

Hayley Bishop
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Public Health & Communities
Cumberland Council
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5th June 2024

Dear Hayley,

Thank you for resubmitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report ('Kelly') for Cumberland Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was reassessed in May 2024.

The QA Panel commended the review's engagement with Kelly's family and the condolences presented by the CSP in the report. The learning event during the DHR panel process that brought professionals together to share good practice, outcomes, and to contribute to analysis was positive.

The QA Panel noted that some of the issues raised in the previous feedback letter following the first submission have now been addressed.

The view of the Home Office is that the DHR may now be published.

There are some areas of the development that the QA panel would like you to note.

- The domestic abuse experienced is not fully explored or analysed, for example the coercive and controlling behaviour and the risks and barriers to accessing services.
- There was a lack of professional curiosity and challenge across all agencies involved in supporting Kelly and poor multi-agency working in relation to understanding the risk of domestic abuse and onward referrals to specialist services which should be noted.
- 4.1.8 has been amended to include local provision (no links provided to these, however). The final sentence of this revised paragraph is unclear and

requires a re-write (e.g., what 'victims?'). The revised 4.1.9 is also poorly worded and requires a re-write.

- 4.1.12 is also poorly worded (e.g., 'The Rape Crisis' – should this read 'The Rape Crisis report...').
- It is still very easy to determine the specific date of death from the report. E.g., 4.2.15 states the date that Kelly was admitted to hospital and that this was four days before her death. Same issue with 3.1.14 (e.g., 'fourteen days before her death') and again at 2.6.
- The Executive Summary has been re-written, but the headers are still not those required in Appendix 4 of the statutory guidance. There are no page numbers given in the contents page of the summary.
- 1.1.6 is poorly worded and requires a re-write along with 1.2.2.
- 1.1.9 refers to 'The following Individuals [sic.] and agencies contributed to the review..' but it is not clear whether these are individuals on the panel, agencies supplying IMRs, or both.
- 1.2.4 refers to 'twenty-one Key Lines of Enquiry', but these are not given here.
- 2.3 refers to Kelly's partner, but then states that this individual was her 'friend'.
- There is a 'rogue' para in 2.7 (Evidence of Domestic Abuse).
- There is no header relating to the Author...Instead there are 2 sentences in 1.1.10 and 1.1.11.
- There is no summary chronology header...Brief details are given in Sect. 2.7.
- The 'key issues' are not covered enough in depth. There are one or two sentences under each heading. There is nothing here about professional curiosity or coercive control. This section requires a thorough re-write.
- Under 4.2 there are 'recommendations for the panel'...Which panel? Should this be 'recommendations from the panel'?
- 4.4 (2) – which 'three boards'?
- There is no header 'lessons to be learned'.
- There is no revised action plan with the resubmission. Please ensure an up-to-date action plan is published alongside the report.

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,

Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel