

Ade Solarin,
Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG) Strategy Coordinator,
London Borough of Lewisham,
23 Mercia Grove,
Lewisham,
SE13 6BJ.

21 May 2015

Dear Mr Solarin,

Thank you for resubmitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) overview report for Lewisham to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the April Panel meeting.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final overview report. In terms of the assessment of reports, the QA Panel judges them as either adequate or inadequate. It is clear that a lot of effort has gone into producing this report and I am pleased to tell you that it has been judged as adequate by the QA Panel.

The QA Panel would like to commend you on a well considered report. However, the Panel felt that the report might benefit from consideration of the following points prior to publication:

Overarching comments:

- The Panel wished to emphasise the importance of attempted strangulation as a significant risk factor of further violence and this should be demonstrated in the report (Ref Pg. 21, para 3.3.9).
- The Panel had concerns around whether the report had been sufficiently anonymised. Please ensure all identities are anonymised, particularly the details of the victim.
- Please clarify what attempts were made to engage with the friends of victim to invite them to participate in the Review.
- The Executive Summary would benefit from the inclusion of critical facts such as the cause of death and the ages of the victim and the perpetrator. Additionally, the Panel felt that the Executive Summary would benefit from including narrative around the previous strangulation attempt.
- In both the Overview Report and the Executive Summary there is no synopsis of the murder and nothing around the decision to conduct a DHR.

ToR:

- The key questions that form the basis of the review need to be included in the main body of the report (Ref: Pg. 48, Point 9, Appendix 1).
- The Terms of Reference should be specific, not generic and should include family engagement.

Action Plan:

- Please ensure that the Action Plan is up-to-date with progress reports on those actions whose deadlines have expired.
- Please provide an update of the action to use the MARAC flag so that officers are aware of cases that have been referred to MARAC.
- The Panel agreed that recommendation 12 around training for GPs is useful and should be considered for national learning for NHS England to discuss identifying domestic violence as part of their appraisals. The Home Office will flag this recommendation to Department of Health colleagues to explore them.
- Consider perusing previous DHR reports compiled by Standing Together to identify good practice in compiling a DHR report.

I would like to thank you once again for providing this report for consideration by the Home Office Domestic Homicide Review Quality Assurance Panel.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Papaleontiou, Chair of the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel
Head of the Interpersonal Violence Team, Public Protection Team