

24th February 2026

****Redacted Information****

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Helen) for Cumberland Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Board. The report was considered at the QA Board meeting on 14th January 2026. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Please find the QA Board's feedback in the form below. On completion of the changes suggested the DHR may be published.

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 and the feedback form 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 Board letter and feedback form 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 Board, 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 Board

	DHR SECTION	DHR QA BOARD FEEDBACK (improvements required before publication)
1	Title Page	No amendments required.
2	Contents Page	No amendments required.
3	Pen Portrait	No amendments required.
4	Condolences	It would be helpful if the condolences were placed earlier in the report.

5	Confidentiality and Anonymity	No amendments required.
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DHR QA Board Feedback for the Community Safety Partnership

TITLE OF DHR	Helen
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP	Cumberland
DATE REVIEWED BY QA BOARD	14 th January 2026
DECISION	Publish with amendments (noting comments on publication below)
GOOD PRACTICE COMMENDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a well-informed review that is easy to read and follow. • The confidential paper provided is very helpful. • There was excellent, sensitively handled engagement with the family, which enabled Helen's daughters to participate fully in the review process. • Family members and colleagues provided valuable insights, offering a fuller understanding of Helen as a person and enriching the review. • The analysis section is thorough and clearly organised, with distinct thematic areas and focused scrutiny supported by well-framed questions and responses. • The equality and diversity section is addressed well and considered.
FEEDBACK FOR FUTURE DHRs	

6	Terms of Reference	No amendments required.
7	Equality and Diversity	No amendments required.
8	Background Information	No amendments required.
9	Combined Chronology	No amendments required.

10	Overview	No amendments required.
11	Analysis	No amendments required.
12	Conclusions	No amendments required.
13	Lessons learnt and recommendations	Please consider making a recommendation to the CSP to hold a 'lessons learnt' event, highlighting the trajectory of this very sad case. Helen had been in a relationship with Colin for only 10 months before he killed her. The timeline closely follows the 8-stage homicide timeline developed by Professor Monckton-Smith, which would be an excellent resource to support multi-agency learning and awareness.
14	Timescales	No amendments required.
15	Involvement of family / friends / community	No amendments required.
16	DHR contributors	No amendments required.
17	DHR Panel	No amendments required.
18	DHR Author	No amendments required.
19	Parallel Reviews	No amendments required.
20	Dissemination	No amendments required.
21	Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions are stated, but outcomes are somewhat vague. For example:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Private sector awareness seminar planned for June 2025”. Please clarify what this covered and the intended impact. ○ “Partnership Action Plan to be developed”. Please include specific aims or target outcomes. • For all actions please clarify what will success look like, how will it be measured and by when.
22	<p>Has there been a request to withhold publication?</p> <p><i>If Yes, include the reason for the request. Is it proportionate and appropriate?</i></p>	<p>No request to withhold publication. The Chair has however provided a confidential addendum with details contained therein on matters that he has chosen not to include in the review to prevent distress to the family of Helen. The QA Board are content with this.</p>
23	Any other comments	