

Violent Crime Unit
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Councillor Michael Hill OBE,
Kent County Council
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21 November 2013

Dear Councillor Hill,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report from Kent to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The review was considered at the QA Panel meeting in November.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final report. In terms of the assessment of DHR reports the QA Panel judges them as either adequate or inadequate. It is clear that a lot of effort has gone into producing this report, and I am pleased to tell you that it has been judged as adequate by the QA Panel.

The QA Panel would like to commend you on this well written report, which we felt reflected a Domestic Homicide Review that was open and very comprehensive. It also demonstrated a good understanding of domestic violence and a good level of professional curiosity. The author demonstrated a keenness to be forensic and thorough, and ensured the victim's experience resonated in the report.

There were some issues that the QA Panel felt might benefit from more detail and which you may wish to consider before you publish the final report:

- Please consider including some more text on the issue of parents not wanting to prosecute their own child (particularly in light of his mental health needs), and the impact of this as a possible barrier to them accessing services; and,
- Consider strengthening the outcomes in action plan by making them more specific and measurable and ensuring the recommendations section matches up with the actions in the Action Plan.

The QA Panel also notes there are a number of recommendations that are of national relevance, such as General Practitioners and their staff needing training in

domestic violence, and the ambulance service not collating data using names. This is something that the Home Office will explore with the Department of Health.

We do not need to see another version of the report, but I would ask you to include this letter as an appendix to the report when the lessons and actions from the Action Plan are disseminated.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Cooper, Chair of the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel
Head of the Violent Crime Unit

Cc. Ms Ann Barnes, Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent