

Single Unified Safeguarding Review

Learning from the Past to make the Future Safer



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

7 MINUTE BRIEFING OFFENSIVE WEAPON HOMICIDES AND SUSR's

If you have any questions or comments, please email: SUSRWales@gov.wales

PARALLEL REVIEWS

- As a result of learning from previous duplication in review processes and the SUSR research, where a homicide meets the criteria for a specified existing review, an OWHR will not be commissioned.
- In Wales, if the homicide involves one or more elements relating to Adult, Child, Domestic, Mental Health or offensive weapon criteria then a SUSR may be undertaken.

BACKGROUND

- Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews (OWHRs) were introduced by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 to support local agencies in working together to identify lessons that will help prevent future deaths.
- Following extensive consultation, Home Office statutory guidance has been written in conjunction with Welsh Government, Wales Violence Prevention Unit and the SUSR team. Chapter 5 of that guidance references the SUSR process in Wales which will be used to fulfil the obligations of this legislation, alongside the wider SUSR guidance.
- London, Birmingham and South Wales have been approved by the Home Office as Pilot areas which was agreed by Welsh Ministers and the pilot will commence April 2023.
- Public consultation on SUSR guidance will commence Spring 2023.

RELEVANT REVIEW PARTNERS

- When a homicide occurs, which involves an offensive weapon, a review will be undertaken to learn lessons.
- Legislation describes three Relevant Review Partners who are responsible for OWHRs. They are Health, Local Authorities and Police.
- OWHR Guidance allows local areas to determine what local processes will be used to co-ordinate and oversee the OWHR process.
- It has been recommended that the SUSR is the review process to follow for Offensive Weapon Homicides in Wales.

PROCESS

- A SUSR Referral form will be submitted to the Regional Safeguarding Board Business Units when an offensive weapon homicide occurs.
- The RSB Case Review Group with representatives including the three Relevant Review Partners will determine whether an SUSR will be undertaken.
- A recommendation will be submitted to the RSB Chair.
- If an SUSR is to be undertaken the Chair of the Review Panel and Panel Members will be appointed.
- Depending on the type of homicide and terms of reference, the members of the panel and chair will have knowledge or experience of the subject area i.e. mental health, offensive weapons etc.
- The SUSR Co-ordination Hub manages a list of approved chairs and reviewers detailing expertise which can help in the selection of chairs.

WALES SAFEGUARDING REPOSITORY

- When the SUSR is completed, it is coded and entered into the WSR.
- Authorised users can then utilise the information contained within the WSR to identify themes and recommendations.
- This will assist public services in learning lessons in order to prevent further deaths.

RESEARCH ON PAST HOMICIDES

- Since 2018, the numbers of homicides fitting the criteria for an Offensive Weapon Homicide Review was between zero and five per year across the whole of the South Wales area.
- Of these homicides a large proportion involved another review type therefore negating the need for an OWHR.
- It is therefore determined that the number of offensive weapon homicides, where no other review type is engaged, will be minimal.

