Interpersonal Abuse Unit Tel: 020 7035 4848 2 Marsham Street **www.homeoffice.gov.uk**



London

SW1P 4DF



Public Health & Communities

Cumberland Council

West Cumbria House

Jubilee Road

Workington

CA14 4HB

1st May 2025

Dear

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Hannah) for

Cumberland Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 26th March 2025. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt this was a sensitive and well written report, demonstrating a strong understanding of domestic abuse, with important and balanced recommendations. The content is well structured and concisely written. The panel commended the reflections regarding missed opportunities and examples listed of the changes individual services were making. The condolences provided to

Hannah’s family, efforts to engage Hannah’s family and use of pseudonyms are examples of good practice. Although there was minimal input from Hannah’s family and friends, the input from Hannah’s work colleagues was positive and gave some sense of who Hannah was and the adversities she faced throughout her life.

There is good use of research in the analysis, learning is clearly identified and the lessons are relevant to the recommendations. There is good exploration of equality and diversity issues. The consideration of LGBTQ+ relationships and consultation with a specialist on abuse in the LGBTQ+ community was good. There are also good points made in relation to LGBTQ+ victims of domestic abuse, and associated learning to be shared more widely.

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 for final development:**

* The preface states that the family will be offered the opportunity to provide a personal statement about Hannah prior to publication, but this should have been done before the report came to the QA Panel. If they have declined (2.2.1 seems to indicate this is the case), then this should be removed.

* The action plan needed to have been fully implemented and evidence of this documented, and it could have been more outcome focused.

* There was poor record keeping across some agencies, police and health/GP practice which should be noted.

* There were missed opportunities for police to make referrals to adult social care in relation to mental health assessments for Hannah.

* There was no public health/suicide prevention panel representative, although the chair did seek consultation from them outside of the panel.

* There is no indication in the report of whether any of the ex-partners or Adult K (final partner) had been asked to contribute.

* Pseudonyms for the perpetrator are sometimes confusing. The panel were unsure whether ‘ex-partner 3’ and ‘Adult K’ were different or the same people.

* The following learning points did not appear to be represented in any recommendations – o *“Practitioners should pay particular attention to the suicide risk in cases where the co-occurring conditions are present.”.,* Para 6.3.5. o *“Practitioners need to be enquiring about both suicide and domestic abuse when they suspect someone has issues with alcohol use.”,* Para 6.3.8.

* The title page does not include the date when the review was completed.

* The contents are not listed according to the guidelines.

* Some panel member roles are missing at 2.4.2.

* The report requires a thorough proofread for typos.

* The acronym SAF at 8.2.1 should be explained.

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