



Home Office

Public Protection Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: 020 7035 4848
www.gov.uk/homeoffice

Lisa Scott
Safer Communities & Partnership Manager
Central Bedfordshire Council Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands
Shefford
Bedfordshire
SG17 5TQ

21 April 2020

Dear Ms Scott

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Andrew) for Central Bedfordshire CSP to the Home Office. Due to the COVID-19 situation the Quality Assurance (QA) Panel was unable to meet as scheduled on 25 March 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 agreed the feedback.

The QA Panel found this to be a detailed and thorough report with good recommendations. They identified the panel methodology and composition as good practice and commended the efforts to engage family, friends and community. The Panel were particularly impressed by the DHR panel's engagement of specialist organisation, Respect, to provide the panel with advice on working with men. The Panel noted that the report addresses financial issues well and makes good use of research. The Panel thought that the report demonstrates good probing of agency responses and they recognised the use of the Pan Bedfordshire Learning Academy as an example of good practice. Overall the Panel thought that the report evidences a real effort to identify as much relevant learning as possible and is a good example of the learning that can be achieved when there has been little agency contact.

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 of final development include:

- You may wish to review paragraphs 2.2.6 and 2.2.7 as they appear to provide conflicting information about whether Andrew and Olivia were married.
- The date of death should be removed in Appendix 1 to improve anonymisation.
- It would be helpful for the Executive Summary to clarify that pseudonyms have been used for the names of family and a friend (as well as for the victim and perpetrator).
- It would be helpful to clarify what action was taken to determine whether the need for better engagement with the DHR process by prisons is a systemic issue across the prison estate. It would also be helpful to confirm whether the panel had sight of the national policy for prisons which outlines expectation for facilitating 'official' visits. The QA panel member representing HMPSS, however, agreed that there is room for improvement and will ensure that the guidance is updated in light of this recommendation.
- The Panel queried whether there could be more learning/recommendations around probing and professional curiosity for health in relation to the response by the hospital and GP to Andrew's 'blade injury' and the GP's prescription of anti-depressants for Olivia. For example, you may wish to include a recommendation around professional curiosity for GPs when prescribing anti-depressants.
- The Action Plan should be completed to show updates on progress against the actions.

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 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 Home Office believes it helpful to sight Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) on DHRs in their local area, and this letter will therefore be copied to your local PCC for information.

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

Linda Robinson

Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel

