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Domestic Abuse & VAWG Lead
Place Directorate
North Somerset Council
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5th July 2023

Dear Hannah,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (DHR 5) for North Somerset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 31st May 2023. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt that the report was well presented, professional and easy to follow, featuring a sensitive preface which sets the opening of the overview report. The involvement of the victim's wife and specialist Polish services and a specialist domestic abuse provider on the panel to help with cultural understanding in the report were commended. The Panel felt the report produces a lot of learning.

The Panel commended the section which links learning and recommendations as a clear way of displaying the information given there were many recommendations in this report. The Panel also noted that the Chair was independent, and the pseudonyms were chosen by the family, with condolences offered to the family of the victim which is good practice

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:

- Analysis
 - There is a small section in this review that intimates that the perpetrator was frustrated by the fact that he was separated from his girlfriend and resented his parents' decision to move as a result. 'His mother described that by coming to England he had felt isolated and resentful that the relationship had to continue 'long distance'. He used to say to his parents "Why did you do this to me?". Although there is significant

evidence around mental health and schizophrenia having a very clear role in this review, it would be a good place to discuss some of the challenges in here of migration, displacement and the risk of negative harm on children.

- It would be useful to see a bit more discussion about the importance of the family being able to talk in their first language. The report is focused on the understanding of services but could also have looked at whether they would have felt safer, more comfortable to talk openly, more able to explain what was happening to them if they had more opportunity to speak in their first language.
 - Record keeping was identified as an issue within Mental Health Trust, this was particularly relevant in relation to the multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) referral not being submitted. This could be explored further.
- Equality and Diversity
 - There is a statement at 10.9 that even though they did not know many services, Piotr and his wife were not afraid of them. This seems a little definite and would benefit from including the evidence that supports that assertion here, particularly as some in the Polish community do fear the police etc. based on their experiences in Poland or immigration concerns.
 - The discussion would benefit from including 'age' as Piotr was killed by his son. This would enable the introduction of some of the literature about adolescent to parent violence.
- Action Plan, Learning and Recommendations
 - There are a lot of recommendations in the review, so it is important that they are all SMART so that they are achievable, and improvements do follow. All recommendations should be outcome focused and include review dates.
- Language, Formatting and Typos
 - There is some missing information. The pseudonym of the victim and the month of this death need to be included on the report's front page.
 - The report needs updating to provide some clarity around whether the mental health review was needed for this review, in which case it should be conducted, becoming a joint DHR and mental health review.
 - The report needs proof reading as there are several typos, and some repeated words.

- On page 36 the paragraphing is incorrect. There is nothing written next to 14.5.7 and the paragraph before is 7.1.1 so seems to be incorrectly labelled.
- The wording in 5.1 needs changing as it refers to Piotr's wife and girlfriend. It should be wife and his son's girlfriend.

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,

Lynne Abrams

Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel