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28th November 2024

Dear Ildiko

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (George) for Watford Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 16 October 2024. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel considered this to be a detailed report that remains sensitive to the subject matter and the victim. There was a good sense of who George was and the trauma he experienced during his teenage years, as well as the impact of his older brother dying and his vulnerabilities. They commented that this was an important review in terms of learning, with a detailed use of theory and domestic abuse statistical analysis.

The QA Panel felt that there are some aspects of the report which may benefit from further revision, but the Home Office is content that on completion of these changes, the DHR may be published.

Areas for final development:

- The dissemination statement should include the Police and Crime Commissioners for all the areas involved in this case.
- The review concluded that agencies did not directly discriminate against the victim. However, the review also concluded that the complexity of the relationship, the victim's use of drugs, his health status and his involvement in chemsex may have impacted upon the police's use of and understanding of the relatively newly introduced offence of controlling and coercive behaviour. That being the case the CSP may wish to consider reflecting this as a barrier within the equality and diversity section.
- George had mental health vulnerabilities as well as a complex enduring diagnosis and a significant trauma disorder (3.5 of the overview report). It

would have been helpful to understand what services could learn from his interactions and access to these services.

- The QA Panel suggest that there should be a recommendation for the hospital given the finding that the hospital did not refer the victim onwards after he had declared that he felt unsafe.
- There are breaches of confidential information, including the exact date of death and exact dates of key events that could identify the victim. These should be amended.
- Although there is a glossary of terms/acronyms, not all that have been used in the report are currently explained.
- The equality and diversity section states the protected characteristics. However, it does not identify all of the protected characteristics specific within this review, such as age and sex, which would benefit from further analysis.
- The report may infer some issue with police understanding of coercive and controlling behaviour and as such the QA Panel noted that it might be helpful to see a recommendation on this.
- A final proofread is needed to address minor grammatical errors.

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 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 Panel feedback letter 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 Panel, 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 Panel