

Deborah Simpson  
Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence  
Strategy Manager & Commissioner  
Community Safety Services  
2 Watling Street  
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8 September 2022

Dear Deborah,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Blue) for Bexley Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt this was a considered and probing report which appropriately challenged agencies and identified some useful learning and recommendations for agencies. The report analysed the quality of the Individual Management Reviews (IMRs) presented by agencies and the author ensured that children's social care improved upon their initial IMR, which the Panel commended as good practice.

The report was sensitive in its approach, importantly challenged victim blaming language and focused on the trauma-informed approach needed to support Blue. Likewise, the author highlighted the absence of focus and responsibility placed on the perpetrators in terms of agency support provided to Blue and the family. It was appreciated that the author mentioned the importance of needing to consider Blue as a whole person and not defined by her mental ill health.

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 executive summary and the recommendations should be published.

**Areas for development:**

- The action plan is not outcome focussed and would benefit from the addition of review dates. It needs some more detail for it to reflect the findings of the review and what it sets out as key learning. For example, routine inquiries are

a key finding, but the action plan itself is broad. It would benefit from dates when the CSP might expect to see the outcomes of the audit process, and what is the action that follows. It is also unclear how will the CSP know when the process has been embedded.

- On section 5.2.236 there is a discussion about the Metropolitan Police Service's (MPS) lack of referral of Blue to specialist domestic abuse agencies. It said, '*If written material was provided by the MPS on the availability of direct access to support services, then this could have led to disclosures on abuse that we now know she was subject to*'. It was pertinent to mention the lack of referral but providing written information to an individual experiencing domestic abuse can be unsafe if the perpetrator finds the information. Therefore, it would have been better practice for the MPS to make a referral to specialist services. It would have been helpful for the report to explain the referral pathways into specialist services available for the MPS and another services.
- The report requires a proofread for typos and grammar issues.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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