

Cllr Clair Bell  
Kent County Council  
Sessions House  
County Hall  
Maidstone  
ME14 1XQ

10<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Clair,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Angela) for Kent 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 that this was a sensitive and well written report, which addressed issues in depth and sensitively discussed substance misuse and dependency and the lack of understanding in professionals and agencies had on this matter. The QA Panel would like to commend the author, the CSP and DHR panel as this report stands out as an example of good practice when considering a case where alcohol and substance misuse is involved.

There was positive engagement by the author with Angela's family, her sister and Angela's ex-partner. The family reviewed the terms of reference and the overview report and there is real evidence that the author kept the family involved throughout the process.

The recommendations have been carried through to a clear and detailed action plan which is updated with progress made and reasons identified for actions which have not completed.

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:**

- Paragraphs 14.61 to 14.73 combine to give away the date of death, technically compromising anonymity. Only the month and year is required.
- Reference to a finding from "*Fineman*", Para 11.4.2 needs a citation.

- Children’s social care did not make a referral to adult social care as part of the child protection plan. As Angela had care and support needs, this may have taken a more strengths based and holistic approach in safeguarding the family.
- There was a lack of a trauma-informed approach across agencies in engagement with Angela, and an understanding of her vulnerability, health matters and addictions.
- The acronym “FDS” is not explained.
- The following sentence requires a reference, “6,211 people in the UK killed themselves in 2020.”, Para 17.6.
- The following sentence requires a reference, “In July 2020, a Royal College of Psychiatrists report concluded the approach to suicide risk assessment...”, Para 17.6.
- One of the issues in this case is the volume of services Angela was dealing with and being contacted by and referred to. It may be useful to consider using a model for people experiencing multiple disadvantages like Angela to support them with and co-ordinate services and hold professional meetings to improve multi-agency communication.
- In paragraph 16.3.6 the statement, “They had quickly become infatuated with each other and that it seemed an addictive behaviour for Angela” could be rephrased. The review identifies that Anthony had a propensity to be coercive and controlling and behaved this way towards Angela. This sentence could therefore be seen to shift the blame to Angela as opposed to understanding the consequences of coercive and controlling behaviour, especially towards someone who was very vulnerable such as Angela.
- Paragraphs 6.15 and 16.18.5 refer to a rape allegation but this is not explained. Although this is discussed in detail later, introducing it here with no explanation feels quite disjointed when reading the review.
- Paragraph 6.18.1 refers to reported sexualised behaviour from Anthony. It is unclear what this means and should be explained.
- The equality and diversity section lists potential characteristics to consider but they are not explored in terms of barriers to services within the equality and diversity section itself.
- Page numbers throughout the executive summary would make reading the document easier.

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