

Richard Gibson
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11 September 2023

Dear Richard,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report ('Kelly') for Cheltenham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 25th July 2023. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel is grateful to the partnership for their review of what is clearly a challenging case. The QA Panel praised the drafting, presentation, and clarity of the report, and specifically noted, the sensitivity of the report and the inclusion of the pen portrait of Kelly from her father; the good use of academic research and evidence throughout; examples of best practice were identified, for example the role of a Single Point of Contact (SPOC); and the recognition of coercive control and financial abuse.

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:

- Within the confidentiality section in the main report, ethnicity details are missing for both Kelly and Mark.
- The action plan is not completed sufficiently, the RAG ratings were a specific concern and the actions focused on updating guidance, training and setting up task and finish groups, however, they do not have clear outcomes for measurement.
- While the report helpfully highlights the concerns relating to Mark convincing Kelly she had a brain tumour, it would have been helpful to explore why the GP did not share these concerns with agencies. Also, it would be helpful to

explore capacity here and an assessment would have been suitable as Kelly clearly had multiple complex needs and vulnerabilities.

- There was reference to £3,000 being taken from Kelly's account, it would have been helpful to explore any financial impact for Kelly, and also if this created financial reliance on Mark.
- Kelly missed many follow up appointments. Agencies need to think more creatively how to engage with hard to reach and complex health service users, to ensure that their health and wellbeing needs are being met holistically.
- Kelly experienced adverse childhood experiences including her parents separating, multiple moves during childhood, witnessing/experiencing domestic abuse and sexual abuse, the impact of trauma into adulthood could have been analysed more in depth.
- The report raised concerns that Mark was able to call Kelly from prison with a restraining order in place. This could have been explored more by highlighting the impact on Kelly and the continued coercive and controlling behaviour. We learn nothing about any perpetrator programmes available, and the national recommendation for the HMPS concerns policy around communications from prison, this could be extended to look at all aspects of policy concerning DA related offenders.
- The CSP should ensure that submissions are proof-read and that typos/formatting errors identified are addressed.
- The CSP should ensure that the Overview report and Executive Summary contain the layout and content required by the statutory guidance.

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. 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

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