

Rebecca Freeman
Community Safety Partnership Manager
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8 December 2022

Dear Rebecca,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report '(Suzanne)' for Northeast Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 26th October 2022. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel found the review to be detailed and genuine and the engagement of Suzanne's family has added significant information about her life and the pressures that she faced.

The review has a detailed timeline of disclosures and missed opportunities for professionals to explore domestic abuse (DA). The review has identified clear evidence of coercive and controlling behaviour which was not picked up by any of the agencies in contact with the victim and her partner and identified some very relevant learning and made useful recommendations.

The action plan is well populated and there are progress reports on all the recommendations.

The QA Panel felt that there are some aspects of the report which may benefit from further revision. On completion of these changes, the Home Office supports the CSPs decision to only publish the recommendations and action plan.

Areas for final development:

- 1.10 states that the only parallel review was the inquest. Yet the DHR later mentions a serious incident review - could the form and status of this be included, together with any relevant findings on which the DHR chair/author drew.

- The recommendations all have intrinsic value, and the review team has clearly given them detailed thought. They are all input, process and output oriented, though, and lack outcomes. These are needed to signal what differences all the training, policy and procedure updates etc. are intended to make, and how the community will know. This will be even more important as only the recommendations and action plan are being published, and people will want to know specifically about suicide prevention work.
- The birthdate of the youngest child is at 2.2.22, and the genders of the children are revealed in multiple places (e.g. 2.2.39, 2.2.41). Whilst there is a request not to publish, it is suggested that these are removed. Similarly, the full date of death is stated on the action plan.
- The report does not follow the statutory guidance template and as the chronology is analysed per agency it loses that joined up analysis
- The multiple advance payments of Universal Credit could have also been drawn out in the analysis around this being a possible sign of economic abuse.

For future DHRs:

- Consider providing a pseudonym for all parties involved in the case, not just the victim
- The terms of reference are very broadly expressed and do not contain any specific lines of enquiry relating to this DHR
- More focus on how the victim perceived services within the Equality & Diversity issues section.
- The analysis is not against the terms of reference, but set out per individual agency, which makes the report repetitive in places
- The report is rather repetitive in places, following the guidance template would have produced a structurally more succinct report, particularly in the analysis section.

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.

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,

Lynne Abrams

Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel