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15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Emma,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Emma) for West Sussex Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt that it was a positive report that made a good attempt to understand the experiences of the victim. The report also benefitted from the family being included and actively contributing to the review process in selecting a pseudonym.

The report also helpfully highlights some of the good support services offered in West Sussex, such as the provision of young person's Independent Sexual Violence Advisors, who support victims/survivors of sexual abuse aged 13-18yrs, and the Changing Futures Programme. This illustrates how local systems and services can work together to support adults experiencing multiple disadvantages.

Nonetheless, the QA Panel felt that there were some aspects of the report which may benefit from further revision. The Home Office is content that on completion of these changes, the DHR may be published.

**Areas for final development:**

- Consideration needs to be given on how to improve the response to DA, either through training, further system developments by named GPs or support from an ICB designate team. This is borne out of Section 7.9 "Lack of routine enquiry by GP practices is a common thread in many DHRs and GP practices are independent businesses and therefore the ICB cannot enforce a GP practice to make a routine enquiry about domestic abuse".

- The equality and diversity section is very brief. Consideration should be given to expanding this.
- Emma had multiple vulnerabilities and was well known to statutory and third sector organisations. However, there was no joined up approach to support her care and the support needs of a young person transitioning.
- Some pertinent information, such as a visit to A&E in which facial injuries were sustained, requires specific details on the facts surrounding the visit. The report would benefit from including more information on what happened on that occasion.
- There is some wording that could be perceived as victim blaming and the CSP may wish to consider rewording as it appears to place responsibility on the victim not to be harmed:
  - 3.3.4 – ‘*..that if Emma continued to place herself at further risk a child protection investigation may have to take place.*’
  - 3.5.6 – ‘*Concerns were raised about Emma placing herself in vulnerable positions..*’
  - 4.2.4.4 – ‘*..there was no documented analysis of accumulating potentially risky behaviours..*’.
  - 5.17.3 – ‘*..she was involved in risky behaviours..*’ (again at 6.2)
- 3.8.4 – it would be helpful to explain what a MOGP1 (child to notice) is.
- The Action Plan is helpfully RAG rated but there are no completion dates and actual outcomes included. Many of the actions set out what has been done, rather than what will be done.
- The report is considered to currently contain a number of typos which will need to be rectified before it is published. Some reformatting is also required in places.
- The report does not state when the CSP received notification of the death, when the CSP decided that a DHR would be undertaken, or when the Home Office were notified of the intention to undertake a DHR. It would be helpful if this information could be included.

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