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11<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Samantha,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Sarah) for St Helens Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt this was a sensitive and well written review with a clear understanding of the timeline of events. The chair made significant efforts to engage Sarah's family and keep them updated even though they felt unable to contribute. It was positive to see the engagement of Sarah's employer and colleagues. The QA panel also felt the panel appropriately probed and provided clear evidence of discussion, and it was encouraging to see the discussion around the MeRIT tool.

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:**

- There were domestic abuse issues that Sarah reported to the police involving her older son, which was framed in the context of disruptive behaviour as opposed to within the context of domestic abuse.
- There was no public health/suicide prevention representative on panel, to provide the lens of domestic abuse and links to suicidality. The CSP might consider this for future reviews into deaths by (suspected) suicide.
- Sarah's voice could be embedded more by exploring the role of the victim's employer.

- Dates specified in 13.2.4 and 13.2.5 are unclear regarding the dates of the death of the partner and the allegation of assault within a 6-day period.
- It would be helpful to explain why We are With You submitted an Individual Management Review however a different substance misuse agency was included on the panel.
- The sex of the younger child is revealed throughout the review because of the pronoun used. The name selected is gender neutral, so 'they' could be used to protect anonymity.
- 14.6.30 inadvertently gives the date of death. Only the month and year is required.
- The single agency action plan would benefit from outcomes being included where completed.
- The action plan based on the panel recommendation has not been received and should be included.

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.

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](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,

Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel