

Deborah Simpson
Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence
Strategy Manager & Commissioner
Community Safety Services
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27 November 2023

Dear Deborah,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report for 'Tracey' on behalf of Bexley Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 25th October 2023. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt that the review demonstrated good practice in engaging with Tracey's family and friends, particularly in engaging them to choose the pseudonym and the inclusion of their tributes in the DHR. The equality and diversity section in the review was well considered, with links to protective characteristics and intersectionality evidenced. The inclusion of Surviving Economic Abuse in the review was also a welcome addition. The DHR's approach in considering events after Tracey's death also enhanced the review and resulted in a fuller picture of learnings to prevent future deaths.

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, and at the request of the CSP, only the DHR recommendations may be published.

Areas for final development:

- The panel is particularly large with 38 members and includes some instances of multiple representatives from the same agency on the panel. A brief explanation of how panel membership was determined would be helpful.
- The Conclusions and Lessons to be Learned clearly reflect the findings of the review although further information about professional curiosity and enquiring about domestic abuse and responding appropriately when a disclosure is made should be included.
- The report is very lengthy, and in part, this is due to there being a lot of repetition. Events are set out in the Chronology are repeated in the Overview

section, some are referred to again in the Analysis section, and some are referenced again in the Conclusions section. The CSP may wish to consider whether some information can be further summarised.

- 1.5.5 identifies that substance misuse, mental health and physical disability are also pertinent to the lived experiences of the deceased, but no rationale is given. Also, this means mental health is repeated (as also in 1.5.3).
- There is no information provided in the report about how the decision to undertake a DHR was reached and by whom. This information is required as stated in the DHR Statutory Guidance.
- There are multiple abbreviations in the report making the review difficult to follow in places.
- 3.2.42 – a footnote explaining what the services of Victim Support Bobby Van, and London Fire Brigade offered would be informative.
- 3.2.86 – refers to ‘traumatic counselling’. This could be perceived as though the counselling itself is traumatic. The term normally used is ‘trauma counselling’.
- The Action Plan requires updating prior to publication. Some of the single agency section is incomplete, target dates have lapsed and, in some instances, no outcome is recorded.

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

