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11 May 2023

Dear Deborah,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Linda) for Bexley Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 29th March 2023. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt this review is sensitive, thorough and clear to read, with good learning identified. The words of the judge presiding over the criminal trial demonstrate how well-loved Linda was and the impact of her death on many people.

The equality and diversity section is well addressed and appropriately considers the nine protective characteristics, including age, sex, marriage, and disability. It also addressed issues from an ecological and intersectional perspective which was helpful. The inclusion of a specialist DA organisation and mental health organisation on the panel was welcomed.

The economic abuse that Linda experienced has been recognised and discussed. The inclusion of research to link to Linda's experiences and a resulting recommendation were appropriate.

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:

- Some identifiable information has been included such as David’s employer (1.12.3, 2.2.1, Recommendation 6; 7.1.8, Appendix 2). This should be replaced with industry type rather than the name of company. The CSP may wish to redact the name the GP practice as it could narrow down the area where the couple lived.
- The police actions are not populated in the action plan.
- The action plan appearing at Appendix 1 and 2 in the Overview report should be removed. These plan pages are either not fully completed or contain empty plan pages.
- There is a lack of recognition of the care and support needs of the perpetrator who had deteriorating mental health/anxiety and depression, especially in light of the victim having physical disabilities. There was no referral to Adult Social Care for a carers assessment.
- Information on the review and panel members should be in the main report rather than an appendix in the executive summary. The executive summary could also briefly expand on the ‘non-physical’ forms of abuse mentioned at 3.6 so that learning is clear for those who do not read the full overview report.
- Para 3.6 includes the phrase “She disclosed various forms of non-physical domestic abuse”. It would be useful if this was expanded to describe what these were for example, economic abuse (removal of bank cards, money and car keys) and controlling and coercive behaviour.
- The report would benefit from a thorough proofread prior to publication as there are typos within the report.

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