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Sam Monnox
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Domestic Homicide Review Team
Equalities, Community Safety and Cohesion
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15 February 2017

Dear Sam,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review report for Birmingham (2013/14-04) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 24 January 2017.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final report. The Panel concluded this was a good review which was clear and easy to follow. However, the Panel suggested that the report may benefit from drawing out more detail about the perpetrator's behaviour. In particular, there appears to be evidence of coercive and controlling behaviour and the Panel felt this has not been sufficiently analysed in the report or resulted in specific recommendations.

There were also some other aspects of the report which the Panel felt could benefit from further analysis or be revised which you will wish to consider:

- The Panel was concerned that some of the narrative used to describe the services accessed by the victim may need to be re-framed as it could be perceived to be victim-blaming;
- You may wish to consider including a recommendation for the police in terms of greater professional curiosity when attending a first incident;
- Similarly, a recommendation for GPs, health practitioners and the Ambulance Service may be appropriate given the findings;

- The Panel noted that the victim's dentist is mentioned in the report and queried whether an IMR had been commissioned. This may have helped explore opportunities for dentists to identify domestic abuse and make appropriate referrals;
- Although the report confirms that employers had support services in place, it does not explore whether practice remains effective and, in particular, whether the procedures are able to deal with the victim and perpetrator both working for the same organisation;
- The Panel felt it may be helpful if the review could examine what support was available in 2003 and 2004 when the domestic violence incidents first took place;
- A broader consideration of diversity issues may have been helpful;
- Similarly, exploration of the victim's housing status and whether there were opportunities to identify domestic abuse and make referrals could be beneficial;
- The executive summary is missing key information, such as review panel details, terms of reference, family involvement, etc.

The Panel does not need to review another version of the report, but I would be grateful if you could include our letter as an appendix to the report. I would be grateful if you could email us at DHREnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk and provide us with the URL to the report when it is published.

The QA Panel felt it would be helpful to routinely sight Police and Crime Commissioners on DHRs in their local area. I am, accordingly, copying this letter to your PCC for information.

Yours sincerely

Christian Papaleontiou
Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel