan's behaviour at times was aligned with definitions of stalking and harassment. Stalking behaviours can include, but are not limited to:
- Following or monitoring the victim's movements.
 - Unwanted communication through phone calls, texts, emails, or social media.
 - Showing up unexpectedly at the victim's home, workplace, or other locations.
 - Sending unwanted gifts or messages.
 - Using technology to track or spy on the victim, such as GPS or surveillance cameras.
- 14.56 Both stalking and harassment are offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.⁶⁰
- 14.57 Ryan was not formally identified by Probation as being a victim of abusive behaviours from Collette. However, Probation held information that Collette had warnings for violence and weapons and was flagged as both a high-risk victim of domestic abuse as well as a perpetrator.
- 14.58 Both Collette and Ryan were under the influence of substances at the times of alleged abusive behaviours and there are indications that conflict could escalate to the point where serious harm was threatened or undertaken – including the potential use of weapons.
- 14.59 Hester (2019) highlighted that cases of dual perpetration of domestic abuse included the greatest number of instances where both partners were heavy drinkers and where their circumstances appeared quite chaotic. Hester also noted that, in some instances, alcohol abuse by the partners made it unclear who the perpetrator was.⁶¹
- 14.60 Whilst Ryan and Collette disclosed little information about their relationship during their periods of care within PCFT, their history presented experiences of interpersonal violence and a likelihood of ongoing risks of violence.
- 14.61 In relation to Ryan and Collette's relationship, the typology of abuse being perpetrated may have been unclear at times. However, the evidence suggests that, in the main, Collette was a victim of domestic abuse who used violent resistance at times. What is clear, is that alcohol appeared to be a lever to abusive behaviours within their relationship, and that the

⁵⁸ Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 introduced the criminal offence of controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship.

⁵⁹ [Coercive control - Women's Aid \(womensaid.org.uk\)](https://www.womensaid.org.uk)

⁶⁰ [Protection from Harassment Act 1997](#)

⁶¹ Hester, M. (2009) Who Does What to Whom? Gender and Domestic Violence Perpetrators, Bristol: University of Bristol in association with the Northern Rock Foundation

fatal stabbing of Ryan was clearly a domestically abusive act on Collette's part. This appears to be preceded, however, by a significant history of domestic abuse, mostly perpetrated by Ryan towards Collette.

- 14.62 In sentencing Collette, the Judge said: "The evidence is that [Ryan] was volatile, violent and emotionally abusive towards you since your relationship started in 2017. About two years ago he stabbed and seriously injured the man of whom he was particularly jealous in front of you and in your house. He had assaulted your parents on multiple occasions. He would frequently make threats of violence towards you. There is also evidence of his violent conduct towards his previous partners. I accept that the relationship between you was one of coercive control and that [Ryan] took advantage of your chronic psychological dependency upon your relationship with him".

What training, policies and procedures are in place to identify, risk assess, respond to and escalate concerns regarding domestic abuse, and were these effective in this case?

- 14.63 The Chair has seen evidence that, in the main, agencies contributing to this review had in place appropriate policies and procedures for domestic abuse and safeguarding.
- 14.64 Details about training available/attended in relation to safeguarding and/or domestic abuse was also submitted by all participating agencies. If policy, procedure or training was identified as a potential issue in the review, this has been highlighted and discussed in the relevant section/within context.
- 14.65 The Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide (SARA) is a structured guide for assessing the likelihood of spousal assault relating to people on Probation who are suspected of, or who are being managed in relation to domestic abuse. SARA can help determine the degree to which an individual poses a domestic violence threat to his/her partner, children, another family member, or another person involved. The SARA tool allows the assessor to apply structured professional judgement to determine the extent to which an individual's risk factors are of crucial predictive importance. The IMR author noted that the omission of completing this assessment did not enable the Probation Officer to explore these areas in greater depth with Collette and falls short of expected practice in assessing the risks around domestic abuse.
- 14.66 The conclusion of the risk assessment was compromised because of this as there was limited information to clearly identify who was at risk from Collette's behaviours or who Collette was at risk from. Consequently, the Risk Management Plan was broad in its approach, particularly in respect of victim safety and contingency planning. The Risk Management Plan does, however, recognise the need to work with other agencies to effectively manage those risks identified.
- 14.67 As a result of the weaknesses identified, greater direction has been given to all staff to seek improvements in the quality of OASys assessments across Greater Manchester – this in the form of the Risk and OASys Practice Improvement Suit. It has also been recognised that improving professional curiosity is essential across Greater Manchester Probation Area. Consequently, this is a key area of focused quality assurance and improvement activity identified within Greater Manchester Probations Quality Improvement Plan. This plan outlines developmental work based on the HMIP Effective Practice Guidance on Professional Curiosity that will be delivered to staff over the current year through various events.

What is known about the ADHD, substance use and mental health concerns presented by Ryan, including agency responses to this and their appropriateness?

- 14.68 Historical records within PCFT report that Ryan endured a traumatic history in his early years. This included that:

- He was born eight weeks premature by emergency C-section following an antepartum haemorrhage that records state was caused by his birth mother being punched in the stomach.
- He was removed from his birth mother's care due to neglect aged 2.5 years and adopted at aged 4 years.
- He had a diagnosis of ADHD and Oppositional Defiance Disorder⁶² from aged 8 years.
- He attended an emotional behavioural difficulties education provision on transition to secondary school.
- There were reports of him harming a cat, chickens and killing his pet hamster – the latter followed his threats to kill a dog.
- He had set a number of fires.

14.69 Records indicate that Ryan cited four main trauma events in his history as

- The death of his mother by suicide when he was 11 years old. Ryan said he found his mother but his father confirmed this was a dog walker and not Ryan.
- Witnessing his friend burn alive in a tent fire when he was age 19 years.
- Being attacked by a gang with metal bars when he was 20 years.
- The death of an older sister from an accidental drug overdose.

14.70 There is an extensive history documented about Ryan's ADHD presentation and medication regime in CAMHS up to the age of 18 years and included when he was transferred to the CAMHS 16-18 years team. He was discharged from this team at aged 19 years back to his GP's care with a request that the GP arrange for a follow up service to be requested for Adult ADHD care which was in place at that time.

14.71 Ryan had a history of substance misuse to manage trauma and presented on occasions with self-harm and thoughts to end his life whilst intoxicated. He had been detained on one occasion under section 136 of the Mental Health Act having been found on a bridge threatening to jump off. Cannabis misuse is recorded for Ryan from the year 2011. Self-medication with cannabis for ADHD symptoms is not uncommon.⁶³

14.72 From 2013 onwards Ryan had significant episodes of GP and ED attendance with low mood, depression and anxiety and also suicidal ideation. Ryan also attended the GP with insomnia, PTSD and flashbacks from various traumas but a referral to the Adult ADHD services was only made in March 2021 due to Ryan requesting this, and again, in August 2022, when his adopted father had stated that Ryan had stopped taking his ADHD medication.

14.73 There did appear to be a pattern of Ryan having particular difficulties at the time of year when his mother died. On several occasions Ryan had a related mental health crisis. This recurring pattern could have provided an opportunity for preventative work with Ryan, rather than responding to a crisis.

14.74 Untreated ADHD can lead to:

- a. Difficulty multitasking
- b. Distractibility
- c. Forgetfulness
- d. Impulsiveness
- e. Low frustration tolerance
- f. Mood swings

⁶² Oppositional Defiance Disorder (ODD) includes a frequent and ongoing pattern of anger, irritability, arguing and defiance toward parents and other authority figures.

⁶³ [Marijuana and ADHD: Research & Risks \(healthline.com\)](https://www.healthline.com/health/marijuana-and-adhd).

- g. Poor listening skills
- h. Poor planning
- i. Poor time management
- j. Problems staying on task
- k. Restlessness⁶⁴

- 14.75 Childhood ADHD is a risk factor for antisocial behaviour later in life⁶⁵ and research suggests that individuals with ADHD are at an increased risk of being involved in cases of inter-personal violence and sexual violence, either as victims or perpetrators⁶⁶.
- 14.76 Ryan was referred to Tameside and Glossop Adult ADHD Service for assessment in February 2023 when the waiting list was then two years. As he had not been prescribed medication for ADHD in over 12 years so, as per the current pathway, he would have to await an initial assessment then further diagnostic assessment, prior to commencement of treatment.
- 14.77 Ryan's father commented that their deepest concern was that once Ryan had reached the age of 18 there was no provision or support for his ADHD and that a two year waiting list for a screening to take place is excessive and unacceptable.
- 14.78 Tameside and Glossop Adult ADHD Service offers diagnosis and treatment in the form of medication for adults aged sixteen plus who have a local GP. Over recent years there has been a significant increase in adults requesting diagnosis. There is not yet currently a national strategy to deal with this condition and access to services is variable. A small team runs Tameside and Glossop Adult ADHD Service, with no current plans for expansion, and current waiting times are 20 months from referral to initial assessment then a further 16 months until diagnosis. This shortfall in provision is a national issue for adults waiting assessment and treatment.
- 14.79 In May 2024 NHS England's new cross-sector Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Taskforce was launched. The new taskforce brings together those with lived experience and experts from the NHS, local government as well as education, charity and justice sectors to gain a better understanding of the challenges affecting those with ADHD, including access to services and rising demand.⁶⁷
- 14.80 Probation highlighted that there was no indication of referrals for Ryan and that seeking support for Ryan, particularly in respect of his ADHD, was not sufficiently prompt through the early period of his engagement with Probation. Ryan did not disclose any concerns in respect of alcohol or relationships, but there was limited verification of Ryans situation and his continued poor compliance did not assist Probation in ensuring sufficient oversight of his circumstances.
- 14.81 Ryan had self-referred to Talking Therapies in 2019 and 2021 but did not engage with the service. On one occasion an assessment was offered but not attended due to Ryan being sent to prison for 20 weeks. On another occasion an initial assessment was undertaken but Ryan was discharged as per the service protocol as he missed appointments.
- 14.82 Ryan was referred to the PCFT Home Treatment Team (HTT) on two occasions. First in 2018 by the Manchester Royal Infirmary after he had threatened to put a brick through a shop window if he did not get help. The second referral was in August 2022 when Ryan had rung the Police himself, saying he had thoughts and plans to end his life by jumping in front of a moving vehicle. An assessment concluded that there was no evidence of mental illness and that Ryan was regretful of his actions and recognised his risk increased when

⁶⁴ [Untreated ADHD in Adults: Signs, Causes, Impact, and Treatment](#)

⁶⁵ Mohr-Jensen, C., & Steinhausen, H. C. (2016). A meta-analysis and systematic review of the risks associated with childhood attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder on long-term outcome of arrests, convictions, and incarcerations.

⁶⁶ Arrondo G, Osorio A, Magallón S, Lopez-del Burgo C, Cortese S. Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder as a risk factor for being involved in intimate partner violence and sexual violence: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

⁶⁷ [NHS England » Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Taskforce chairs announced](#)

intoxicated. He declined any further support. The HTT discharged Ryan from service and shared information with the ADHD team and the GP.

- 14.83 Ryan's engagement with Probation was sporadic and inconsistent, limiting the opportunity to work with him to address issues impacting on his offending behaviour.
- 14.84 In April 2020 there was the option available to initiate a breach given Ryans further non engagement. However, this early period of lockdown promoted all available efforts to engage people on Probation before taking breach action where there was no evidence of increasing risk. Warning letters were issued to Ryan following further absences. After the third unacceptable absence a breach of conditions should have been initiated but was not. Case records do not indicate why this was not undertaken in line with expected practice – instead there are records demonstrating efforts to contact Ryan. These efforts were hindered as Ryan was not residing at his father's address each night in line with the requirements of his Post Sentence Supervision. Letters were all directed to his father's address who Ryan was known to have limited contact with during this time. The Probation Officer knowing this but not taking action to pursue breach, given he was out of contact and not residing as directed, fell short of expected enforcement practice.

What is known about Collette's history of trauma, mental health concerns and substance use, including agency responses to this and their appropriateness?

- 14.85 Collette self-reported she had an extensive mental health and forensic history which started when aged approximately nine years old. This included episodes of self-harm (cutting), being charged with a variety of offences including robbery, assault, burglary, shoplifting and theft and criminal damage. In addition, Collette had a history of substance misuse and episodes of binge-drinking. Collette also reported that her own parents had a history of substance misuse, mental health issues and domestic abuse and that she witnessed her mum stab a male when aged approximately four years old. Collette reported being continuously angry.
- 14.86 Collette was known to CAMHS in 2012 aged 16 years for a brief period in relation to presenting with self-harming behaviours.
- 14.87 The next involvement with mental health services was in 2021 when Collette self-referred to Talking Therapies. Following assessment, Collette was transferred to the Neighbourhood Mental Health Team due to her presentation of emotional dysregulation. Collette was screened to attend a "Worry Group" and engaged in eight sessions via telephone and video link over a 12-month period due to Covid restrictions. She completed this work.
- 14.88 No current issues relating to domestic abuse were identified during the work undertaken by Talking Therapies as Collette stated she was not in a relationship and the relationship with her ex-husband had ended in 2021. Ryan was not named in any of the assessment, risk, or clinical documentation in Collette's Talking Therapies records.
- 14.89 Collette had a long history with Children's Social Care who noted Collette's chaotic lifestyle which included substance misuse and adverse childhood experiences. It is the view of the IMR author that Social Work is relationship based and the changes of workers (not unique to this case) made it difficult to maintain engagement with a parent who was already resistant to the involvement of Children's Social Care.
- 14.90 Collette was initially referred to Change Grow Live due to her cannabis use, but was also exhibiting patterns of binge drinking. Collette often reported periods of abstinence, reduced use, or control over her alcohol use. However, during 2022, she did give some indication that she recognised the impact of her alcohol use on her situation, particularly in terms of her children and her behaviour. It is important to note that Collette engaged with Change Grow Live on instruction from Children's Social Care and the Probation Service, and that personal motivation may not have been the primary factor in her seeking treatment. An

Alcohol AUDIT (Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test)⁶⁸ was completed in 2018 and 2019, however was not completed following this. Change Grow Live Alcohol pathway specifies this is completed once every 12 months. Had it been completed again, this may have provided greater insight into Collette's alcohol use.

- 14.91 For both Collette and Ryan alcohol misuse was either observed or disclosed in almost all of the contacts they had with statutory services during the timeframe of this review.
- 14.92 The relationship between alcohol and domestic abuse is clear but complex. Alcohol is not the cause of abuse, but its role in intensifying and complicating abusive is well documented.⁶⁹ Research suggests that alcohol use increases the occurrence and severity of domestic abuse. It can also reduce cognitive and physical functions that affect self-control and the ability to resolve conflicts in a non-violent way.⁷⁰
- 14.93 Change Grow Live reflect that, while risk reviews were completed in line with organisational timescales, there was additional information received from partner agencies (Children's Social Care, Probation) that could have informed a wider exploration of risk. The primary focus of risk reviews was the substance use, and it is clear from the risk review and assessment documents that Collette's historical trauma was not disclosed, and this was not further explored.
- 14.94 Change Grow Live were able to offer Collette appointments at the Women's Centre, and did provide structured psychosocial support, both via telephone, face-to-face appointments, and workbooks. Local service pathways in relation to engagement were followed and Collette was seen by an age-appropriate worker prior to her 25th birthday. Numerous attempts were made to provide Collette with opportunities to engage in the service. However, the case records indicate that Collette's self-reporting of her alcohol use, relationships and mental health was not explored in detail, and greater professional curiosity may have elicited increased information to contribute to risk management. The inconsistent attendance did appear to impact this, and had Collette's attendance been consistent, a greater therapeutic alliance may have been developed.
- 14.95 There was one occasion, when Collette called Change Grow Live in June 2021 requesting another appointment, that it took three weeks before her call was returned. This seems unreasonably long and would not have helped in encouraging Collette's engagement with the service.
- 14.96 There is a recognition of links between mental health issues and violence by women, and that women are often involved in the justice system due to their repeated victimisation. Consequently, referring Collette to the Women's Centre at the outset of her order ensured a gender-focused service. The approach used by women's centres is to treat women holistically and as individuals, responding practically to their individual needs.
- 14.97 The IMR author noted that, on occasion, the support that Collette received from Bridges could have been better. Collette's was clearly a complex case – with high level Children's Social Care involvement, substance misuse and mental health issues. Clients with such complexities can be challenging to engage and require a persistent approach. Bridges conclude that there is a case to be made for 'complex needs IDVAs', who carry a smaller caseload of more complex cases, which they can dedicate more time to engaging.
- 14.98 The Probation Officer's decision to refer Collette to WISER was appropriate. This was a course for women that supports them in examining why they have offended and motivates them to change. The aim was to develop confidence in decision-making, support the planning of personal goals, help to identifying future risks and develop skills and strategies

⁶⁸ AUDIT is a comprehensive 10 question alcohol harm screening tool used in a variety of health and social care settings.

⁶⁹ [Alcohol and intimate partner violence | Alcohol Change UK](#)

⁷⁰ [World Health Organization \(2009\) Intimate partner violence and alcohol cited on](#) Alcohol for Change Website accessed June 2024

to deal with them and this was an appropriate referral to make. However, this programme was phased out through 2022 as alternative interventions were developed and consequently, Collette did not complete this programme.

- 14.99 Case records evidence some meaningful engagement with Collette through one-to-one appointments with Probation, Change Grow Live and the Women's Team and attempts to address and review risk and need related issues. This includes continued attempts to both motivate and explain the consequences of Collette's continued non-attendance at unpaid work appointments. Such absences did, however, continue and enforcement was not as robust as expected, falling short of expected enforcement practice.
- 14.100 Overall, it is evident that Collette was expected to attend multiple agency appointments, sometimes on the same day, which must have proved especially challenging to maintain consistent attendance.
- 14.101 On three occasions Collette failed to attend cervical screening. There are many barriers that individuals might face when a cervical smear appointment is offered. Women who have experienced mental ill health and/or sexual abuse are less likely to attend for regular cervical screening.⁷¹ In light of a SARC attendance in 2017, a long history of domestic abuse and adverse childhood events, there is no evidence that this consideration was taken into account in relation to Collette's non-attendance.
- 14.102 When interviewed by the Chair, Collette shared that she had been undergoing work while in prison to help her understand her history of trauma and the impacts this had upon her.

Did Children's Services engagement with Ryan and Collette present opportunities for safeguarding and were children given appropriate status as victims of domestic abuse?

- 14.103 Collette's children were known to children's services from 2012 and were periodically subject to Child Protection Plans.
- 14.104 Collette and the children's records allude to her having an on/off relationship with Ryan and concerns regarding his possible risk to the children, specifically in relation to them witnessing domestic abuse, were highlighted sporadically.
- 14.105 The review highlighted several weaknesses in the response by Children's Social Care.
- 14.106 In October 2020 a Case Conference concluded that the case would be closed to Children's Social Care but were unable to provide the rationale for this decision for the review's purposes.
- 14.107 The safety plan agreement that Collette was required to sign in January 2021 placed all responsibility on Collette to keep herself and the children safe from Ryan. Later, in February 2021, Children's Social Care recorded that Collette was informed that, due to exposing her children to domestic abuse and alcohol use at home, they would now be subject to Public Law Outline (PLO) and a Child Protection Plan. In May 2021, following a domestic incident involving a knife, Children's Social Care requested that the children remain resident with their biological father, due to the risks associated with ongoing domestic abuse and because Collette had breached the agreed safety plan.
- 14.108 Collette was held responsible for Ryan's abusive behaviour and the expectation was that she could and would control this. The victim blaming language used, such as exposing her children to domestic abuse, or breaching the safety plan, is palpable and indicates a concerning lack of understanding about domestic abuse, its risks and dynamics. Research suggests victim blaming is a key barrier in victims disclosing and reporting abuse.⁷² Additionally, it makes the perpetrator invisible and absolved of responsibility. Children's

⁷¹ Cervical screening Primary care good practice guide (2024), Cancer Research UK.

⁷² Rose D, Trevillion K, Woodall A, Morgan C, Feder G, Howard L. (2011). Barriers and facilitators of disclosures of domestic violence by mental health service users: qualitative study.

Social Care reflected that there was no mention of Ryan on Collette's children's case file, nor was there on his own child's case file.

- 14.109 There is a body of evidence that women are routinely responsibilised for domestic abuse and, in particular, when their families come to the attention of Children's Social Care.⁷³ This places a focus on the mother as holding the solution to the problem with little intervention directed at the abuser, and reinforces a culture of mother blaming where mothers can be viewed as 'non-compliant' or 'unprotective'.⁷⁴
- 14.110 Separation continues to be promoted as the primary mechanism for children's protection, despite being at odds with longstanding and compelling evidence that risk substantially increases upon leaving⁷⁵⁷⁶. This produces a relationship between mothers and services that is often fractured and distrustful, acting as a barrier to effective child protection work and increasing the risk to both adult and child victims⁷⁷.
- 14.111 The PLO procedure was stepped down in December 2021 with the Local Authority recommendation that the children remain in the care of their father.⁷⁸
- 14.112 It is within this context that Collette was not always honest about whether she was in a relationship or not with Ryan. Collette shared, in an interview with the Chair, that she would rather that Children's Social Care had found a way to work with them as a couple, as she was unable to leave Ryan.
- 14.113 The review process surfaced concerns about the adequacy of recording undertaken by Children's Social Care in relation to the case. For example, information was made available to the panel about child protection related meetings from IMR reports from agencies, but not from Children's Social Care's own records. There were significant gaps in the chronology of events and many records that were present lacked context or detail.
- 14.114 Concerns about Children's Social Care in Tameside are historical and ongoing. Ofsted rated services Inadequate in 2016, Requires Improvement in 2019, found two Areas for Priority Action in 2022, and rated services (except for Care Leaver services) Inadequate again in 2023.
- 14.115 An independent report commissioned and published in July 2024⁷⁹ was highly critical of the services for children and concluded that the local authority was unable to effect sustained improvement over a considerable period. This has resulted in changes in leadership and plans to receive support from a neighbouring local authority to implement improvement plans.
- 14.116 To address systemic cultural concerns with Children's Services, some local authorities are adopting the Safe & Together Model which provides a framework for defining and discussing domestic abuse within the child protection system. The three principles of the model are:

⁷³ See for example, Featherstone, B., & Fraser, C. (2012). Working with Fathers around Domestic Violence: Contemporary Debates, or Olszowy, L., Jaffe, P. G., Dawson, M., Straatman, A. L. A. L., & Sax ton, M. D. (2020). Voices from the frontline: Child protection workers' perspectives on barriers to assessing risk in domestic violence cases.

⁷⁴ Jessica Wild (2022). Gendered Discourses of Responsibility and Domestic Abuse Victim Blame in the English Children's Social Care System.

⁷⁵ Ferguson, G., Featherstone, B., & Morris, K. (2020). Framed to fit? Challenging the domestic abuse 'story' in child protection.

⁷⁶ The Femicide census (2018) identified that 41% of women killed by a partner/former partner had separated or taken steps to separate, with 30% killed within the first month and 70% killed within the first year of separation.

⁷⁷ Robbins, R., & Cook, K. (2018). 'Don't Even Get Us Started on Social Workers': Domestic Violence, Social Work and Trust—An Anecdote from Research.

⁷⁸ The panel agreed that the decision making regarding placing the children with their father and any associated risk assessment was beyond the scope of this review. Children's Social Care and the CSP agreed to pick this up outside of the review.

⁷⁹ [Commissioner's report on children's services in Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

- Keeping child safe and together with non-offending parent (Safety / Healing from Trauma / Stability and Nurturance)
- Partnering with non-offending parent as a default position (Efficient / Effective / Child-centred)
- Intervening with Perpetrator to reduce risk and harm to child (Engagement / Accountability / Courts)

14.117 Practice implications of the Safe & Together model have been linked with better assessment, better partnerships and better case plans (Scott, 2019; Safe and Together, 2018).

14.118 With reference to the ED attendance by Collette's sister on 19/12/20 where she stated she was assaulted by Ryan, Collette denied this happened at the time. However, the sister presented to ED with injuries consistent with her recollection of the events. At the time of her attendance Collette's sister was 17 and therefore a child and also described as having learning disabilities. In line with Trust policy, referrals to Children's Social Care should have been completed. However, there is no indication that this happened and there was no safeguarding alert made for the attendance. ICFT noted that processes for safeguarding to be considered as a cause for attendance or an underlying concern when attending ED have been identified as a learning point. These have now been reviewed and the system in use now requires professionals to complete this section before they can complete the episode of care.

How effective were multi-agency arrangements in reducing risk and facilitating access to support?

What information sharing protocols exist between agencies? Were they needed, appropriate and effective in this case?

14.119 In November 2021, when a Safeguarding Core Group Meeting was held, Probation were not represented at this meeting as they were not sent the link to enable their attendance. This impeded early effective interagency working and information sharing. The IMR author reflected that, while the Probation Officer contacted the Social Worker to request that they be provided with the necessary links for future meetings, proactive working would have ensured that this was recognised prior to the event and therefore was not timely enough to ensure attendance at the meeting. Furthermore, there is no indication of the Probation Officer asking for an update following the meeting to inform their ongoing assessment of risk. Processes are in place to support staff in escalating concerns when other agencies are not sufficiently responsive to requests for information or there are barriers to effective liaison. The Probation Officer could have raised this issue with their Line Manager to agree next steps in securing their attendance at the Core Group meeting.

14.120 The Probation IMR author identified further weaknesses in information sharing impacting on the effectiveness of support. These included:

- Not seeking additional Police intelligence to verify Ryan's account of his arrest in July 2020, instead relying on Ryan self-reporting. Consequently, the female who has alleged Ryan assaulted her was not identified and there lacked a complete picture to assess and respond to current risk.
- The information that Probation received from the Police (16/09/21 incident) lacked detail regarding the domestic abuse history between Ryan and Collette and subsequent domestic abuse enquiries made during the period of supervision did not highlight this. The absence of a full domestic abuse history report at this juncture meant that an analysis of such incidents did not take place as expected. Information obtained by Probation for the purpose of this review identified an allegation of a Section 18 wounding against the father of Collette's children in 2016 and that Collette also self-reported a potential charge regarding Ryan alleging that she had stabbed him. These behaviours were not analysed and

responded to within the risk assessment and are a critical absence within the concluding risk assessment.

- Whilst Police domestic abuse reports were requested regularly through the period of this review in line with expected practice, the practitioner did not seek to gather information regarding the historic incidents and new enquiries made only indicated there to be '*no new recorded incidents since the last request*'. Incomplete information hindered accurate assessments being completed. There has been an acknowledgement of the need to continue to strengthen information sharing between Greater Manchester Probation and Greater Manchester Police who are currently working together to achieve this.
- Again, in November 2021, verification of information given by Collette about her arrest was not sought as expected to support any necessary review of risk
- In January 2022, when a Core Group Meeting was held, it became evident that Collette's ex-partner was not identified in Probation case records. This information did not, however, prompt the Probation Officer to seek a full history of domestic abuse incidents, so this remained absent from Probation's intelligence.
- There was misunderstanding that the Child Protection Conference was not taking place as planned in March 2022 and that this contact would be a Core Group Meeting. This breakdown in communication meant that a formal report for the Conference in line with Probation's Child Safeguarding Policy. Whilst information was shared, it was not to the level and detail expected for a Conference Review.
- In May 2022 Probation did not request any additional information from the Police regarding the arrest incident of both Collette and Ryan in April 2022.
- Probation contacted the Spotlight Team in September 2022 asking for an offence summary and next steps. The response received indicated that there had been a driving offence and that Collette was released from Police custody 'under investigation'. No further detail was provided so the Probation Officer was unaware at this junction that the alleged offence was committed with Ryan. Had they been aware of this, this may have prompted liaison with the Probation Officer who was supervising Ryan at this time and drawn attention to their contact.

14.121 Overall, there was, at times, information not made available to Probation but also not sought on their part. This included a failure to verify information shared by Collette or Ryan or to make further enquiries when information did not align.

14.122 The GMP IMR author highlighted that the write ups on the crime reports in relation to the matter on 11/04/23 were somewhat unclear and there were conflicts within supervisor reviews. Write ups on crime reports need to be clear, detailed, and accurate. In January 2024 a new crime management policy and procedure came into place alongside the Investigation Improvement Team. The guidance for the management and updates on crimes has been added to the Online Investigation E-book for all of PIP ⁸⁰ crimes officers to use. This should serve to improve the quality of information recorded on crimes by both officers and supervisors.

14.123 ICFT also report a lack of communication as they were regularly not informed about Child in Need meetings or Child Protection conferences. They add that child health professionals were not always informed of the Child Protection concerns. ICFT reflect that there appeared to have been many challenges to information sharing presented by the rapid turnover in professionals in post, both in the local authority and in the child health service.

⁸⁰ The PIP 1 Investigator gathers and reviews evidence and undertakes investigations relating to volume and priority crime to ascertain whether a person should be charged with an offence or if a person charged with an offence is guilty of that offence.

- 14.124 The GP practice raised the lack of information received by GP practices following MARAC discussions as an issue. GP practices do not appear to be routinely contacted to feed information into the MARAC process or to provide information, and there is potentially a wealth of information practices hold that is missing when decisions are being made at MARAC meetings. There was notification to the GP on two occasions that Collette was heard as a victim of domestic abuse at MARAC but there is no link between the two of them recorded within the GP records, nor was there evidence of coding or flagging to the record to highlight domestic abuse concerns in the parents or children's records. No further information was shared with the GP practice with regard to what had initiated the MARAC referral or the outcomes of this.
- 14.125 After reviewing the draft report, Ryan's father commented that it seemed evident that each organisation/agency that both Colette and Ryan were involved with had access to some information and intelligence, but they never collaborated and therefore were unable to see the full picture.
- 14.126 Some positive multi-agency information sharing was noted by the review.
- 14.127 PCFT have Information Sharing Guidance that is regularly shared with staff that highlights the importance of sharing relevant information contained in risk assessments and plans to facilitate multi-agency, dynamic safeguarding risk assessment and action planning with other agencies to keep children and adults safe. Information was shared with GPs, and the PCFT Criminal Mental Health Justice Team (CMHJT) worker as appropriate.
- 14.128 When both Ryan and Collette were offered mental health assessments, information was shared with GPs, and the PCFT CMHJT worker. Following assessment by the CMHJT, they contacted the GP directly to request a referral of Ryan to the adult ADHD clinic and to consider alternative treatment options in the interim.
- 14.129 The Change Grow Live Recovery Worker did regularly liaise with the Probation Service and kept them informed of Collette's attendance at appointments. However, liaison with Children's Social Care and the GP could have been more consistent. There have been changes to service delivery since this time including greater access to GP summary records, improved compliance with the alcohol pathway, improvements to the assessment process, an increase in the use of internal and external multi-disciplinary team meetings, co-location with Probation services and contracted interventions with Probation services, more resources dedicated to MARAC, outreach services across the borough and increased leadership within the service which all now provide a far more robust engagement with partner agencies. Additionally, significant improvements in the relationship with Adult Social Care and adult safeguarding teams have been made. The service is now part of the Tameside Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board and has implemented Team Around the Adult and the Tiered Risk Assessment Model⁸¹, which allows improved risk management at a partnership level.

Are there any specific considerations in relation to Ryan or Collette's age, disability (including learning disabilities), gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation that may have had a bearing on access to services or agency responses?

- 14.130 Records indicate that Ryan identified himself to be a white British, heterosexual male whose religion was Catholic. There is no evidence that he was actively practising his Catholicism.
- 14.131 Ryan was diagnosed with Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) as a child. ADHD is a frequent neurodevelopmental disorder that affects around 3% of adults⁸². It is

⁸¹ [TASPB-Tiered-Assessment-and-Management-\(TRAM\)-Protocol-V2.pdf](#)

⁸² Song, P., Zha, M., Yang, Q., Zhang, Y., Li, X., & Rudan, I. (2021). The prevalence of adult attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder: A global systematic review and meta-analysis.

characterised by impairing, pervasive inattention and/or impulsivity and hyperactivity and individuals with ADHD struggle with managing conflict and personal relationships and tend to have more tumultuous intimate relationships⁸³. The impact this may have had on Ryan and his barriers to accessing support have been previously discussed.

- 14.132 Records indicate that Collette identified herself to be a white, British, heterosexual female. She did not disclose any religious or cultural beliefs. Whilst her children did not live with her during the period of this review, Collette was a mother and had regular contact with her children.
- 14.133 As a woman, Collette was at particular risk of domestic abuse. Women are disproportionately the victims of domestic abuse and men the perpetrators. The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated that 1.6 million women and 712,000 men aged 16 years and over experienced domestic abuse in year ending March 2024. This equates to 6.6% of women and 3.0% of men⁸⁴.
- 14.134 It is important to understand that men do not experience domestic abuse as part of embedded, structural inequalities related to their sex, as women do. They will, however, face barriers to seeking help that are particular to them. Research conducted by Taylor et al (2022) which considered barriers to men's help seeking behaviour, suggests that male victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) may be less likely to seek help than female victims.
- 14.135 Both Ryan and Collette appear to have had a number of adverse childhood experiences, poor mental health and substance use. Their use of substances, within the context of domestic abuse, is explored elsewhere in the analysis. Both faced multiple disadvantages and these may have been barriers to accessing services and impacted on agency response.
- 14.136 Originally coined by American lawyer, scholar, and activist Kimberlé Crenshaw, the term intersectionality describes how the protected characteristics and other personal characteristics intersect with one another and overlap, creating interlocking systems of experiences and oppression.⁸⁵ It is important to note that Ryan and Collette's individual characteristics will have contributed to a collective and individual experience for them.

Were agencies sufficiently resourced and individuals effectively supervised to respond to the needs of Ryan and Collette and any risks presented?

- 14.137 Due to resourcing, on occasion there was a delay in the time Police took to respond to some of the calls for assistance made by Ryan and Collette. It is not possible to assess if a faster response would have resulted in disclosures being made or there being more corroborative information available.
- 14.138 The focus of Children's Social Care was the risk to the children, and this was managed at different levels Child in Need, Child Protection and Public Law Outline and there is evidence of supervision. The children's files do indicate changes of Social Worker during the period of the review which impacts on relationship building which is essential to effective social work interventions. However, in some circumstances when children have been open to services for a long time a change of worker can assist with 'fresh eyes'.
- 14.139 During Collette's involvement with Change Grow Live, her Recovery Worker was changed. This was largely due to changes in staffing. At the times when her Recovery Worker changed, this appears to have impacted on Collette's engagement with the service.

⁸³ Margherio, S. M., Capps, E. R., Monopoli, J. W., Evans, S. W., Hernandez-Rodriguez, M., Owens, J. S., & DuPaul, G. J. (2021). Romantic relationships and sexual behavior among adolescents with ADHD.

⁸⁴ Crime Survey for England and Wales were published in July 2024. [Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview - Office for National Statistics](#)

⁸⁵ Kimberle Crenshaw; *Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color*; 1991.

- 14.140 This review period covers a time of significant changes within the Probation Service. The early period of supervision of Ryan was undertaken by the Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC) and data regarding their staffing resource picture is no longer available. However, it was acknowledged that at this time, workloads for those within the CRC were significantly high. How this specifically impacted upon the Probation Officers at that time is unknown given an interview with them for this review has not been possible. However, scrutiny of case records demonstrated that practice was not always in line with that expected and there were missed opportunities to effectively liaise with other agencies to gather and appropriately scrutinise information that was available.
- 14.141 Practice was seen to be improved in the latter period of supervision, with greater liaison between agencies to seek sources of support and a more robust approach to enforcement. Staffing in the Probation Service through 2021 and 2022 as the services unified and settled, remained challenging. At the time of writing this review, staffing in Greater Manchester is in a much stronger position with the highest resources across all grades since unification of the services.
- 14.142 For Collette, her supervision occurred within the 12 months following the significant change and forming of the Probation Service in June 2021 and for the staff supervising Collette who had transferred from the CRC, they continued to hold high caseloads.
- 14.143 The impact this has had upon this case was seen in March 2022 when the case was transferred from one Probation Officer to another. The latter was a Newly Qualified Officer who had only recently moved to the Greater Manchester Probation region and consequently, their knowledge and understanding of Greater Manchester processes and partnership agencies was in its infancy. Given that the Probation Officer was new to the area, had taken on a new caseload and was in the initial year post qualification, it was expected that there have been some oversight of this case by their line manager. However, case records do not indicate this to have occurred. Had this occurred, the opportunity to recognise the absence of a full domestic abuse history record may have been realised and advice provided to ensure the Probation Officer was able to effectively liaise with Police colleagues would have been made available.
- 14.144 Within Greater Manchester Probation there is now a mandatory 12 month rolling development programme for Newly Qualified Officers. This programme is intended to offer continuity of support of the learners practice from their assessor post qualification and sufficiency in their supervision which is expected to be frequent and evident of through case scrutiny with the opportunity for reflective practice.
- 14.145 ICFT note a number of changes in key workers allocated to the family due to staff sickness and staff leaving and that it is likely that there was a lack of staffing resources to support child safeguarding processes. This is likely to have impacted on the ability of professionals to respond to the needs of Collette during her on and off relationship with Ryan. Had there been better continuity in key workers this may have provided Collette with the ability to build rapport and trust in keyworkers, therefore better enabling her to raise concerns.
- 14.146 There are ongoing issues due to the length of time individuals are on the adult ADHD waiting list with no direct contact from the service whilst waiting. The current waiting list on the adult ADHD pathway is approximately 18 months and increasing. That the adult pathway does not consider expediting an appointment or restarting medication for adults who have been diagnosed as children is an issue of concern and needs to be considered in any future local strategy. In May 2024 NHS England launched a new cross-sector Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Taskforce.⁸⁶ This taskforce brings together those with lived experience and experts from the NHS, local government as well as education, charity

⁸⁶ [NHS England » Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Taskforce chairs announced](#)

and justice sectors to gain a better understanding of the challenges affecting those with ADHD, including access to services and rising demand.

- 14.147 It is also of importance to note that during the time of the COVID 19 restrictions many meetings took place remotely and this will undoubtedly have further impacted on professional relationships and reduced opportunities for open and honest conversations around professional concerns.

Have any changes already been implemented as a result of early learnings from this case?

- 14.148 Children's Social Care shared that, although not specifically arising from this case, as part of Tameside Children's Services improvement journey the Framework for Practice has been strengthened and this focuses upon the five C's which are Curiosity, Courage, Conversations, Collaboration and Consideration. Training is available to staff on the subject of professional curiosity.
- 14.149 Body worn video footage should have been marked as evidential by the Officer attending the incident at St Peter's Square on 11/04/2023. GMP are currently reviewing the use and retention of body worn video footage across all incidents and officers and a revised policy will then be disseminated to all staff.
- 14.150 The PCFT IMR author has revised the PCFT Information Sharing 7 Minute briefing to include that staff consider sharing information with Probation services where risk is identified.

Are there any particular examples of good practice to highlight?

- 14.151 Following the PCFT Criminal Mental Health Justice worker request that the GP refer Ryan to the ADHD clinic, he also contacted the GP to request that they consider prescribing some alternative medication as an interim measure in recognition of the lengthy ADHD assessment process to help support this client whilst waiting.
- 14.152 The Police Officer recognised the risk and made efforts to put the case to the CPS without Collette's evidence in response to the incident in September 2018. However, there was insufficient supporting evidence for an evidence led prosecution.
- 14.153 In April 2020 Police Officers were concerned that Ryan was not being truthful, and due to where he had been located being near to Collette's address, they arranged a safe and well check for Collette.
- 14.154 In May 2021 Police Officers made a referral to Bridges Domestic Abuse Service due to Collette stating she was in fear of Ryan and she needed to be rehoused, despite her not providing a statement or cooperating with them.
- 14.155 When the Police Officer created a high risk Domestic Abuse Record and made a MARAC referral in response to the incident in September 2021, they identified the previous incidents that had not been flagged as domestic abuse incidents and included them in this referral. This showed a good assessment of risk and a good multi-agency approach to safeguarding.
- 14.156 Probation case records demonstrate that during the periods of recent supervision, both Collette and Ryans individual needs were considered. Ryans experience of trauma through his life were considered and interventions were taken at his pace in recognition of this.
- 14.157 Change Grow Live demonstrated real efforts to establish Collette's engagement with the service and showed flexibility and patience when she repeatedly missed appointments.

15. Conclusions and lessons learned

This section summarises the key learning identified by the review. Where related improvements have been made or are in progress, this is acknowledged.

Identifying and responding to domestic abuse

- 15.1 Professional curiosity was not always evident by Probation to verify and investigate information obtained to ensure risks regarding domestic abuse were robustly assessed and managed. As a result of significant change through 2021 and rapid recruitment of staff since this time, there is a recognised level of inexperience within the probation workforce. To respond to this a plan is already in place to develop key skills, particularly in respect of the use of professional curiosity. Since February 2024 all staff are attending a six-hour event which specifically focuses upon the use of professional curiosity and promoting effective multi agency working in the identification and management of emerging domestic abuse risk.
- 15.2 ICFT should consider embedding routine enquiry around domestic abuse into the ED triage of all patients to strengthen and support the response to domestic abuse. This is acknowledged in the domestic abuse strategy for Tameside where there is a recommendation to implement routine enquiry.
- 15.3 Routine or targeted enquiry and increased professional curiosity around domestic abuse was also identified as an issue of concern within primary care services, particularly when there has been a history of domestic abuse, there is mental health issues and substance misuse issues, as well as poor dental health. The IRIS⁸⁷ programme, which aims to improve the GP response to domestic abuse, was commissioned by Tameside Council and NHS Greater Manchester for delivery from 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2025. The programme is supported by an advocate educator (domestic abuse specialist) and a Clinical Lead (GP). Ryan and Collette's GP is listed on this programme.
- 15.4 Collette's housing provider focussed on the ASB when complaints were received and did not proactively consider the possibility of domestic abuse. Furthermore, the injunction served as a barrier to Collette being moved by Jigsaw when, in September 2021, she told them she was fearful to return to the property due to domestic abuse. Work is underway to improve earlier communication between Bridges domestic abuse service and Jigsaw about their clients.
- 15.5 A Clare's Law disclosure was not considered by the Police in response to the incident in September 2018. This would have been appropriate, given the background of both Ryan and Collette.
- 15.6 In April 2021, when Collette was witness to a crime by Ryan, this was not recorded by the Police as a domestic incident. Consideration should be given to whether it should have been, given the circumstances and history.
- 15.7 In June 2022, the fact that Collette had appeared to have willingly been in Ryan's company prior to the offences alleged, seems to have been a factor in the decision to take no further action. This decision making suggests a lack of understanding or consideration of the complex dynamics of domestic abuse and coercive control and how this might affect the behaviour of victims.
- 15.8 The force's 'DA Matters' training programme, as well as other bespoke training delivered related to domestic abuse policies, should go some way to addressing these issues.
- 15.9 The response by Bridges domestic abuse service lacked exploration of risk at this time and did not explore civil legal protective measures, which may have impacted on Collette's confidence in the service. Bridges have now adopted a new case management system with risk and outcomes assessment tools to address this weakness.
- 15.10 ICFT processes for safeguarding and consideration of as a cause for attendance or an underlying concern when attending ED were lacking. These have been reviewed and the

⁸⁷ Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) is a specialist domestic abuse education, support and referral programme providing training for GP teams and a named advocate to whom patients can be referred to for support.

system in use now requires professionals to complete a section related to this before they can complete the episode of care. Supporting safeguarding training needs to be strengthened. A training and implementation plan has been produced which will improve staff awareness of safeguarding and domestic abuse.

Appropriate assessment, care and support for Ryan and Collette

- 15.11 Tameside and Glossop ADHD team are awaiting a national and local strategy for Adult ADHD. This is a national problem. Ryan had an extensive record with CAMHS and where he was prescribed medication for ADHD up to his 18th birthday and then transferred to his GP. Adults need to go through a screening process for treatment which has a long waiting list, despite their having had a diagnosis as a child, which can impact on their mental health.
- 15.12 Alcohol misuse was either observed or disclosed in almost all of the contacts Collette and Ryan had with statutory services during the timeframe of this review. Ryan did not access support for this. Change Grow Live did not undertake the AUDIT assessment with Collette in line with the Alcohol Pathway. People presenting with binge patterns of use in terms of alcohol are now assessed using the AUDIT every 12 months. This provides additional information to contribute to the wider assessment of need and ensure appropriate alcohol pathways are followed. Additionally, Change Grow Live staff involved could have considered the information received about Collette, including previous patterns of behaviour, and explored these further with increased professional curiosity.
- 15.13 Case Transfer between staff in Probation did not have sufficient management oversight to support an Officer who was new to the area and within their first-year post qualification. Whilst there was evidence of liaison and handover between practitioners, it is not evident that there was sufficient management oversight of the case to review and offer guidance where appropriate. New guidance seeks assurances of the sufficiency of practice in all cases where case reallocation is required and supports the delivery of appropriate management oversight at the point of case reallocation.

Responding to and managing domestic abuse related risks

- 15.14 In July 2019, when Ryan was released from custody on a Home Detention Curfew (HDC), a licence condition not to contact the victims was not requested, missing a further opportunity for risk management.
- 15.15 The Probation risk assessments completed for both Ryan and Collette required some improvements to ensure they met the quality standards expected. Greater Manchester Probation Service has a Quality Improvement Strategy, which includes a focus on improving the quality of risk assessments, risk management plans and sentence plans, that is reviewed yearly. Mandatory training is being delivered to Probation Service Officers and new staff through 2024 in respect of developing quality assessments.
- 15.16 The impacts of extensive delays between criminal charges and court proceedings are significant and can impact on safety, recovery and engagement with the process. The backlog in courts handling of crimes in England and Wales will likely continue to get worse unless addressed.
- 15.17 Collette had a long history with Children's Social Care and admitted to lying to them about her ongoing relationship with Ryan due to fear of their intervention. This was, however, in the context of Children's Social Care unfairly holding Collette responsible for the children being exposed to domestic abuse perpetrated by Ryan. Furthermore, Ryan was invisible in Children's Social Care files and responses.
- 15.18 The recording by Children's Social Care related to this case was wholly inadequate and, at times, non-existent.

- 15.19 The review acknowledged that concerns about Tameside Children's Social Care responses overall were currently a matter of strategic importance and that improvement plans were underway.

Multi-agency working and information sharing

- 15.20 There were communication difficulties which impacted upon attendance and information sharing at Child Protection related meetings. ICFT and Probation were not kept informed about meetings and had to chase Children's Social Care for information. Probation and ICFT could have escalated this but did not. The GP was not actively asked to contribute information to inform planning by Children's Social Care.
- 15.21 Multi agency liaison was not always evident at times of reduced compliance, to help verify information or clarify concerns raised – this was particularly evident within domestic abuse checks undertaken by Probation. There is now a greater collaboration between Greater Manchester Police and Greater Manchester Probation Service in undertaking Domestic Abuse Enquiries, with dedicated Probation staff now in place to undertake some of the high-volume work that such checks demand. There remains a focus on improving this process further to ensure greater accuracy and timely information is shared that will inform risk assessment and risk management practice. The Deputy Head of Public Protection is leading this piece of work for Greater Manchester Probation Service and it is ongoing.
- 15.22 The review process surfaced weaknesses in the recording of MARAC meetings with notes and outcomes unavailable. Furthermore, a review of a recording of a MARAC meeting highlighted a very limited focus on risk by the MARAC panel and that victim blaming language was used on occasion.
- 15.23 The lack of information received by GP practices following MARAC discussions was also identified as a concern, with GP practices not routinely contacted to feed information into the MARAC process. Tameside is seeking to replicate the process in place in Derbyshire to support improved engagement and information sharing between the MARAC and GPs. The Derbyshire process allows information on MARAC cases to be shared with relevant GP surgeries and vice versa to support risk management and safety planning.

16. Recommendations

16.1 National recommendations:

- Share the findings of this review with the NHS England launched cross-sector Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Taskforce for their consideration in developing a national ADHD strategy.
- Share the findings of this review with the Victims' Commissioner to inform their work on exploring the impact court waiting times have on victims across England and Wales and the services in place to support them.

16.2 Multi-agency recommendations

- Develop a MARAC improvement action plan to address recording, risk management, information sharing, engagement with GPs, and to ensure a victim focus.
- Develop resources and learning opportunities to support improved professional curiosity across the Community Safety Partnership partner agencies.
- Develop a co-ordinated approach to trauma informed training across CSP partner agencies, specifically identifying levels of training for different professionals based on their interactions with adults, children and families.

16.3 Single agency recommendations

Children's Social Care

- Acknowledging the strategic work in progress to improve Children's Social Care, the learning from this review will be shared with the recently appointed Director of Tameside Children's Services to inform their plans.
- The Director of Tameside Children's Services is asked to consider the appropriateness of the Safe & Together Model for Tameside, which provides a framework for defining and discussing domestic abuse within the child protection system.

More specifically, Tameside Children's Services are asked to:

- Address poor practice in recording of Child in Need and Child Protection related activity as part of their overall improvement programme
- Provide specific and targeted safety planning training to staff so that staff will cease the use of safety plan agreements with non-abusive parents that refer to the expected management of an abusive parent or partner's behaviour and its impact on children.
- Hold practice learning events, to enable discussions about the relevant learning from this review and with a focus on reducing practice that holds non abusing parents responsible for addressing abuse.

Probation

- Delivery of Domestic Abuse Awareness Events to be monitored through their completion ensuring access to continuous professional development in this area for all staff.
- Professional Curiosity - in line with Greater Manchester Quality Improvement Strategy, improvements in practice in respect of obtaining and using all relevant information, including safeguarding information to inform risk assessment, management, planning and delivery. This will be achieved through the roll out of development work based on the HMIP Effective Practice Guidance on Professional Curiosity and through the delivery of focused one to one work to support this.
- Provide assurances that Safeguarding training is undertaken as required for new starters and at regular intervals for current staff.
- Police Domestic Abuse Enquiries – progress of continued work regarding regional collaboration in undertaking domestic abuse enquiries should be evidenced to ensure complete and timely access to all domestic abuse history that will inform risk assessment and risk management plannings.

PCFT

- There is no single agency action plan for PCFT. However, the author has reviewed the Trusts 7-minute Information Sharing briefing to remind practitioners on the importance of this subject and to update on the Trusts intranet.

NHS Greater Manchester

- Mental Health Commissioners to consider a review of the Tameside pathways for adults with suspected or diagnosed ADHD and consider transitions from children to adult services.
- ADHD pathways to be communicated effectively across the Tameside health economy.
- GPs to consider the appropriateness of self-referral and signposting when individuals have disclosed substance misuse and mental health that may impact on their ability to self-refer to meet their health needs. GPs should initiate a referral if the adult requires support

- To raise the awareness of the challenges faced by individuals with mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse which results in the ability to meet the health needs of self and those that they have caring responsibilities for, and to reduce missing health appointments.

ICFT

- Strengthen delivery of safeguarding training within the Trust through a training and implementation plan which will improve the knowledge of staff and improve their awareness of safeguarding and domestic abuse.
- The Trust should consider embedding routine enquiry around domestic abuse into the ED triage of all patients to strengthen and support the response to domestic abuse. This is acknowledged in the domestic abuse strategy for Tameside and there is a recommendation to implement routine enquiry.

Change Grow Live

Change Grow Live Tameside will work to improve professional curiosity within the staff team and ensure risk assessments take account of information shared by partner agencies.

Bridges

- Explore the potential for a complex needs IDVA role to enhance the service.
- Establish a process for early information sharing between Bridges and Jigsaw where clients are known to both agencies.

Jigsaw Homes

- Establish a process for early information sharing between Bridges and Jigsaw where clients are known to both agencies.

APPENDIX A: Terms of Reference

Tameside Community Safety Partnership

Terms of Reference for the Domestic Homicide Review into the death of Ryan⁸⁸

1. Background

This Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) concerns the death of Ryan who was killed by Collette in April 2023.

Subjects of the review:

Name	Relationship	Age at the time of the fatal incident	Ethnicity
Ryan	Deceased	28	White British
Collette ⁸⁹	Partner of Ryan	27	White British

2. The requirement for a DHR

The Terms of Reference for this Review have been written in accordance with the Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews⁹⁰.

The relevant Community Safety Partnership (CSP) must always conduct a DHR when a death meets the following criterion under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) section 9, which states that a domestic homicide review is:

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 person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or
- a member of the same household as himself,

held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death.

Consequently, in June 2023 the Tameside CSP agreed that the criteria for a DHR had been met.

3. Purpose of a DHR

The Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews outlines the purpose of a DHR as a process 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;

⁸⁸ Pseudonym

⁸⁹ Pseudonym

⁹⁰ Home Office – last updated December 2016.

- e) contribute to a better understanding of the nature of domestic violence and abuse; and
- f) highlight good practice.

4. Principles of the Review

The Panel members commit that this review will be conducted with:

- i. A lack of defensiveness and commitment to seeking the truth.
- ii. A commitment to learning lessons to prevent future harm, without blame.
- iii. Objectivity and independence.
- iv. Transparency, whilst respecting confidential information.
- v. Empathy and compassion for the victim, and those impacted by their loss, ensuring their voices are integral to the process.
- vi. Consideration of equality and diversity, and intersecting disadvantage.

5. Timeframe for the Review

The Review will consider the involvement of agencies with Ryan and Collette from September 2018 until the date of Ryan's death on 23rd April 2023, as this was the first known incident of domestic abuse reported. The review will consider any other relevant information prior to this period.

6. Key Lines of Enquiry

In particular, the DHR Panel (and by extension, IMR and short report authors) will be seeking answers to the following, case specific key lines of enquiry:

- 6.1 Were there any indications of domestic abuse, including coercive control, within the relationship between Ryan and Collette? If so, what action was taken in response to this and how effective was this?
- 6.2 Were there opportunities for Ryan and Collette to disclose concerns about domestic abuse? What barriers may have existed to prevent a disclosure?
- 6.3 What does the history tell us about the dynamics of Ryan and Collette's relationship, regarding the typology of abuse.
- 6.4 What training, policies and procedures are in place to identify, risk assess, respond to and escalate concerns regarding domestic abuse, and were these effective in this case?
- 6.5 How effective were multi-agency arrangements in reducing risk and facilitating access to support?
- 6.6 What is known about the ADHD, substance use and mental health concerns presented by Ryan, including agency responses to this and their appropriateness?
- 6.7 What is known about Collette's history of trauma, mental health concerns and substance use, including agency responses to this and their appropriateness?
- 6.8 Did Children's Services engagement with Ryan and Collette present opportunities for safeguarding and were children given appropriate status as victims of domestic abuse?
- 6.9 What information sharing protocols exist between agencies? Were they needed, appropriate and effective in this case?
- 6.10 Are there any specific considerations in relation to Ryan or Collette's age, disability (including learning disabilities), gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation that may have had a bearing on access to services or agency responses?
- 6.11 Were agencies sufficiently resourced and individuals effectively supervised to respond to the needs of Ryan and Collette and any risks presented?

- 6.12 What lessons can be learnt during the review process and where might practice, policy and resource allocation be improved?
- 6.13 Have any changes already been implemented as a result of early learnings from this case?
- 6.14 Are there any particular examples of good practice to highlight?

7. Family involvement

In addition to the lines of enquiry set out above, the review will seek to find out what family or community members know about Ryan and Collette, their relationship, their needs, whether they sought or received help and, if so, the effectiveness of this help.

The review will seek to involve the family of the victim in the review process in ways that they are comfortable with, taking account of their needs and wishes.

Other individuals known to the subjects of the review may be invited to participate where their contribution might add intelligence and depth to the review. This could include neighbours, employers, the alleged perpetrator and their family/friends.

With their agreement, we will seek to establish communication methods that keep the family informed throughout the process.

Contact with the family and any other contributors to the review will be led by the Chair.

8. Consideration of other DHRs

The review will also consider themes and learnings from other previous similar DHRs held in Tameside where there is a benefit to do so.

9. Panel Membership

Panel members will consist of representatives from the following agencies:

Tameside Metropolitan Council (MBC) (Legal)
Tameside Children's Social Care
Tameside Adult Social Care
Jigsaw / Bridges Domestic Abuse Service
NHS Greater Manchester ICB
Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust
North West Ambulance Service
Change Grow Live
Probation Service
Pennine Care
GMFRS
Tameside Housing Advice
Greater Manchester Police
Jigsaw Homes

The panel membership should remain static with consistent representation of named individuals. Any proposed changes of panel representation should be discussed with the Chair. Panel members must be independent of any line management of staff involved in the case and must be sufficiently senior to have the authority to commit on behalf of their agency to decisions made during a panel meeting.

10. Disclosure & Confidentiality

Confidentiality should be maintained by all individuals and organisations involved in the review. However, the achievement of confidentiality and transparency must be balanced against the legal requirements surrounding disclosure.

Where a criminal investigation is running in parallel to the review, any material received by the Panel must be disclosed to the SIO.

The subjects of the review will be granted anonymity within the Overview Report and Executive Summary and will be referred to by a pseudonym.

Where consent to share information is not available, agencies should refer to and consider Section 10 of the Multi-Agency Statutory Guidelines for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews and consider whether the information can be disclosed in the public interest. In this case, any information shared should be proportionate and relevant to the aim of the review to prevent future harm.

11. Publicity/ Media responses

The Communications lead is Tameside Council Press Office. Any media enquiries should be immediately referred to them.

APPENDIX B: Further information about the Chair and report author, Nicki Norman

In 2020 Nicki was awarded an OBE for services to the prevention of violence against women and girls, in recognition of working for over 35 years to end domestic abuse in all its forms – through the provision and management of direct services, training and support to improve the practice of other agencies, and nationally to influence legislation, policy, practice and public attitudes. This includes 14 years' experience as Director and Acting CEO of a national domestic abuse charity, working at a senior level across government and with partner agencies to improve responses to domestic abuse.

Much of Nicki's experience has involved challenging and supporting the improvement of responses to domestic abuse. For example, in her role as expert panel member leading the Ministry of Justice review of family court responses to domestic abuse⁹¹, or Commissioner on [Barking and Dagenham Domestic Abuse Commission](#) reviewing the borough's response to domestic abuse.

Nicki has worked as an independent consultant since 2021 and, as part of this, has led the development of the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Network for AAFDA, aimed at improving the standard of DHRs by supporting professionals involved in them – providing her with extensive knowledge of the DHR framework and process, and all its challenges and opportunities.

⁹¹ [Assessing Risk of Harm to Children and Parents in Private Law Children Cases \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

APPENDIX C: Action Plans

Recommendation	Scope of recommendation (local, regional or national)	Action to take	Lead Agency	Key milestones achieved in enacting recommendation	Target Date	Completion Date & Outcome
MULTI-AGENCY ACTION PLAN						
Share the findings of this review with the NHS England launched cross-sector Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Taskforce for their consideration in developing a national ADHD strategy.	National	Write to ADHD task force lead to alert them to the review findings. (Task force Chairs Professor Anita Thapar and Joanna Killian) Include a copy of the Overview report and Executive Summary.	Tameside CSP	Letter and reports sent. Acknowledgement/ response received.	31 October 2026	<i>Letter drafted</i>
Share the findings of this review with the Victims' Commissioner to inform their work on exploring the impact court waiting times have on victims across England and Wales and the services in place to support them.	National	Write to Victims' Commissioner to alert them to the review findings. Include a copy of the Overview report and Executive Summary.	Tameside CSP	Letter and reports sent. Acknowledgement/ response received.	31 October 2026	<i>Letter drafted</i>
Develop a MARAC improvement action plan to address recording, risk management, information sharing, engagement with GPs and to ensure a victim focus.	Local	Domestic Abuse Steering Group to re-establish the MARAC task and finish group and develop an action plan to address the recommendations from the review	Domestic Abuse Steering Group	1. Task and finish has been re-established and will be chaired by Detective Inspector for the Domestic Abuse Team	1. 30 November 2026	1. MARAC group to be established as part of new GBV structure for Tameside. This is part of a wider GM

Recommendation	Scope of recommendation (local, regional or national)	Action to take	Lead Agency	Key milestones achieved in enacting recommendation	Target Date	Completion Date & Outcome
				2. The Multi-Agency MARAC Operating Protocol is currently under review with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. Once this protocol has been agreed this will be disseminated to all relevant partners. 3. MARAC information sharing process with GPs has been established and is now in operation. 4. Domestic Abuse Steering Group has MARAC Governance as a standing agenda item to review effectiveness of the process.	2. 31 March 2027 3. 30 April 2025 4. 30 November 2026	MARAC review which will introduce a new MARAC model. 2. GM operating protocol is part of the GM MARAC review and will be overseen by new GM MARAC Steering group 3. Complete – process implemented. 4. Overall governance will remain with DA Steering Group but a new task group will undertake operational oversight.

Recommendation	Scope of recommendation (local, regional or national)	Action to take	Lead Agency	Key milestones achieved in enacting recommendation	Target Date	Completion Date & Outcome
Develop resources and learning opportunities to support improved professional curiosity across the Community Safety Partnership partner agencies.	Local	1. In conjunction with Safeguarding Adult and Children Board/Partnership develop 7-minute briefings relating to professional curiosity and share with all relevant partner agencies. 2. Develop lunch and learn sessions across all three partnerships on the topic of professional curiosity and deliver three times per year to multi-agency professionals 3. Partnerships to include professional curiosity within quality assurance processes and report findings to their respective Boards.	CSP	1. Draft 7-minute briefing complete and shared with business managers for agreement 2. 7-minute briefing shared across partner agencies via relevant partnership board 3. Lunch and learn sessions developed or commissioned and dates set for delivery throughout 2025/26 4. Business Managers and QA leads to agree mechanisms for quality assurance activity relating to professional curiosity	1. 30 September 2026 2. 31 October 2026 3. 31 March 2027 4. 31 March 2027	1. Briefing being drafted by TSCP 2. To be shared once signed off 3. Complete. Sessions are already delivered via Tameside Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board: Adult Safeguarding Training - Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council 4. To be discussed at DHR action group
Develop a co-ordinated approach to trauma informed training across CSP partner agencies,	Local	1. Agree a trauma responsive model for Tameside across all	CSP	1. Community Safety Manager, Strategic DA Manager and Safeguarding	1. 30 June 2026	1. Complete – new Trauma Responsive Steering

Recommendation	Scope of recommendation (local, regional or national)	Action to take	Lead Agency	Key milestones achieved in enacting recommendation	Target Date	Completion Date & Outcome
specifically identifying levels of training for different professionals based on their interactions with adults, children and families.		relevant safeguarding partnerships and boards 2. Agree tiered workforce development model to support practitioner's understand of trauma responsive practice relevant to the level of involvement with families.		Business Managers to agree proposal for trauma responsive model 2. Proposal to be presented to Director of Public Health, Director of Children's Services, Director of Adult Social Care and Chairs of CSP, and safeguarding boards for agreement 3. Implementation plan agreed with clear governance and resource decisions in place.	2. 31 March 2027 3. 31 March 2027	group established for Tameside chaired by Director of Public Health. Work is in line with GM ACES & Trauma Framework 2. Tiered workforce development is being developed in line with GM Framework and is priority for year 1 of the Tameside group 3. As per above. Governance sits with Health & Wellbeing Board.



Domestic Homicide Review
Report into the death of 'Ryan' in April 2023
Executive Summary

Author: Nicki Norman OBE

May 2025

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Preface

The Domestic Homicide Review Panel and the members of the Tameside Community Safety Partnership would like to offer their sincere condolences to the family of 'Ryan'⁹² who they have lost in such tragic circumstances.

Family Tribute

Ryan is deeply missed and life will never be the same without him. Those who knew the real Ryan knew a caring, loving person who was fiercely loyal to his family and friends. Despite the horrendous traumas and tragedies life threw at him, and there were many, Ryan never lost his vitality for living and a belief that things would get better for him one day. Sadly, we will never know what the future held for him as this was cruelly taken from him far too soon.

We will never know if, with the correct intervention and support to help manage his ADHD and mental health struggles (help he reached out for on many occasions), he may have been able to overcome some of the challenges life presented him on a daily basis.

Forever in our thoughts, Ryan.

⁹² Not his real name

1. The review process

- 1.1.4 This summary outlines the process undertaken by the Tameside Community Partnership Domestic homicide review panel in reviewing the death of Ryan.
- 1.1.5 In April 2023 Police and paramedics were called to an address in Tameside. Ryan was found in the hallway with a stab wound to his chest. Ryan was sadly pronounced deceased a short time later. Ryan's ex-partner Collette was present and was later charged with murder. Collette pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of loss of control and was sentenced in November 2023 to five years and three months imprisonment.
- 1.1.6 The following pseudonyms have been used to protect the identities of the persons involved in this review.

Name	Sex	Age at the time of the death	Relationship with the deceased	Ethnicity
Ryan	Male	28	Deceased	White British
Collette	Female	27	Ex-partner	White British

- 1.1.7 Domestic Homicide Reviews were established on a statutory basis under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) and came into force in April 2011.
- 1.1.8 The Tameside Community Safety Partnership received notification of the death from Greater Manchester Police on 28/04/23. A screening meeting took place on 30/06/23, attended by a range of statutory and non-statutory organisations, and it was agreed that a Domestic homicide review should be undertaken

2. Contributors to the review

- 5.10. The following agencies were identified as having had contact with the subjects of the review and were asked to provide an Individual Management Review (IMR) report and chronology of contact, or a short report where contact was limited:

	Chronology	IMR	Short report
Greater Manchester Police (GMP)	X	X	
Primary Care GP (completed by NHS Greater Manchester)	X	X	
Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust (PCFT)	X	X	
Change Grow Live	X	X	
Probation Service	X	X	
Jigsaw Homes	X	X	
Bridges Domestic Abuse Service	X	X	
Adult Social Care			X
Tameside Children's Services	X	X	
Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care Foundation Trust (ICFT)	X	X	
Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)			X

- 5.11. The authors of the IMRs reports were independent of contact with the subjects of this review and were independent of the line management of the frontline practitioners.

3. The review panel members

Name ⁹³ /Job Title	Organisation
Nicki Norman, Panel Chair and report author	Independent
Senior Lawyer	Tameside Metropolitan Council (MBC) (Legal)
Strategic Domestic Abuse Manager	Tameside MBC (Population Health)
Partnership Manager	Tameside MBC (Community Safety)
Interim Head of Safeguarding Children's Services	Tameside MBC (Children's)
Safeguarding Lead	Tameside MBC (Adults)
Operational Manager	Jigsaw / Bridges Domestic Abuse Service
Designated Nurse – Cared for Children	NHS Greater Manchester – and on behalf of the GP Practice within Primary Care
Head of Nursing for Integrated Safeguarding	Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust
Head of Safeguarding	North West Ambulance Service
Services Manager	Change Grow Live
Senior Probation Officer	Probation Service
Safeguarding Families Specialist Practitioner	Pennine Care
Prevention Manager	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
Interim Head of Homelessness	Tameside Housing Advice
Detective Constable	Greater Manchester Police - Serious Case Review Team
Director	Jigsaw Homes

4. Chair and author of the report

The Chair of this review and author of this report, Nicki Norman, has never worked in Tameside, is independent of all agencies involved and has had no prior involvement with any subjects of the review. She is an Independent Domestic Homicide Review/Domestic homicide review Chair and has undertaken the Certificate in Chairing a Domestic Homicide Review qualification delivered by AAFDA. Nicki is nationally recognised as an expert in domestic abuse, having been active in this area of work for over 35 years.

5. Terms of Reference

- 4.3. The review considered the involvement of agencies with Ryan and Collette from September 2018 until the date of Ryan's death in April 2023, as this captures the first known incident of domestic abuse reported.
- 4.4. The specific lines of enquiry agreed as pertinent to this review were:
- xv. Were there any indications of domestic abuse, including coercive control, within the relationship between Ryan and Collette? If so, what action was taken in response to this and how effective was this?
 - xvi. Were there opportunities for Ryan and Collette to disclose concerns about domestic abuse?

⁹³ Other than for the Chair and supporting Chair, names are not provided for panel members. This reflects the draft revised Statutory Guidance (2024) which states that, to maintain anonymity and prevent unnecessary risks to panel members, members of the panel should not be named in the Domestic Abuse Related Death Review.

What barriers may have existed to prevent a disclosure?

- xvii. What does the history tell us about the dynamics of Ryan and Collette's relationship, regarding the typology of abuse.
- xviii. What training, policies and procedures are in place to identify, risk assess, respond to and escalate concerns regarding domestic abuse, and were these effective in this case?
- xix. How effective were multi-agency arrangements in reducing risk and facilitating access to support?
- xx. What is known about the ADHD, substance use and mental health concerns presented by Ryan, including agency responses to this and their appropriateness?
- xxi. What is known about Collette's history of trauma, mental health concerns and substance use, including agency responses to this and their appropriateness?
- xxii. Did Children's Services engagement with Ryan and Collette present opportunities for safeguarding and were children given appropriate status as victims of domestic abuse?
- xxiii. What information sharing protocols exist between agencies? Were they needed, appropriate and effective in this case?
- xxiv. Are there any specific considerations in relation to Ryan or Collette's age, disability (including learning disabilities), gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation that may have had a bearing on access to services or agency responses?
- xxv. Were agencies sufficiently resourced and individuals effectively supervised to respond to the needs of Ryan and Collette and any risks presented?
- xxvi. What lessons can be learnt during the review process and where might practice, policy and resource allocation be improved?
- xxvii. Have any changes already been implemented as a result of early learnings from this case?
- xxviii. Are there any particular examples of good practice to highlight?

6. Background information

- 11.22 Ryan had been in care since he was two years old due to neglect and abuse and was adopted at age four. Ryan's adoptive mother took her own life when Ryan was 11 years old.
- 11.23 Ryan had periods of challenging behaviour in his teenage years and was diagnosed with Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) during childhood and prescribed Ritalin⁹⁴. However, the use of this medication discontinued when Ryan transitioned into adulthood. Throughout his childhood, Ryan had significant engagement with mental health services. Ryan was also known to Adult Social Care as a transition case. Ryan had an offending history.
- 11.24 Ryan was the father to a child but had very little involvement with them. Children's Social Care have recorded domestic abuse between Ryan and his child's mother.
- 11.25 Collette was known to Children's Services since she was two years old. Collette described a chaotic and traumatic upbringing with her parents. Collette self-reported that she had a long history of self-harm. Collette also had an offending history.
- 11.26 Collette has two children from a previous relationship. These children were living with their father at the time of the murder of Ryan. Collette's two children were made subject to Child

⁹⁴ Used to treat ADHD as it works by changing the amounts of certain natural substances in the brain.

Protection plans⁹⁵ on several occasions, between 2013 and 2023. Concerns related to domestic abuse, substance and alcohol misuse.

- 11.27 In December 2016 an ex-partner of Collette's disclosed that she had stabbed him in the lower back and slashed his car tyres. Police concluded that there was insufficient evidence to proceed with a prosecution.
- 11.28 Ryan and Collette had been in a relationship since 2017. Collette shared that they had known each other as teenagers when they were also boyfriend and girlfriend.

7. Chronology

This section sets out the relevant key contacts that the subjects of the review were known to have had with agencies. A fuller chronology is available in the Overview Report.

Events within the review timeframe - September 2018 to April 2023

2018

- 12.25 In August 2018 Collette referred herself to Change Grow Live⁹⁶ having been asked to by her Children's Social Worker. She missed two assessment appointments, attended one on 13/09/18, and then missed the next three appointments. On 19/10/18 Collette did attend an assessment appointment and reported using cannabis during the evenings, alcohol at weekends and cocaine once a week. Collette disclosed that she had previously been a victim of domestic abuse. Collette missed two further appointments in October 2018.
- 12.26 1 September 2018 – Ryan was taken by the Police to the Section 136 suite⁹⁷ for an assessment after threatening to put a brick through a shop window if he did not get help. He shared that he was struggling with issues from his past and had recently split from his girlfriend. Ryan was not allowed access to his child due to an assault on his ex-girlfriend and currently had no fixed abode.
- 12.27 Following this there were eight more contacts between Ryan and the Home Treatment Team (HTT), incorporating assessment and review. Ryan did not want to engage or consider other treatment options other than wait for his ADHD appointment.
- 12.28 4 September 2018 – At Tameside Magistrates Court, Ryan was resentenced to four weeks custody, suspended for 12 months, as he had not complied with the requirements of a Community Order imposed on 03/07/18 for driving offences, theft and shoplifting.
- 12.29 17 September 2018 – Ryan presented as homeless to Tameside Housing Advice. Ryan was not assessed as being in priority need under homeless legislation and advised to make his own arrangements. Ryan did not attend a follow up appointment nor respond to contact attempts, so the case was closed in November 2018.
- 12.30 16 September 2018 - It was reported to Police that Collette had answered the door and was punched in the face by Ryan. Ryan then pushed his way into the address assaulting Collette, and two other women. Whilst Police were taking a statement Ryan returned to the address. Ryan was arrested and denied any assaults. The crime was closed with no further action due to inconsistencies in the initial statements and Collette and the other victims either stating they did not support a prosecution or not being contactable. When Officers were prompted by the safeguarding team, a referral was made to Children's Social Care.
- 12.31 Between September and December 2018 Children's Social Care visited Collette and the children at home four times. There were also several telephone contacts between Collette

⁹⁵ A child protection plan should set out clear actions which aim to ensure the child will be kept safe and well.

⁹⁶ Change Grow Live is a national registered charity, commissioned in Tameside by Tameside Public Health to provide drug and alcohol treatment and support, to children, young people and adults.

⁹⁷ A Section 136 suite is a facility for people who are detained by the Police under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act.

and the Social Worker, which mostly related to making arrangements. In December 2018 a Children's Social Care Core Group meeting was held. As Collette's substance use had reduced it was agreed that her case would be closed to Change Grow Live.

2019

- 12.32 Children's Social Care involvement continued throughout 2019 with at least eight home visits by Social Workers. In January 2019 Children's Social Care received an anonymous call from someone raising concern that Ryan was living with Collette but that the children were unable to talk about this. It is noted that there was no evidence to substantiate this. In June 2019 a review Child Protection conference was held and the Chair expressed concerns that risk had not been reduced and recommended that legal advice was sought. Collette was informed in August 2019 that core group members had expressed concerns about her lack of engagement, her mother living at the property and that housing had shared that there had been Police call outs at the address. Collette said that the call outs were malicious. In December 2019 a review Child Protection Conference⁹⁸ was held and it was the majority view that the Child Protection Plan should end, and the family be supported via Children in Need⁹⁹ and a referral would be made to the Children in Need Reviewing Officer.
- 12.33 11 April 2019 - Collette was arrested for being drunk and disorderly. Ryan attempted to intervene and was violent towards Officers so was also arrested for Affray, Obstructing Police and Assault of an Emergency Worker. No further action was taken against either party.
- 12.34 20 April 2019 – A neighbour contacted Police to report that Ryan was assaulting Collette. It was alleged that Ryan forced his way into Collette's house, grabbed her by the throat before biting her and a friend on the hand. Ryan was detained by Police and brought to the Emergency Department (ED) with a possible head injury and intoxication. Ryan was discharged following treatment to and charged for assault on the females and assault on the Police and remanded in Police custody to attend court. The following day a notification of the incident was submitted to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)¹⁰⁰ team but not assessed until 26/04/19, at which point notifications were sent to Children's Social Care and the Health Visitor.
- 12.35 7 May 2019 - Ryan appeared in court for three offences of Assaulting an Emergency Worker, two offences of Section 39 Assault¹⁰¹ and one offence of criminal damage. Ryan received a 36-week Custodial Sentence. A one year Restraining Order was also imposed prohibiting Ryan from making any contact, directly or indirectly, with Collette.
- 12.36 23 May 2019 - Bridges domestic abuse service received a referral for Collette from Children's Social Care. Attempts made by Bridges to contact Collette were initially unsuccessful. In June 2019 a Key Worker from Bridges met with Collette to complete an assessment. Referrals were made to the Freedom Programme¹⁰² and for volunteering opportunities for Collette. Following several failed attempts to further contact Collette, Bridges closed the case.

⁹⁸ A child protection conference is a discussion about a child's future safety, health, and development with family members, the child (if appropriate), and professionals involved with the family.

⁹⁹ The legal definition is that 'children in need' have been assessed by a social worker and found to need help and protection because of risks to their development or health, such as neglect, domestic abuse in the family, or because they are disabled.

¹⁰⁰ The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is the single point of contact for all professionals to report safeguarding concerns.

¹⁰¹ A Section 39 assault covers common assault, battery and assault by beating. They are the least serious form of assault and are when there is an assault but no injury.

¹⁰² <https://www.freedomprogramme.co.uk/>

- 12.37 Ryan was granted release from prison on a Home Detention Curfew (HDC)¹⁰³ on 16/07/19. Ryan's release conditions included standard licence conditions¹⁰⁴ and additional licence conditions related to addressing substance misuse. Ryan was seen weekly by Probation in July. On 05/08/19 the OASys¹⁰⁵ Risk Assessment was completed by Probation with Ryan which determined that Ryan presented as a medium risk of serious harm. A Risk Management Plan was developed. Ryan failed to attend several appointments with Probation between August and December 2019 and was issued with two formal warnings.
- 12.38 At his appointment with Probation in October 2019, Ryan reported staying at an unidentified friend's house. This move from his aunt's house without prior approval meant that he was in breach of this licence condition. Whilst his current place of residence was unknown, weekly reporting was to monitor his situation and no action was taken.
- 12.39 16 September 2019 - Collette again referred herself to Change Grow Live, stating that she had been encouraged to do so by Children's Social Care. Three appointments were offered between 25/09/19 and 11/11/19 but Collette did not attend any of these. On 29/11/19 Collette did attend an assessment appointment and reported binge drinking at weekends but not using any cannabis or cocaine. Collette went on to cancel the next two appointments.
- 12.40 18 September 2019 – Collette's housing provider shared concerns with the Social Worker that there were constant anti-social behaviour (ASB) reports by neighbours about the address and that Ryan was connected with the address. Collette denied this. It was noted that Police information needed to be requested and a visit carried out the same day. However, there is no record of whether a visit did take place.
- 12.41 16 October 2019 – Collette visited her GP who diagnosed her with anxiety. The GP advised Collette to self-refer to Healthy Minds.
- 12.42 17 October 2019 – Collette appeared at Manchester City Magistrates Court in respect of the Assault of a Police Officer on 11/04/19. She was sentenced to 12 weeks custody suspended for 12 months with a curfew requirement. Ryan was a co-defendant in this offence. Ryan was sentenced to 12 weeks custody suspended for 12 months. As this offence had occurred prior to his current custodial sentence, recall was not considered.
- 12.43 November 2019 - Collette sought advice from Tameside Housing Advice service. Collette said she had problems at her Housing Association tenancy as her neighbours were making accusations to Children's Social Care and her mother, who she said had previously been violent to Collette, was staying next door. Collette also disclosed that she was a victim of domestic abuse. Collette said she had injunctions and restraining orders in place to prevent Ryan from approaching or making contact with her. At this stage Collette wanted advice regarding sourcing a new home. This advice was given and the case closed.

2020

- 12.44 10 February 2020 – Ryan's sentence expired, and post sentence supervision commenced¹⁰⁶.
- 12.45 27 February 2020 - The Social Worker visited Collette and the children and Collette shared that she was 17 weeks pregnant and was worried about the case escalating to child protection due to her pregnancy. The Social Worker explained that a risk assessment of her new partner would need to be completed. Collette said she did not have a partner and that the pregnancy was from a one night stand and she was unsure whether she wanted to keep

¹⁰³ HDC allows some prisoners to serve the last part of their sentence at a suitable address, for up to six months. During this time, their adherence to set curfew hours are monitored by way of an electronic tag, usually worn around their ankle.

¹⁰⁴ [Licence Conditions and how the Parole Board use them - GOV.UK](#)

¹⁰⁵ OASys is the national system/ tool for recording the assessment of the risks and needs of an offender.

¹⁰⁶ Supervised individuals sentenced to less than two years' custody are now subject to post sentence supervision following the end of their licence. The licence period and PSS combined is a maximum of 12 months.

the baby. Collette agreed to inform the person responsible for the pregnancy and to communicate his details to Children's Social Care. There is no record of further communication with Children's Social Care about this and, when interviewed by the Chair, Collette said that she had a termination because she was worried that it was Ryan's baby and that Children's Social Care would intervene.

- 12.46 Children's Social Care continued to visit Collette at home on an (almost) monthly basis. Between March and August 2020 the contact took place either by video call or through the window/outside of Collette's house due to Covid restrictions. Children in Need Core Group meetings were held in January, August and September 2020. In November 2020 Collette was told that Children's Social Care would undertake a children and family assessment. Collette was upset by this but expressed her willingness to engage with the assessment process.
- 12.47 Ryan missed eight planned appointments with Probation between February and June 2020. Five formal warnings were issued as a result. After the last unacceptable absence, a breach of conditions should have been initiated but was not.
- 12.48 Collette continued to engage with Change Grow Live throughout 2020, as suggested by Children's Social Care, although Collette said she was not drinking or drinking very little. On five occasions, between February and September 2020, she missed or cancelled appointments. Work undertaken included exploring triggers to using substances, completing relapse prevention work, and work around self-esteem. With Collette's agreement, her case was transferred to the Change Grow Live Adult Team, when Collette became 25 years old.
- 12.49 The first national lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic began on 23/03/20 and a period of varying levels of restrictions ensued until restrictions were gradually lifted and were mostly ended by August 2021. As Ryan was assessed as posing a medium risk of serious harm with complexities around domestic abuse and mental health, Probation directed weekly remote contact.
- 12.50 5 April 2020 – Ryan contacted Police and alleged that he had been stabbed in the arm by a known male. Ryan would not give details of the male or the location of the offence. A safe and well check was completed with Collette who stated that she did not know why Police were there. A crime was filed for no further action. Ryan attended the ED to treat his wound and was given numbers for mental health support and emergency housing.
- 12.51 20 April 2020 - Collette and another named female were alleged to have sent threatening messages to a named male. Both females were given penalty notices¹⁰⁷ and the crime filed.
- 12.52 20 June 2020 – Ryan was alleged to have thrown a drink over a neighbour and attacked them with a machete, causing a cut to her hand. A cannabis plant, which Ryan claimed ownership of, was also found under the stairs at Collette's address. Ryan was arrested for Affray, S18 Wounding and Cultivating Cannabis, but due to evidential difficulties, no further action was taken. Collette was arrested but then released as she was not responsible for any offences.
- 12.53 During his contact with Probation in July 2020, Ryan reported that he had been arrested the previous week for offences of Section 39 assault against a female, Affray and cultivation of cannabis. The Probation Officer recorded a potential escalation in risk and indicated they would monitor this through weekly telephone contact.
- 12.54 Probation maintained regular contact with Ryan via telephone during July and August. Ryan complied with just one Probation appointment through September on 03/09/20. Ryan did not respond to subsequent phone appointments on 17/09/20 and 21/09/20. No further

¹⁰⁷ Penalty notices for disorder are given to adults for minor offences. Offenders are asked to sign a penalty notice ticket and will not get a criminal conviction if they pay the penalty.

appointments were set as the Post Sentence Supervision expired on 23/09/20.

- 12.55 8 August 2020 – The Police were contacted by an informant stating that Ryan had been beaten up and was saying he wanted to kill himself. Ryan told Police that he had tried to hang himself with a pair of shorts, that he was struggling with his mental health and was suicidal, but he was deemed to have capacity. An ambulance conveyed Ryan to hospital for treatment. Security were called to attend the ED due to Ryan being abusive and aggressive. He was physically removed from the department and asked to leave the site. Police were contacted but he left before they arrived and without being assessed by the mental health liaison team.
- 12.56 3 September 2020 – Ryan had a telephone consultation with his GP. It was noted that Ryan was suffering with PTSD¹⁰⁸ and had ongoing suicidal thoughts but none at that moment. A one-month fit note was provided and Ryan's antidepressants increased. A mental health referral was already done. A follow up was planned for 2-3 weeks later.
- 12.57 3 October 2020 – Ryan was seen outside a supermarket drunk and behaving aggressively towards a security guard. He was then aggressive with Police Officers. Ryan was arrested and charged. In December 2020 Ryan appeared in court and was sentenced to a six-month conditional discharge for the offence of Being Drunk and Disorderly.
- 12.58 11 October 2020 - Police attended Collette's home address on two occasions. Both incidents were called in by a neighbour. The first incident reported was a disturbance and a concern for Collette's children. Police attended initially, and Collette stated she was confused as to why they were there. She stated that there was no one else in her property and the children were seen safe and well. The children did not appear to be at any immediate risk. Police then left.
- 12.59 Another call was made to the Police by 999 stating that there was another disturbance ongoing at the rear of the address. Collette was again spoken to and confirmed that the disturbance on both occasions had been a verbal argument between herself and her mum. Police reported the incident to Children's Social Care because both children had been present. No other safeguarding concerns were noted in relation to the general care of the children.
- 12.60 26 October 2020 – Collette started a new tenancy with Jigsaw Homes. This was as a result of a mutual exchange.
- 12.61 The same day, a Case Conference was held regarding Collette's children, and it was agreed that the case could be closed to Children's Social Care and that Change Grow Live involvement would cease once relapse prevention work had been completed.
- 12.62 26 November 2020 - Ryan was stopped by Police in a vehicle with false plates and with no licence or insurance. He admitted that he had been using this to take Collette's children to school. Ryan was prosecuted for road traffic offences. No referral was made in relation to the children.
- 12.63 4 December 2020 - The Social Worker visited Collette and the children. During this visit, the Social Worker read a statement about dangers to Collette and asked if she understood the reason for Children's Social Care involvement. Collette responded stating that there was no domestic abuse around her children and there had never been. Collette was questioned about the suitability of her sister caring for the children, which she contested. Substance use was discussed with Collette stating that she had not had a problem with this for about three years.
- 12.64 19 December 2020 – A domestic abuse incident was reported to the Police by Collette's sister. Collette denied that this occurred and reported that her sister has been the instigator,

¹⁰⁸ Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

arriving at her address intoxicated and already injured. However, Collette's sister reported that she was at Collette's having drinks and that Ryan and Collette get into an argument and Ryan pinned Collette down on the stairs and punched her several times in the face. Officers saw a faint scratch to Collette's face and a graze to her neck. Collette said the injuries to her were not caused by Ryan and she hadn't seen him for a long time. The sister reported that Ryan had assaulted her for intervening and that he had put his hands around her neck and squeezed. He then hit her head off the stairs and punched her in the face. The sister was taken to hospital by Officers to be checked over as she had visible injuries.

- 12.65 The DASH¹⁰⁹ risk assessment questions were refused by Collette. Ryan was later arrested for assaulting both Collette and her sister but he denied this. House to house enquiries were completed but no witnesses identified. Advice was sought by the Police, and it was deemed that the chances of a conviction were minimal due to the evidential difficulties, so the matter was filed for no further action by Police. The risk level was assessed to be high risk and a referral was made to the MARAC¹¹⁰ to be discussed on 05/01/21. A referral was also made to Children's Social Care and the Health Visitor, as the children were present during the assault.
- 12.66 22 December 2020 – Collette was visited by Children's Social Care regarding the incident on 19/12/20 and informed that a strategy meeting was to be organised and a children and families assessment to be completed.
- 12.67 21 December 2020 - Bridges received a MARAC referral from the Police for Collette as a victim of domestic abuse from Ryan.

2021

- 12.68 2 January 2021 – Ryan was brought into the ED by an ambulance crew after jumping in front of vehicles. Ryan told paramedics he could not cope with memories of finding his mum dead (by suicide) and of witnessing a friend burn to death. Ryan left the department following triage but before a full assessment was completed. Ryan was reported to the Police as missing by staff at the hospital, as there was concern that he may have suicidal ideation.
- 12.69 Ryan was seen safe and well on 05/01/21. Ryan told Police that he was not a danger to himself or others - he was just having a bad time due to the anniversary of his mum's death. An Adult Care Plan¹¹¹ was submitted to the Police safeguarding team, but due to Ryan not giving consent and having no contact number or fixed abode, no further referrals could be made.
- 12.70 4 January 2021 - After multiple failed contact attempts, a Bridges IDVA¹¹² spoke to Collette by telephone, who denied the incident had occurred (it had been reported by her sister) and declined support. This information was fed back to the allocated Social Worker.
- 12.71 5 January 2021 – The case was discussed at the MARAC. Children's Social Care were unable to provide recent information about the family due to staff absences over the Christmas period. Bridges noted that the case was likely to be closed by them due to non-engagement. It was agreed that the Education representative would speak to the school about the children and that Change Grow Live would do a DASH risk assessment.
- 12.72 6 January 2021 – A strategy discussion was held by Children's Social Care. An outcome was that the Practice Manager was to request that the case was heard as an emergency at a

¹⁰⁹ Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment Risk Assessment.

¹¹⁰ Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) are where representatives from all relevant agencies discuss high risk domestic abuse cases. The primary focus of the MARAC is to safeguard the adult victim.

¹¹¹ An Adult Care Plan is a form completed when the Police identify a vulnerable adult.

¹¹² An IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) is a trained specialist who provides a service to victims of domestic abuse who are at high risk of serious harm.

Legal Gateway¹¹³ meeting the next day. The multi-agency view was that the children were not safe in the care of their mother. A Children in Need home visit was undertaken. The children were seen safe and well with Collette. Collette signed an agreement that:

- "No one is allowed to drink alcohol around children.
- Ryan is not allowed in the property.
- Should Ryan come to the address, Collette will not open her door and will be calling Police immediately.
- Collette to support children back to school as a place of safety during the lockdown.
- Collette to ensure that she keeps her children safe at home".

- 12.73 When Collette was challenged by the Social Worker about denying the events of the 19/12/20, it was noted that she became remorseful saying that her relationship was the issue, that she could not move away from people in her past life because they have 'got her back' and that she recognised that this was undermining her parenting. Collette requested that, in the event that the decision was made to remove her children, she would like them to be placed within the family. Collette was advised that the decision made was to refer this to Legal Gateway the next day and the decision would be made there.
- 12.74 Collette had 11 contacts with Change Grow Live between January and December 2021. She missed or rearranged seven appointments. Work with Collette included exploration of risks and relapse prevention work. In April Collette reported drinking three cans of cider at the weekend and attributed this to her ex-partner having made contact. She disclosed that this relationship had been abusive. In June she reported binge drinking, stating her children had been removed and were now residing with their father. In November Collette agreed to attend a group delivered by Change Grow Live.
- 12.75 Ryan contacted Tameside Housing Advice again on 18/01/21, disclosing a change in his mental health and was provided with bed and breakfast accommodation. He did not attend the accommodation provided. It was later explained that Ryan had lost his accommodation duty but could be referred to the Town House (bed for every night accommodation). Ryan declined this and said he would stay with friends. There was no further contact from Ryan and no response to contact attempts by Housing Officers, so the case was closed in April 2021.
- 12.76 26 January 2021 – Collette's two children were made the subject of a Child Protection Plan. In February Collette was visited by Children's Social Care and informed that, due to Collette exposing her children to domestic abuse and alcohol abuse at home, there were safeguarding concerns. Collette was told that the Children were in Public Law Outline (PLO) proceedings¹¹⁴ and on a Child Protection plan under the category of emotional harm.
- 12.77 18 March 2021 - A Public Law Outline Core Group meeting requested a parenting assessment to be completed with both parents. Children's Social Care requested a report from Change Grow Live in respect of the PLO proceedings. Collette was visited the same day and given the schedule for the parenting assessment as agreed at the PLO.
- 12.78 In May 2021 Social Worker visited Collette and noted that she continued to 'associate with friends which put her at risk of violence when they socialise, and alcohol is usually a factor'. The parenting assessment was completed. The Legal Gateway had agreed to three months of PLO extension and the Core Group meetings were to review the care plan.
- 12.79 4 February 2021 - A self-referral was received by Pennine Care from Collette. An

¹¹³ The Legal Gateway is the point at which the area team has reached a recommendation that legal action is now required to safeguard a child and plan for their permanence.

¹¹⁴ The Public Law Outline (PLO) process takes place when the Local Authority is concerned about a child's wellbeing and unless positive steps are taken to address and alleviate those concerns, the Local Authority may consider making an application to the Court. The PLO process is therefore the last opportunity for parents to make improvements to their parenting before care proceedings are issued.

assessment was completed and accepted by the Neighbourhood Mental Health Team due to emotional dysregulation. Collette engaged in eight sessions. No issues relating to domestic abuse were identified during the work undertaken by Talking Therapies.

- 12.80 4 February 2021 – Ryan had a telephone consultation with the GP for anxiety and depression. Antidepressants were increased and a six-week fit note dated back to 19/01/21. Ryan spoke with the GP again about this on 04/03/21. Ryan requested an ADHD referral. Anti-depressants were increased and a referral made to the ADHD clinic (although Ryan never completed the initial questionnaire and was not seen). A one-month fit note was issued. Three weeks later Ryan had another consultation with the GP and his Antidepressants were increased.
- 12.81 Between 11 March and 24 September 2021 Ryan engaged with Talking Therapies. An assessment was completed and Ryan reported issues with alcohol misuse, PTSD, low mood and anxiety. Treatment was offered but Ryan was then discharged as per their policy as he missed two appointments. There were no concerns raised around domestic abuse. Ryan was put on the step three CBT¹¹⁵ trauma waiting list.
- 12.82 4 April 2021 – Police were called to an incident during which a male that Collette had started a relationship with was assaulted and received injuries from a knife. Following the incident, that was witnessed by Collette and two other females, the suspect (Ryan) fled the scene and then contacted Collette making threats, allegedly saying "I'm going to kill you, I'm going to finish the job". Ryan was arrested. Collette provided a statement. Collette and the male victim of the assault were advised to stay at alternative addresses and urgent response markers were added to the addresses. Information was shared with Children's Social Care.
- 12.83 Ryan was arrested and bailed with conditions not to have any contact with Collette. Following their investigation, GMP submitted a file to the CPS on 07/10/21 for a charging decision. A detailed action plan asking for further enquiries to be conducted was sent by the CPS to GMP. The file was re-submitted to the CPS on 31/12/21.
- 12.84 8 April 2021 - A Social Worker visited Collette and the children at her grandparents. The Social Worker recorded concerns about the safety plan that Collette had signed being adhered to. Collette was advised that she could return home but that she needed to adhere to the safety plan to keep Ryan away from the family and ensure her children's safety.
- 12.85 Between January and April 2021 Collette missed three national routine screening appointments.
- 12.86 24 May 2021 – Collette's sister used Collette's mobile telephone to call the Police – this was an abandoned 999 call with a disturbance heard. Both later said it was because a friend had taken Collette's sister's phone and she wanted to scare her into giving it back. The phone was later returned, and the sister declined to name the friend. No further action was taken.
- 12.87 28 May 2021 – Police responded to a report that Ryan had been slashed with a knife. The suspect was Collette (along with two others). This incident was not recorded as a domestic abuse incident between Ryan and Collette. A referral was made to Bridges domestic abuse service as Collette stated she was in fear of Ryan and wanted to be rehoused. Collette made a 'no comment' interview and the other female stated that the injuries had been sustained when Ryan was disarmed upon attending Collette's address with the knife and she did not know how the injuries had been caused. Ryan would not cooperate with Police and the matter was filed for no further action. A Social Worker happened to be on the street and attended the property having seen Police vehicles. Collette was advised that the Social Worker would ask the children's father to keep the children and not return them to Collette's care as the agreed safety plan had been breached. Ryan presented at the ED regarding

¹¹⁵ Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is a talking therapy that can help people manage problems by changing the way they think and behave.

injuries sustained from this alleged assault but left before treatment was completed. Ryan did, however, return the next day for treatment.

- 12.88 1 June 2021 – Children’s Social Care reviewed information about the incident at Collette’s home and noted this as a breach of Collette’s safety plan. The matter was to return to Legal Gateway for oversight this week and the PLO solicitor was to be informed.
- 12.89 The same day Bridges received a referral from the Police for Collette as a victim from Ryan.
- 12.90 Through May and June 2021, Jigsaw Homes received several reports of incidents at Collette’s house which concerned loud shouting and items being burnt in the back garden. These incidents escalated to loud parties, alleged drug taking and fighting at the address. Collette received a tenancy warning. Collette admitted some of the allegations were true and that ‘her head had fallen off’, but that she felt like she was getting back on track.
- 12.91 28 June 2021 - Jigsaw Homes obtained a civil injunction against Collette. The injunction was served on 3 July. This was a without notice application¹¹⁶ so a return hearing was listed for Collette to attend court. This court hearing was held on 19 July and a final order was granted and this was then served to Collette on 30 July. There were four more complaints to Jigsaw Homes about Collette’s address in July, two in August, one in October and two in November.
- 12.92 6 July 2021 - The male previously stabbed by Ryan called Police to report that Ryan was outside his address in breach of bail, throwing stones at the neighbour’s window and asking where he was. It transpired that the victim had not been present at the time and the male outside could not be identified as Ryan by the neighbour. No further action was taken.
- 12.93 9 July 2021 - After multiple failed contact attempts, Bridges completed an initial assessment with Collette by phone. Collette agreed to support. At this time Collette was attending the Freedom Programme. Following this appointment, Collette could not be contacted again.
- 12.94 16 July 2021 – Collette’s sister reported an incident to the Police. She described that there had been lots of drinking and possible drug taking at Collette’s address. A male who was present hit the sister to the face. Whilst on the floor Collette hit her several times. The sister was not supportive of a prosecution and the crime was filed with no further action taken.
- 12.95 26 July 2021 - Ryan was stopped by Police for driving without a licence and with no insurance. Ryan was summonsed to court¹¹⁷.
- 12.96 2 August 2021 – A Social Worker visited Collette and informed her that the children were to remain in the care of their father and that the parenting assessment was to be updated. On 9 September a final PLO meeting was held. It was recommended that the children remain in the care of their father and that contact with Collette was to be supervised.
- 12.97 16 September 2021 - Police attended Collette’s address following a third party report of a female shouting “he’s going to stab me”. On entering the address, Collette was in the living room with Ryan. Both parties were spoken to separately. Initially Collette stated that nothing was wrong and that an argument had taken place on the street. Collette asked if Police would remove Ryan from the address and stated that Ryan had bail conditions not to contact her. The Officer noted that Collette presented as very distressed and scared. Collette stated that Ryan had pinned her up against the door by her throat and threatened her to drop the charges. Due to the number of different stories she was telling it was unclear what the charges related to. Ryan was arrested but denied the offences of assault and witness intimidation.
- 12.98 GMP submitted the case to CPS for a charging decision on the same day and were directed

¹¹⁶ A without notice application is an application made without serving a copy of the application notice on the respondent. They are sometimes referred to as ‘ex parte’ applications.

¹¹⁷ Many criminal cases, especially motoring matters, begin with a summons to attend court. This is a letter sent by the court hearing the case, giving a date and time to attend.

to obtain further evidence whilst Ryan remained in custody, as it was unclear at this stage whether Collette would support a prosecution. Officers were unable to contact Collette when they returned to her home. The CPS concluded that no charges could be authorised, due to insufficient evidence and on 17/09/21 issued an action plan of enquiries for GMP completion.

- 12.99 A referral was made by the Police to Children's Social Care as Collette had two children, albeit they lived with their biological father at another address. A MARAC referral was completed.
- 12.100 17 September 2021 - Ryan was released from custody with Police bail conditions not to contact Collette in any way, directly or indirectly. Conditions were valid until 1200 hours on 14/10/21 when Ryan was to present at the Police station again.
- 12.101 CPS re-opened the case on 29/12/21 at the request of GMP, however no further evidence was provided to the CPS. The case was therefore closed by CPS on 24/03/22 and the crimes were finalised with no further action taken.
- 12.102 29 September 2021 - After several failed contact attempts, the Bridges IDVA managed to speak to Collette and establish her safety and make an appointment to complete an initial assessment. On 02/10/21 this appointment was rearranged by Collette.
- 12.103 September 2021¹¹⁸ – Tameside Housing Advice was contacted by Jigsaw Homes regarding Collette. Collette had left her tenancy to stay with her grandmother on a temporary basis. Collette felt scared to return to her tenancy following a domestic abuse incident on 16/09/21. She had not spoken to Ryan since the incident but had 17 missed calls from him the following day. Collette had asked for Jigsaw to move her but this was currently restricted due to Jigsaw obtaining injunctions against Collette related to ASB at her tenancy. The case was closed as Collette had returned to the property and declined the offer of temporary accommodation.
- 12.104 4 October 2021 - Collette appeared in court to be sentenced for the offence of Section 39 Assault of a male. This related to two males fighting in a service station. CCTV footage showed Collette also attacking one of the men. Collette received a 12-month Community Order with 10 days Rehabilitation Activity Requirements and 80 hours Unpaid Work.
- 12.105 12 October 2021 – The case was discussed at the Tameside MARAC. The outcomes were that the IDVA was to support Collette and Change Grow Live were to continue to support her.
- 12.106 6 October 2021 – Probation completed a Police intelligence check and were informed of a domestic abuse incident on 16/09/21, where Collette was identified to be the victim of a high-risk incident and Ryan was the perpetrator. No further details regarding the domestic abuse history between Ryan and Collette was shared within this report or any subsequent domestic abuse enquiries that were made during the period of supervision by Probation.
- 12.107 As per her sentencing requirements, Collette was engaged with Probation from October and information was gathered from Collette to inform the risk assessment and develop Sentence Plan objectives. The Community Order OASys assessment was completed by Probation which concluded that Collette presented as a medium risk of serious harm to the public, known adults, children and staff.
- 12.108 The Probation Officer emailed the Social Worker to introduce themselves and to share the sentence requirements. They requested dates for upcoming Core Groups and Conferences and a copy of the Child Protection Plan to assist with their management and support of this case. This information was chased again on 26/10/21 and again on 04/11/21, at which time Probation spoke to the Social Worker on the telephone to gather information.

¹¹⁸ Date unavailable.

- 12.109 26 October 2021 - Probation emailed the Social Worker again requesting information, as they had not received a response. Police Intelligence Enquires were also requested. Similar information was returned to that received on 06/10/21 – confirming the last domestic incident was on 16/09/21.
- 12.110 10 November 2021 – A Safeguarding Core Group Meeting held. There was no record of this meeting available. Probation was not represented at this meeting as they were not sent the link to enable their attendance.
- 12.111 On five occasions Collette did not attend her unpaid work commitments. A warning letter was issued to Collette.
- 12.112 17 November 2021 – The IDVA completed a comprehensive assessment with Collette. Identified risks and needs were noted around criminal and civil legal matters and housing. The option of moving to a refuge was declined by Collette. Emails were sent to the Police to confirm bail details for Ryan. A referral for civil legal advice was made. The IDVA made email contact with the Probation Officer. Further emails were sent to Jigsaw Homes to explore the possibility of a move. However, Jigsaw were unable to consider a managed move due to ongoing ASB, breaches of orders and impending legal action against Collette's tenancy. Collette was informed of this by the IDVA on 06/12/21.
- 12.113 21 November 2021 - Collette was arrested for being drunk and disorderly. This related to an argument with her sister. A fixed penalty notice was issued for a Public Order offence. Collette rang Probation the next day to inform them of this.
- 12.114 3 December 2021 – Children's Social Care recorded that the PLO had ended and that the children were to remain in care of father. The decision was noted that that case did not need to progress to care proceedings.
- 12.115 14 December 2021 - The IDVA called Collette to check on her welfare and obtain updates. Collette said she was back at her home address. She had some home security concerns regarding a damaged window. No recent contact from Ryan was reported. The IDVA emailed housing to chase the window repair. A week later the IDVA spoke with Collette again. It was noted that criminal proceedings had been filed without prosecution. There were no ongoing issues or recent contact from Ryan. Safety planning was completed. The case was closed and Housing and Probation were informed.

2022

- 12.116 Collette missed four unpaid work appointments in January 2022. A Probation supervision appointment was also missed on 11/01/22. Formal breach action was now progressed and a court date set for 02/02/22.
- 12.117 11 January 2022 - Collette attended a REFLECT group session (an educational group in relation to drugs and alcohol) at the Women's Centre and was noted to engage well in the session. She did not attend her planned telephone risk review with Change Grow Live on the same day and was next seen on 25/01/22. Collette did not attend a further five appointments that were booked. In May, Collette missed a joint meeting with Change Grow Live and the Probation Officer. A letter was sent to Collette informing her to contact the service within seven days if she still required a service, which she did via Probation.
- 12.118 13 January 2022 – Probation made a request for any new Police intelligence and information was returned to indicate that there had been no new recorded incidents since the last request made in October 2021.
- 12.119 19 January 2022 – A Core Group Meeting was held. The children were deemed to be at risk of further domestic abuse incidents between Collette and Ryan. Further Core Group Meetings were held in March and in May, but there was no record of these meetings available.

- 12.120 26 January 2022 – A review of Collette’s OASys Risk assessment and sentence plan objectives was undertaken at the six-month mark, in line with expected practice. Collette was assessed as suitable to undertake her unpaid work hours through the Project in a Box Scheme¹¹⁹ and was allocated a place at the beginning of February 2022.
- 12.121 2 February 2022 - Collette appeared at Tameside Magistrates Court in respect of the breach of licence whilst on probation. The order was allowed to continue with 10 additional hours added in recognition of the breach.
- 12.122 Between February and March 2022, Collette missed several planned Probation supervision appointments and unpaid work appointments. The Probation Officer noted that they were offering significant leeway to Collette as there were no current indicators of increasing risk.
- 12.123 2 March 2022 – Police responded to a 999 call by Collette who reported that someone had been banging on her door for the last half hour but she was too scared to check who it was. Officers spoke to Collette on the phone and she advised that the person had left. Officers carried out a search of the area but did not find anything of concern.
- 12.124 6 March 2022 - CPS authorised a charge of wounding with intent, related to the incident on 04/04/21. On 18 June 2022, Ryan was charged with a Section 18 assault¹²⁰ via postal charge. The initial court date was 14 July 2022.
- 12.125 8 April 2022 – The Police received a call where a male could be heard moaning. Collette came on the line and said that the call was made in error but gave the address. Officers attended and all parties were noted to be drunk but safe and well. All confirmed that call was made in error.
- 12.126 30 April 2022 – The Police were called to an incident. Ryan had been out drinking with some friends and bumped into Collette at some point during the day. During the trip home, Ryan and Collette became loud in the street causing someone to shout out of her window. Ryan reacted to this by shouting and calling the victim a "slag". Ryan and Collette then caused damage to a fence and a cable on the side of the house. Police arrived and detained Ryan and Collette. Ryan became aggressive and kicked out at a Police Officer’s thigh. Collette was arrested for criminal damage. Ryan was arrested for criminal damage and assault of an emergency worker.
- 12.127 Collette attended unpaid work appointments through April as expected but did not attend two planned Probation supervision appointments in April. One of these absences was marked as unacceptable and a formal warning letter was sent to Collette. On 03/05/22 Collette attended her last unpaid work appointment as all required hours had been completed.
- 12.128 Between May and September 2022, Collette continued to engage with Probation, who liaised with Children’s Social Care and Change Grow Live throughout. Collette denied any ongoing contact with Ryan and spoke about her steps to create distance between them.
- 12.129 8 May 2022 - Ryan was seen fighting in the street with unknown males and females and had shouted that he had a knife. On Police arrival no knife was found, and the other parties had left the area. A crime was filed with no further action due to insufficient evidence.
- 12.130 7 June 2022 – A full risk review was completed by Change Grow Live. Collette reported binge drinking two months ago, stating that the trigger for this was her mental health and anxiety. She had an appointment booked with her GP. It was agreed that at the next appointment, they would explore whether Collette still required Change Grow Live services. Collette did not attend the next four appointments.

¹¹⁹ Project in a Box (PIAB) was a scheme which allowed People on Probation to complete unpaid work hours at home. This was introduced during the pandemic and continued to be in place in Greater Manchester until September 2022.

¹²⁰ Section 18 assault specifically refers to an offence described as either “wounding with intent” or “causing grievous bodily harm with intent” and is the most serious form of assault (save for murder and manslaughter) that can be committed.

- 12.131 9 June 2022 – Collette saw her GP regarding mood swings and experiencing anxiety. The GP diagnosed anxiety and depression. A self-referral to Healthy Minds was suggested.
- 12.132 The same day Ryan was brought into the ED by ambulance following having a seizure lasting 5-7 minutes. There was no previous history of seizures. Ryan had hit the back of his head during the seizure. Ryan left before treatment was completed and against medical advice.
- 12.133 19 June 2022 - Police were asked to attend an address regarding an abandoned 999 call with a female (Collette) shouting in the background and a male stating “drop all charges”. Upon arrival to the address Collette stated that Ryan had come to the address telling her to drop all charges in relation to an incident that occurred last year. Collette stated that she was in a relationship with Ryan until it ended three years ago and that she hadn’t seen him in eight months. Collette said that she had had a few drinks in the pub with her friends and Ryan was there. When she got home Ryan came to the address and banged on the door. Collette said that, when she saw it was Ryan, she locked the door and called 999. Everyone within the address was seen safe and well and the Police ensured the house was safe and secure. Collette scored three on the DASH risk assessment¹²¹. A crime was recorded for witness intimidation, and Ryan’s details were circulated as wanted in relation to this matter.
- 12.134 Collette provided a statement in relation to this incident but then later retracted this. Police enquiries established that Collette had willingly been with Ryan earlier in the evening and a number of times since. The Police view was that this information undermined the evidence and that there was insufficient evidence to charge Ryan, so no further action was taken.
- 12.135 20 June 2022 - Collette called the Police and reported two males had come to her address and sprayed petrol at her and on her kitchen window, whilst shouting at her to come down and speak to them. The males left when Collette called the Police.
- 12.136 Police did attend, but due to Collette receiving a call from a person asking why the Police were at her house, she wanted them to leave, as she did not want to be seen talking to the Officers. Collette left the address and went to her friends for safety. Collette did not go to the Police station as planned. She made further plans to attend but failed to turn up.
- 12.137 Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) received an arson threat referral from the Police due to the threats made to burn down Collette’s house. GMFRS made several attempts to contact Collette to carry out a Home Fire Safety Assessment but were unsuccessful, so this was not completed.
- 12.138 30 June 2022 – Collette and Ryan appeared at Tameside Magistrates Court. Collette received a fine for the offence of Criminal Damage committed on 30/04/22. Ryan was convicted of assault by beating of an emergency worker and criminal damage and handed a 12-month community order with a rehabilitation activity requirement.
- 12.139 A Pre-Sentence Report was completed regarding Ryan on the day of sentence. Domestic abuse was highlighted as an area of risk. Alcohol and cannabis misuse were also identified as factors linked to poor emotional control and instances of violence. The case was allocated to a Probation Officer who had completed training in managing cases where domestic abuse was identified as a risk factor and whose risk was assessed to be medium.
- 12.140 30 June 2022 – Collette contacted Jigsaw Homes saying applying for a mutual exchange. On 06/07/22, an exchange application was received by Jigsaw.
- 12.141 4 July 2022 - During a telephone consultation with Healthy Minds, Collette stated that her two children were now living with their father so she felt less fearful about being open about her mental health. It was during this consultation that Collette disclosed that her children

¹²¹ A score of 14 or more would normally meet the MARAC referral criteria, although professional judgement should also be applied.

were removed due to an alcohol related incident and Collette disclosed a lot of information about her childhood and adult trauma, including disclosure of multiple domestic abuse relationships.

- 12.142 Due to his community order, Ryan was supervised by Probation from July 2022. During his rehabilitation activity requirement days his Probation Officer was completing work on alcohol use, domestic abuse and thinking skills. A home visit was undertaken to gather additional information regarding Ryan's accommodation and support networks. The Probation Officer completed an OASys Risk Assessment of Ryan. Ryan was assessed as posing a medium risk of serious harm with victim groups being identified as children, public/staff, and known adults (Collette was named). There was an identified risk of self harm and suicide recorded.
- 12.143 14 July 2022 - Ryan appeared at Tameside Magistrates Court in respect of an offence of Section 18 Wounding committed on 04/04/21. It was alleged that Ryan had entered the property of a male associate and stabbed him in the chest. Collette was identified as a witness to this assault. This matter was transferred to Manchester Crown Court with the next appearance date set for 18/08/22.
- 12.144 19 July 2022 – Collette was accepted by the Neighbourhood Mental Health Team. Healthy Minds assessed her too complex for IAPT¹²². It was recorded that Collette had complex trauma and emotional dysregulation. A week later, Collette saw a mental health practitioner within the GP surgery and reported feeling much better as she had 'opened up'. Collette was awaiting input from Neighbourhood Mental Health Team.
- 12.145 21 July 2022 - Ryan was involved in a fight with a number of unknown males. Ryan was detained. A crime was recorded for affray, but as the other parties could not be found and due to evidential difficulties, the crime was filed with no further action taken.
- 12.146 Ryan attended weekly appointments with Probation throughout August. Ryan did not attend planned appointments through September and was sent warning letters for each appointment missed. At the second unacceptable absence, Probation initiated a breach of conditions.
- 12.147 7 August 2022 - Ryan was detained within the legal framework of the Mental Health Act under section 136¹²³ by Police Officers after being found on a bridge. Officers are believed to have talked him down. An assessment within the ED was undertaken, the outcome of which was a discharge from section 136 following consultation with the on call consultant. Police Officers agreed to take Ryan to his father's address with the agreement of Ryan's father.
- 12.148 The same day, Ryan was referred to the PCFT Home Treatment Team (HTT) who then visited him on the 09/08/22. A detailed assessment was completed, alongside a risk assessment. There was no evidence of mental illness and Ryan was regretful of his actions. He was discharged from HTT and a letter sent to his GP asking that the GP progress his ADHD referral. The GP advised that they completed this referral in 2021.
- 12.149 16 August – A Change Grow Live appointment was held remotely on and, despite being unwell, Collette is reported to have engaged. Collette reported she was receiving support for her mental health and no longer required a service from Change Grow Live. It was agreed that her case would be closed. A letter was sent to her GP and Probation were informed.
- 12.150 18 August 2022 – Ryan appeared in court in respect of the offence of Section 18 Wounding committed on 04/04/21 and heard in the Magistrates Court on 14/07/22 for knife crime. A trial

¹²² The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme is run by the NHS in England and offers approved therapies for treating people with anxiety or depression.

¹²³ Section 136 of the Mental Health Act gives the Police the power to remove a person suffering from a mental disorder from a public place to a place of safety. This provision is used when the individual is deemed to be in immediate need of care and control due to concerning behaviour.

date was set for this case at Crown Court for September 2023.¹²⁴

- 12.151 12 September 2022 - Ryan was arrested for breach of bail and driving offences. He stated that he had given Collette a lift and had been drinking. He was not permitted to contact her due to the ongoing Section 18 Wounding offence. There was no further action in relation to these offences. The Police shared information with Probation that Collette had been arrested for driving offences. Collette was released from custody 'under investigation'. No further detail was provided and Probation were unaware that the alleged offence was committed with Ryan.
- 12.152 3 October 2022 - The Community Order given to Collette expired on this date and there was no further contact between Probation and Collette.
- 12.153 14 October 2022 - Derbyshire Police contacted GMP to report a possible domestic disturbance called in by a third party. Officers attended and Collette came to the top window and seemed confused as to why Police were there. Collette reluctantly came down and opened the door and it was believed that she had also been smoking cannabis due to the smell inside the address. Collette stated that she hadn't rang the Police. She then said that her ex-partner had been outside her property and shouted to her. She pointed over the road towards some railings and stated that was where he was stood. Collette then told Officers that she keeps getting calls from withheld numbers that she thinks is Ryan. She took her phone out of her pocket and said he was ringing her, but there was no one ringing and she had no missed calls.
- 12.154 Officers searched the address and spoke to Collette's mother. Her mother was half asleep in bed and seemed intoxicated. Collette was advised to recall the Police should Ryan return. The information was passed on to the MASH team.
- 12.155 22 October 2022 – The Probation Officer completed a domestic abuse check with the Police and was informed of the callout on the 14/10/22.
- 12.156 31 October 2022 – Collette's exchange request was approved and the move completed. Jigsaw Homes did not receive any nuisance complaints at Collette's new address.
- 12.157 An unannounced home visit was undertaken by Probation on 07/11/22. Ryan was not present but his father was, who reported that Ryan had been in a car accident and that he stayed out various nights through the week with a friend.
- 12.158 16 November 2022 - Ryan attended an office visit with his Probation Officer. He said that he had buried his head in the sand and realised he was in breach so stopped attending. When asked about the domestic abuse incident (14/10/22), he denied having contact with Collette.
- 12.159 14 December 2022 - Collette called Police reporting two males fighting with two females in the street. She was spoken to by Officers but there was insufficient information for Police action to be taken.
- 12.160 15 December 2022 - Ryan reported to the Probation Office. He had been out of contact for several weeks. He talked about being low in mood and said that he tended to feel like this on the lead up to Christmas. He said that he had not had contact with Collette.
- 12.161 21 December 2022 – Ryan appeared at Tameside Magistrates Court for breach of his Community Order. The Order was allowed to continue, and he received a fine.

2023

- 12.162 5 January 2023 - Ryan attended his initial Probation appointment following the breach. He reported that he had not been drinking over the Christmas period and that he had not had

¹²⁴ Following Ryan's death in April 2023 the CPS were informed and the case was mentioned in Crown court on 25/7/23 where it was withdrawn.

any contact with Collette.

- 12.163 9 January 2023 – Ryan attended his appointment with the Criminal Justice Mental Health Social Worker, who in February referred Ryan for assessment by Tameside and Glossop Adult ADHD Service. Ryan was placed on their waiting list for initial assessment and was informed of the current waiting time of two years.
- 12.164 6 February 2023 – Ryan attended a planned appointment with Probation. Records indicate that he presented with some low mood and reported a developing relationship with a female (not Collette).
- 12.165 The same day a review Child Protection Conference was held. All professionals were in agreement that the children, who continued to live with their father and have contact with Collette, were not at risk of harm and no longer subjected to child protection plans.
- 12.166 20 February 2023 - Ryan reported being unwell and asked to rearrange his appointment with Probation. He has then failed to attend the rearranged appointment on 23/02/23. Ryan did not attend any planned appointments with Probation through March. Ryan was issued with formal warning letters and a breach of conditions was initiated for a second time on 13/03/23. On 29/03/23 Ryan attended court and a breach hearing was set for 24/05/23.
- 12.167 12 April 2023 – Police were called to an incident in Manchester city centre involving Collette assaulting her sister. Collette was arrested on suspicion of non-fatal strangulation and common assault and detained in custody awaiting interview. The victim was taken back to her home address by Officers. She answered no to all DASH questions and refused to give a statement regarding the assault. A decision was made that no further action was to be taken. A Domestic Abuse Incident report was completed and attached to the file.
- 12.168 On a date in April 2023 Police were called by Collette's grandmother, who stated her other granddaughter had told her that a male was dead at Collette's address. Officers attended and found Ryan at the address, with injuries. CPR was completed by Police and the ambulance service, but Ryan was sadly pronounced deceased. Collette was arrested and charged with murder. At court, she pleaded guilty to manslaughter due to loss of control and was later sentenced to five years imprisonment.

8. Conclusions and lessons learned

This section summarises the key learning identified by the review. Where related improvements have been made or are in progress, this is acknowledged.

Identifying and responding to domestic abuse

- 15.24 Professional curiosity was not always evident by Probation to verify and investigate information obtained to ensure risks regarding domestic abuse were robustly assessed and managed. As a result of significant change through 2021 and rapid recruitment of staff since this time, there is a recognised level of inexperience within the probation workforce. To respond to this a plan is already in place to develop key skills, particularly in respect of the use of professional curiosity.
- 15.25 ICFT should consider embedding routine enquiry around domestic abuse into the ED triage of all patients to strengthen and support the response to domestic abuse. This is acknowledged in the domestic abuse strategy for Tameside where there is a recommendation to implement routine enquiry.
- 15.26 Routine or targeted enquiry and increased professional curiosity was also identified as an issue of concern within primary care services, particularly when there has been a history of domestic abuse, there is mental health issues and substance misuse issues, as well as poor

dental health. The IRIS¹²⁵ programme, which aims to improve the GP response to domestic abuse, was commissioned by Tameside Council and NHS Greater Manchester for delivery from 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2025. Ryan and Collette's GP is listed on this programme.

- 15.27 Collette's housing provider focussed on the ASB when complaints were received and did not proactively consider the possibility of domestic abuse. Furthermore, the injunction served as a barrier to Collette being moved by Jigsaw when, in September 2021, she told them she was fearful to return to the property due to domestic abuse. Work is underway to improve earlier communication between Bridges domestic abuse service and Jigsaw about their clients.
- 15.28 A Clare's Law disclosure was not considered by the Police in response to the incident in September 2018. This would have been appropriate, given the background of both Ryan and Collette.
- 15.29 In April 2021, when Collette was witness to a crime by Ryan, this was not recorded by the Police as a domestic incident. Consideration should be given to whether it should have been, given the circumstances and history.
- 15.30 In June 2022, the fact that Collette had appeared to have willingly been in Ryan's company prior to the offences alleged, was a factor in the decision to take no further action. This decision making suggests a lack of understanding or consideration of the complex dynamics of domestic abuse and coercive control and how this might affect the behaviour of victims.
- 15.31 The force's 'DA Matters' training programme, as well as other bespoke training delivered related to domestic abuse policies, should go some way to addressing these issues.
- 15.32 The response by Bridges domestic abuse service lacked exploration of risk at this time and did not explore civil legal protective measures, which may have impacted on Collette's confidence in the service. Bridges have now adopted a new case management system with risk and outcomes assessment tools to address this weakness.
- 15.33 ICFT processes for safeguarding and consideration of as a cause for attendance or an underlying concern when attending ED were lacking. These have been reviewed and the system in use now requires professionals to complete a section related to this before they can complete the episode of care. Supporting safeguarding training needs to be strengthened. A training and implementation plan has been produced.

Appropriate assessment, care and support for Ryan and Collette

- 15.34 Tameside and Glossop ADHD team are awaiting a national and local strategy for Adult ADHD. This is a national problem. Ryan had an extensive record with CAMHS¹²⁶ and where he was prescribed medication for ADHD up to his 18th birthday and then transferred to his GP. Adults need to go through a screening process for treatment which has a long waiting list, despite their having had a diagnosis as a child, which can impact on their mental health.
- 15.35 Alcohol misuse was either observed or disclosed in almost all of the contacts Collette and Ryan had with statutory services during the timeframe of this review. Ryan did not access support for this. Change Grow Live did not undertake the AUDIT assessment with Collette in line with the Alcohol Pathway. People presenting with binge patterns of use in terms of alcohol are now assessed using the AUDIT every 12 months. Additionally, Change Grow Live staff involved could have considered the information received about Collette, including

¹²⁵ Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) is a specialist domestic abuse education, support and referral programme providing training for GP teams and a named advocate to whom patients can be referred to for support.

¹²⁶ The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

previous patterns of behaviour, and explored these further with increased professional curiosity.

- 15.36 Case Transfer between staff in Probation did not have sufficient management oversight to support an Officer who was new to the area and within their first-year post qualification. New guidance seeks assurances of the sufficiency of practice in all cases where case reallocation is required and supports the delivery of appropriate management oversight at the point of case reallocation.

Responding to and managing domestic abuse related risks

- 15.37 In July 2019, when Ryan was released from custody on a Home Detention Curfew (HDC), a licence condition not to contact the victims was not requested, missing a further opportunity for risk management.
- 15.38 The Probation risk assessments completed for both Ryan and Collette required some improvements to ensure they met the quality standards expected. Greater Manchester Probation Service has a Quality Improvement Strategy, that is reviewed yearly. Mandatory training is being delivered to Probation Service Officers and new staff through 2024 in respect of developing quality assessments.
- 15.39 The impacts of extensive delays between criminal charges and court proceedings are significant and can impact on safety, recovery and engagement with the process. The backlog in courts handling of crimes in England and Wales will likely continue to get worse unless addressed.
- 15.40 Collette had a long history with Children's Social Care and admitted to lying to them about her ongoing relationship with Ryan due to fear of their intervention. This was, however, in the context of Children's Social Care unfairly holding Collette responsible for the children being exposed to domestic abuse perpetrated by Ryan. Furthermore, Ryan was invisible in Children's Social Care files and responses.
- 15.41 The recording by Children's Social Care related to this case was wholly inadequate and, at times, non-existent. The review acknowledged that concerns about Tameside Children's Social Care responses overall were currently a matter of strategic importance and that improvement plans were underway.

Multi-agency working and information sharing

- 15.42 There were communication difficulties which impacted upon attendance and information sharing at Child Protection related meetings.
- 15.43 Multi agency liaison was not always evident at times of reduced compliance, to help verify information or clarify concerns raised – this was particularly evident within domestic abuse checks undertaken by Probation. There is now a greater collaboration between Greater Manchester Police and Greater Manchester Probation Service in undertaking Domestic Abuse Enquiries. There remains a focus on improving this process further to ensure greater accuracy and timely information is shared that will inform risk assessment and risk management practice.
- 15.44 The review surfaced weaknesses in the recording of MARAC meetings with notes and outcomes unavailable. Furthermore, a review of a recording of a MARAC meeting highlighted a very limited focus on risk and that victim blaming language was used on occasion.
- 15.45 The lack of information received by GP practices following MARAC discussions was also identified as a concern, with GP practices not routinely contacted to feed information into the MARAC process. Tameside is seeking to replicate the process in place in Derbyshire to support improved engagement and information sharing between the MARAC and GPs.

9. Recommendations

9.1 National recommendations:

- Share the findings of this review with the NHS England launched cross-sector Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Taskforce for their consideration in developing a national ADHD strategy.
- Share the findings of this review with the Victims' Commissioner to inform their work on exploring the impact court waiting times have on victims across England and Wales and the services in place to support them.

9.2 Multi-agency recommendations

- Develop a MARAC improvement action plan to address recording, risk management, information sharing, engagement with GPs, and to ensure a victim focus.
- Develop resources and learning opportunities to support improved professional curiosity across the Community Safety Partnership partner agencies.
- Develop a co-ordinated approach to trauma informed training across CSP partner agencies, specifically identifying levels of training for different professionals based on their interactions with adults, children and families.

9.3 Single agency recommendations

Children's Social Care

- Acknowledging the strategic work in progress to improve Children's Social Care, the learning from this review will be shared with the recently appointed Director of Tameside Children's Services to inform their plans.
- The Director of Tameside Children's Services is asked to consider the appropriateness of the Safe & Together Model for Tameside, which provides a framework for defining and discussing domestic abuse within the child protection system.

More specifically, Tameside Children's Services are asked to:

- Address poor practice in recording of Child in Need and Child Protection related activity as part of their overall improvement programme
- Provide specific and targeted safety planning training to staff so that staff will cease the use of safety plan agreements with non-abusive parents that refer to the expected management of an abusive parent or partner's behaviour and its impact on children.
- Hold practice learning events, to enable discussions about the relevant learning from this review and with a focus on reducing practice that holds non abusing parents responsible for addressing abuse.

Probation

- Delivery of Domestic Abuse Awareness Events to be monitored through their completion ensuring access to continuous professional development in this area for all staff.
- Professional Curiosity - in line with Greater Manchester Quality Improvement Strategy, improvements in practice in respect of obtaining and using all relevant information, including safeguarding information to inform risk assessment, management, planning and delivery. This will be achieved through the roll out of development work based on the HMIP Effective Practice Guidance on Professional Curiosity and through the delivery of focused one to one work to support this.

- Provide assurances that Safeguarding training is undertaken as required for new starters and at regular intervals for current staff.
- Police Domestic Abuse Enquiries – progress of continued work regarding regional collaboration in undertaking domestic abuse enquiries should be evidenced to ensure complete and timely access to all domestic abuse history that will inform risk assessment and risk management plannings.

PCFT

- There is no single agency action plan for PCFT. However, the author has reviewed the Trusts 7-minute Information Sharing briefing to remind practitioners on the importance of this subject and to update on the Trusts intranet.

NHS Greater Manchester

- Mental Health Commissioners to consider a review of the Tameside pathways for adults with suspected or diagnosed ADHD and consider transitions from children to adult services.
- ADHD pathways to be communicated effectively across the Tameside health economy.
- GPs to consider the appropriateness of self-referral and signposting when individuals have disclosed substance misuse and mental health that may impact on their ability to self-refer to meet their health needs. GPs should initiate a referral if the adult requires support
- To raise the awareness of the challenges faced by individuals with mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse which results in the ability to meet the health needs of self and those that they have caring responsibilities for, and to reduce missing health appointments.

ICFT

- Strengthen delivery of safeguarding training within the Trust through a training and implementation plan which will improve the knowledge of staff and improve their awareness of safeguarding and domestic abuse.
- The Trust should consider embedding routine enquiry around domestic abuse into the ED triage of all patients to strengthen and support the response to domestic abuse. This is acknowledged in the domestic abuse strategy for Tameside and there is a recommendation to implement routine enquiry.

Change Grow Live

Change Grow Live Tameside will work to improve professional curiosity within the staff team and ensure risk assessments take account of information shared by partner agencies.

Bridges

- Explore the potential for a complex needs IDVA role to enhance the service.
- Establish a process for early information sharing between Bridges and Jigsaw where clients are known to both agencies.

Jigsaw Homes

Establish a process for early information sharing between Bridges and Jigsaw where clients are known to both agencies.

Dave Smith
Tame Street Depot
Tame Street
Stalybridge
Tameside
SK15 1ST

14th May 2026

Dear Dave,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Ryan) for Tameside Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Board. The report was considered at the QA Board meeting on 25th March 2026. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Please find the QA Board's feedback in the form below. On completion of the changes suggested the DHR may be published.

Once completed the Home Office would be grateful if you could provide us with a digital copy of the revised final version of the report with all finalised attachments and appendices and the weblink to the site where the report will be published. Please ensure this letter and the feedback form is published alongside the report.

Please send the digital copy and weblink to DHREnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk. This is for our own records for future analysis to go towards highlighting best practice and to inform public policy.

The DHR report including the executive summary and action plan should be converted to a PDF document and be smaller than 20 MB in size; this final Home Office QA Board letter and feedback form should be attached to the end of the report as an annex; and the DHR Action Plan should be added to the report as an annex. This should include all implementation updates and note that the action plan is a live document and subject to change as outcomes are delivered.

Please also send a digital copy to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner at DHR@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk

On behalf of the QA Board, I would like to thank you, the report chair and author, and other colleagues for the considerable work that you have put into this review.

Yours sincerely,

Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Board

DHR QA Board Feedback for the Community Safety Partnership

TITLE OF DHR	Ryan
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP	Tameside
DATE REVIEWED BY QA BOARD	25 March 2026
DECISION	Publish with amendments
GOOD PRACTICE COMMENDED	• It is positive that an interview with a Crown Prosecution Service representative was held by the chair • There is a heartfelt tribute to Ryan which aids the reader to better understand his life and lived experience. • There is sensitive, non-victim blaming language used throughout the report • There is good engagement with perpetrator, who has since read report with her Probation Officer. • This review presents a well-balanced insight into the impact of domestic abuse and other traumas on victims, and how this may have been overlooked by agencies.
FEEDBACK FOR FUTURE DHRs	

	DHR SECTION	DHR QA BOARD FEEDBACK (improvements required before publication)
	Title Page	This is still a DHR not DARDR until the new legislation is enacted. Please amend the language to DHR.
1	Contents Page	No amendments required.
2	Pen Portrait	No amendments required.
3	Condolences	No amendments required.
4	Confidentiality and Anonymity	No amendments required.

5	Terms of Reference	Please consider an individual Term of Reference on barriers to reporting for both Ryan and Collette. Barriers for male and female victim/survivors will differ and it is important to highlight the disparity of these.
6	Equality and Diversity	The equality and diversity section is very brief; it does not address the intersectionality of domestic abuse with the specific protected characteristics identified within this review. Please further develop this section accordingly.
7	Background Information	No amendments required.
8	Combined Chronology	- This section is too generalised without a clear distinction of timeframes. This presentation makes it harder for the reader to comprehend. Please consider using bold text for dates. - In paragraph 12.34 there is a minor but significant typo: "Be of good behaviour and not undermine the purpose of the licence period". Please amend accordingly.
9	Overview	No amendments required.
10	Analysis	- There is a reference to evidence of stalking by Ryan. Please consider further analysis of stalking, and if agencies could have done more to identify it. - Paragraphs 14.113 – 115 (SARA / RMP) do not seem to relate to the title they appear under. Please review this.
11	Conclusions	No amendments required.
12	Lessons learnt and recommendations	No amendments required.
13	Timescales	No amendments required.
14	Involvement of family / friends / community	No amendments required.
16	DHR contributors	No amendments required.
17	DHR Panel	Please state how many times the panel met.

18	DHR Author	No amendments required.
19	Parallel Reviews	No amendments required.
20	Dissemination	No amendments required.
21	Action Plan	The action plan is incomplete with many of the actions not evidencing progress that is being made. Please ensure that this is updated prior to publication.
22	Has there been a request to withhold publication? <i>If Yes, include the reason for the request. Is it proportionate and appropriate?</i>	No requests to withhold publication.
23	Any other comments	• Overview report, section 2.5, please insert dates. • Please add 'honour'-based abuse to the DASH definition. • Please amend Quality Assurance Panel to Board.