



Home Office

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21 December 2020

Dear Craig Hickin,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Angela) for Coventry CSP to the Home Office. Due to the Covid 19 situation the Quality Assurance (QA) Panel was unable to meet as scheduled on 21st October 2020, therefore the report was assessed by a virtual panel process. For the virtual panel, Panel members provided their comments by email, the Home Office secretariat summarised the feedback and the Panel agree the feedback.

The QA Panel felt that this was a good quality report with important learning and an appropriately ambitious and thorough action plan. The report has a good focus on equalities and uses appropriate research to explore issues around sex, gender, and relationships whilst also taking into consideration the significance of carer responsibilities.

There was good panel representation, including third sector domestic abuse and substance misuse specialists. There was a good level of family engagement with support from AAFDA and Hundred Families. Their input really places Angela at the heart from the start. They also contributed significantly to the Terms of Reference. It was felt that Angela's voice came through clearly and the Panel gained a picture of how the risks facing her were escalating. The voice of the family also comes through in the report and it feels as though the family's views are given equal weight.

There was some very useful learning about mental illness disguising as domestic abuse and subsequent actions relating to training and upskilling of mental health practitioners. Finally the chronology was very well written and not repetitive with agency analysis.

The QA Panel felt that following the PQAA process, the report feels up to date and has significantly improved but still requires some revision. Following the completion of these changes, the Home Office is content that the DHR may be published.

Areas of final development include:

- This report highlights a lack of recognition of risk assessment and risk management of familial violence. There was a useful single agency recommendation for CWPT Level 3 Domestic Abuse Training to be revised to ensure increased emphasis on familial abuse.
 - *Frontline staff to have an increased understanding of, and be able to recognise, familial domestic abuse and how it may present in the client groups served by CWPT. This should include consideration of abuse to, and by, relatives who have a caring role.*

This is an important recommendation and shouldn't be limited to the CWPT, but should be an overall recommendation in the report and rolled out across agencies in Coventry.

- No recommendations were made by or for the mental health trust. The report states:
 - *194 mental health trust had high levels of compliance with adult and child training which incorporated domestic abuse*

It would be better practice for the mental health trust to have stand alone domestic abuse training, including incorporating issues around familial abuse and carers.

- The report refers to death as opposed to murder. This case was ruled a murder so the report should reflect this in order to avoid any uncertainty for the reader.
- Para 16 refers to Victim Support – this should refer to Victim Support Homicide Service.
- Specific types of abuse would benefit from being named throughout the report as they arise e.g. economic abuse para 80 (possible coerced debt).
- To improve anonymity the date of death needs removing e.g. para 134
- Point 60 references DA from the perpetrator towards his new partner but in neural terms. It may be helpful to place emphasis on who was exhibiting abusive behaviours.
- Missed opportunities for police action are not sufficiently named / identified throughout report. There were repeated DA call outs but no statements taken and no DASH RIC's completed.
- The report could use a proof-read as there are typos at 94,112 & 120.

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 along the report.

Please send the digital copy and weblink to 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