

Tony Kenyon
Community Safety Services,
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Bolton
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27 February 2015

Dear Mr Kenyon,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review overview report for Bolton to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final overview report. In terms of the assessment of reports the QA Panel judges them as either adequate or inadequate. It is clear that a lot of effort has gone into producing this report and I am pleased to tell you that it has been judged by the QA Panel as adequate. The QA panel has some feedback in terms of areas of the report that they believed were completed well and some suggestions for improvement.

The aspects of the report that were judged to have been done well were:

- The analysis section and lessons learned were well considered;
- The report had an open and honest feel and considered a good selection of sources for information, and;
- A good level of engagement with the family of the victim appears to have taken place.

There were some issues that the Panel felt might benefit from more detail and/or analysis, and which you may wish to consider before you publish the final report:

- You may wish to explore whether more could have been done to share information around the risk that that perpetrator posed;
- You may wish to consider the language around the risk assessment of the perpetrator, as the family of the victim viewed the risk assessment as a 'mistake' rather than as 'unfortunate' (page 24 of the report);
- You may wish to consider the inclusion of a broader narrative in the chronology, as it was felt that the details were mainly focussed on the criminal justice aspects;

- The QA Panel suggests that it may be helpful to have an explanation of the abbreviations and acronyms used in the report;
- The QA Panel suggests that it would be helpful to include some wording in the report to describe the independence of the chair;
- The report does not mention anything about the ethnicity of the perpetrator or victim, and the Equality and Diversity section of the report does not address this. The QA Panel asks that this information is included in the final report;
- The key milestones section of the Action Plan was missing and the QA Panel ask that consideration be given to using the recommended template for the action plan, or adding this column;
- It was noted that the Overview Report does not follow the suggested structure as set out in the Statutory Guidance and as a result some information is missing such as the statement about the independence of the chair and the dissemination list etc, and;
- The front page of the action plan states “During the review extensive consultation was carried with the family via their advocates, CAADA.” The QA Panel questioned whether this should be “...their advocates AAFDA”- see para 6.8 page 12.

The Panel does not need to see another version of the report, but I would be grateful if you could include our letter as an appendix to the report.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Papaleontiou, Acting Chair of the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel
Head of the Interpersonal Violence Team, Public Protection Unit