



Mark Fitzgerald
Domestic Homicide Review Officer
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14 July 2021

Dear Mark,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (John) for Leicester Community Safety Partnership to the Home Office. I apologise for the delay in responding to you. Due to the COVID-19 situation the Quality Assurance (QA) Panel was unable to meet as scheduled 26th May therefore the report was assessed by a virtual process. For the virtual Panel, members provided their comments by email, the Home Office secretariat summarised the feedback and the Panel agreed the feedback.

The QA Panel felt the report was clear and easy to read with good use of footnotes and references throughout. The author has taken on board the feedback from the Pre Quality Assurance process and has effectively incorporated it into the subsequent version of the report. Most notably, there was further discussion of financial abuse and male victims of domestic abuse addressed in the report. The report appropriately explored these areas and came to reasonable conclusions as a result of the information available.

There were good efforts made to engage different members of the family, including extended family, as well as ensuring they were informed about the advocacy support available. It was nice to see the pen portrait at the beginning of the report which humanises the victim and brings him to life as a person. It is really positive to see checks were made directly with the National Homicide Service to determine if the family were known and that the family received leaflets of other specialist support services. It was good practice that the author's reference how the DHR action plan would be monitored by the Safer Leicester Partnership DHR sub group and Community Safety Team. It was also positive to see that a specialist domestic abuse provider was included on the panel.

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:

- There is no information on who chose the pseudonyms for John and the other members of the family.
- To improve anonymity, the exact date of death should be amended to show only the month and year.
- It would be useful to have an explanation of who STAR is at 14.1.21.
- Panel membership – it may have been beneficial to have a debt advice specialist service on the panel such as Citizens Advice Bureau. It would also have benefitted from having an organisation such as AgeUK on the panel to look at economic vulnerabilities and support. If these organisations were contacted but unable to participate, this should be stated.
- The report states that “there were no clear indicators of domestic abuse” however there are many elements that read as economic abuse and these significantly get overlooked or are not recognised at any point in the DHR. For example access to accounts, money, mobile phone, was all in one person’s name. Reference to findings about John’s access to funds at short notice and how this links to DA may be a good reference point for this case.
- The action plan falls short and is not sufficiently outcome focused.. The action plan should go beyond not missing opportunities and be more proactive in ensuring the wellbeing of people in situations similar to John. The neglect that John experienced is so evident that it is hard to understand why the panel has not focussed on this in the action plan.
- Although the equalities section does mention disability, sex and age, there was no reference to ethnicity or marriage. It would have been useful to mention these, even if it was decided they weren’t relevant.
- A thorough proofread is needed to amend the many typos within 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.

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,

Lynne Abrams

Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel

