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Lee Norman
Manager Housing & Safer Communities
Place Services Directorate
St Helens Council
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5 April 2019

Dear Mr Norman,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report for St. Helens ('Mark') to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 27 February 2019.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final report. The Panel concluded that this is a good report which conveys compassion and respect. The Panel particularly commended the efforts made to engage family and friends in the review, which they noted included translating leaflets and the draft report into Polish and posting these to them and allowing them time to digest the contents and provide their feedback. The Panel also commended inviting the manager of the National Polish Domestic Violence Helpline to be on the review panel.

There were, however, some aspects of the report which the Panel felt may benefit from additional comment, further analysis, or be revised, which you will wish to consider:

- The Panel felt it may have been helpful to have engaged the accused in the review given there were allegations that she had been a victim of domestic abuse;
- Linked to the above, the review could have explored violent resistance and whether this was a feature in this particular relationship;
- There could have been more detailed analysis around child and adolescent mental health services and opportunities to support the son of the accused, given he was self harming;
- For transparency and to ensure independence, the report should reveal the police force the chair last worked in before retiring;

- The Panel suggested replacing 'alcoholic' with 'alcohol dependent' as this is a less pejorative term;
- The report requires proof reading as there are a number of typing errors and you may wish to remove the precise date of death to help enhance anonymity.

The Panel does not need to review another version of the report, but I would be grateful if you could email us at DHREnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk and provide us with the URL to the report when it is published.

The QA Panel felt it would be helpful to routinely sight Police and Crime Commissioners on DHRs in their local area. I am, accordingly, copying this letter to the PCC for information.

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Hickman
Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel