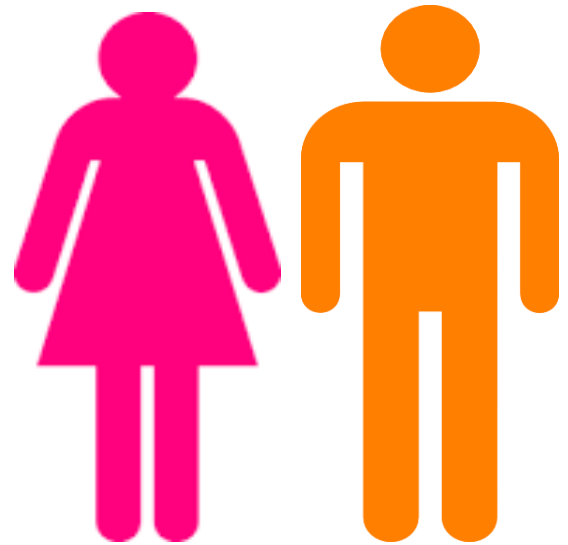


# Matricide and Patricide



Kingston Safeguarding Adults  
Board



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
**KINGSTON**  
UPON THAMES

# Matricide and Patricide

## Definitions:

- 1 Matricide - murder of a Mother by her Son or Daughter
- 2 Patricide – Murder of a Father by his Son or Daughter
- 3 Parricide - one that murders his or her father, mother, or a close relative
- 4 Domestic abuse : 2018 cross government DA definition: - Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.....

## [Research Briefing](#)

- 6 DHR – Domestic Homicide Reviews
- 7 AFV – Adult Family violence
- 8 MARAC – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference

## UK analysis on Adult Family Violence (AFV):

(Home DHR key finding December 2016 & Standing Together Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Case Analysis June 2016)

- Found that all perpetrators were male and the highest number of cases involved matricide.
- A notable risk factor is current or history of Domestic Abuse. This relates specifically to

perpetrators of domestic abuse and their previously or current use of threats and violence. However we cannot ignore the risk to those who have previously experienced domestic abuse or AFV and how this may impact on their ability to recognise and respond to escalating behaviours.

- In cases of AFV there was a pattern of the victim being in some way the carer of the perpetrator.
- Mental health issues were a common feature of majority of AVF perpetrators, including depression, self-harm, psychosis and paranoid schizophrenia
- The most frequent risk factors for perpetrators of AVF were shown through research to be mental health, alcohol, substance misuse and previous criminality; and perpetrators displayed patterns of threatening and/or violent behaviour towards women.
- It was recognised that the DASH risk assessment tool is the main risk assessment for DA but that it does not highlighting specific risks associated parricide.
- The dynamics underpinning AFV is different from other forms of domestic homicide and more research is needed in the area of risk identification, assessment and management

## **Barriers that we believe hinder the parent victim of AFV from seeking help:**

### **Lack of recognition of child on parent violence**

- Services not recognising the signs of a Domestic Abuse within a parent child context, especially where:
  - the parent does not have obvious vulnerabilities
  - may be in the carer role for their son or daughter.
- The public not knowing that Domestic Abuse can apply to a parent /child relations or other close family relationship.
- The victims normalising behaviour or seeing it as part of their carer role to accept or manage aggressive or violent behaviour.
- Parent psychological denial of a Domestic Abuse situation.
- The child normalising or psychologically denying the severity or unacceptability of their behaviour

### **Psychological factors that may hinder a parent / Grandparent victim of DA seeking support:**

- Parents having personal expectations on themselves that

they should be in control and manage the situation.

- Feeling responsible for child's welfare regardless of the child being an adult.
- Isolation/secrecy
- Perceived shame
- Conflicted feelings about their child
- Feel responsible for the child's behaviour
- Not wishing to criminalise their children/grandchild and damage their future life chances
- Fear of being blamed or judged e.g. inferring poor parenting/abusive or violent upbringing
- Not recognising their own vulnerabilities
- Not seeing significant harm or murder as being a possible risk.

## **What you should do if you suspect Adult Family Violence:**

### **Respond as you would to a domestic abuse case. e.g:**

- Believe the victim if they disclose to you and explain to them that AFV is a form of abuse and a crime and there is support available for them.
- Be clear with victims that AFV is Domestic Abuse and it is not acceptable behaviour in any circumstance.

- Speak to them in a safe space if you see or hear something that raises concerns.
- Assess the Risk and consider use of formal risk tool e.g. Dash.
- Contact the Police where you are concerned that the victim is at immediate risk
- Contact the Police if the victim reports a crime and consents to the call.
- Raise an Adult Safeguard where the victim has care and support needs.
- Make a children's safeguarding referral if there is a child (under18) living in the home or who stays in the home.
- Refer to MARAC where indicated by the DASH or where your professional judgement is that there is risk of serious harm
- Consult your manager/senior or organisational safeguard team if you require assistance with any of the above.

### Refer the parent to the Domestic Violence Hub (with consent)

### Finding from research:

Research in this field is very limited but the reality of the risk or parricide in situations of Domestic Homicides (DH) cannot be ignored.

A recent thirty year analysis of parricide identified 693 cases (Holt 2017). Parricide was evenly distributed between male and female victims but most men were killed in their fifties whereas women

were more likely to be seventy or over.

Bows (2018) study spanning 2010-2015 found that of the 221 cases of domestic homicides of older people in England and Wales 44% were the result of parricide and committed by a child or grandchild. The majority of victims were killed at home and the majority of perpetrators were male

The ONS (2018) reported that in the year ending March 2017 there were 64 homicides of people aged sixty five and over and that 13% of female homicides victims are were aged seventy five and over whereas only 9% of the female population is in this age group, showing an increased risk of this form of elder abuse in older women.

### References:

Bows, H(2018: 'Domestic Homicide of Older People (2010-2015): A comparative Analysis of Intimate-Partner Homicide and Parricide Cases in the UK

Holt, A(2017) "Parricide in England and Wales (1977-2012) 'An exploration of offenders, victims, incidents and outcomes,' *Criminology and Crime Justice* 17(5)pp.568-587

[Home DHR key finding December 2016 : Accessed 12/12/2018](#)

[Standing Together Domestic Homicide Review \(DHR\) Case Analysis June 2016: accessed 12/12/2018](#)