



Cllr Michael Hill OBE,  
Kent County Council  
Sessions House  
County Hall  
Maidstone  
ME14 1XQ

26 January 2021

Dear Cllr Hill,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Ann) for Kent Community Safety Partnership to the Home Office. Due to the COVID-19 situation the Quality Assurance (QA) Panel was unable to meet as scheduled on 18<sup>th</sup> November therefore the report was assessed by a virtual process. For the virtual Panel, members provided their comments by email, the Home Office secretariat summarised the feedback and the Panel agreed the feedback.

The QA Panel felt that this was a clear, easy to read, and well written report that openly and critically examines the actions of each agency involved. The action plan is SMART and good progress appears to have been made. There is clear identification that lessons have been identified before and not acted upon and the recommendations are strong. There was good family contact overall and good use of research, including Jane Monckton Smith's. The Panel welcomed section 13.9 which showed the impact after Ann's murder, although outside the scope, raises very important points and learning about support after the fatal incident.

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:**

- Regarding MARAC, the report rightly critiques the DASH's failure to identify high risk of harm but does not consider that the referral should have been made regardless under potential escalation. This needs to be addressed and a recommendation included around learning this alternative referral pathway. For example, 12.39 both her and the child ring the police, they don't attend and only follow up when she rings the next day, this was still not pursued as stalking or referred to MARAC.
- The Community Rehabilitation Centre (CRC) does not come across well in this report, both in terms of what was left out of reports about the behaviour and the

criminal acts the perpetrator had committed with which then minimised wider understanding of the risk he posed, not just to his estranged wife but wider family members and the public at large. A stronger link here to the outcomes, and the cause and effect of this would strengthen the recommendations around police and procedure and how without curiosity and a clear understanding as to what is going on, reliance on risk assessments, reporting tools and other assessments can lead to a total mismanagement of threat and risk. The Panel would like to know how this learning will be disseminated with the National Probation Service/MOJ as this cannot be unique to this CRC – and help inform the reform of the whole process UK-wide.

- There is no representation on the panel from a specialist DA agency. Although the report states that a representative from a DA agency completed a document review. The report doesn't make it clear as to why they weren't invited to sit on the panel.
- It would be helpful to include the full names of participating agencies.
- It would be helpful to include the month of death on the front page.
- The capitalisation of domestic abuse occurs (incorrectly) throughout the report.
- Domestic Abuse Notifications (DANs) requires explaining in the executive summary.

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.

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,

**Lynne Abrams**

Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel