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Scott J Bentley
Domestic Violence Coordinator
South Tyneside Council
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Boldon Lane
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15 February 2017

Dear Mr Bentley,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review report for South Tyneside to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 24 January 2017.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final report. The Panel concluded this was a good review which has been enhanced by the use of information provided by family and friends which helps to see the victim's perspective. The Panel also commended the sensitive expression of condolences.

There were, however, some other aspects of the report which the Panel felt could benefit from further analysis or be revised which you will wish to consider:

- The Panel was concerned that the chair of this review may not be considered sufficiently independent given she is a senior official for the Clinical Commissioning Group for the area in which the homicide occurred. The Panel suggested you may wish to invite an official not connected to the area to review the report ahead of publication;
- The Panel noted that, although family and friends were interviewed, most of the information about the relationship appears to be from the perpetrator's perspective. A more balanced narrative of the relationship may have been achieved by including the victim's mother's own views of her daughter's relationship with the perpetrator;

- It would be helpful if the review captured more explicitly the dynamics of coercive and controlling behaviour by the perpetrator and his father (who had influence over the family) which is alluded to in the report;
- It was suggested that the child behavioural issues could have been explored in more detail;
- There is no information in the report about the victim's housing status and exploration around whether policies and processes remain effective in terms of identifying and referring suspected domestic abuse and any recommendations that may flow from this;
- Please review whether you intended to include the perpetrator alongside others in the tributes section in the introduction;
- The Panel found the structure of the report does not adhere to the format suggested in the statutory guidance and this made it difficult to follow.

The Panel does not need to review another version of the report, but I would be grateful if you could include our letter as an appendix to the report. I would be grateful if you could email us at DHREnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk and provide us with the URL to the report when it is published.

The QA Panel felt it would be helpful to routinely sight Police and Crime Commissioners on DHRs in their local area. I am, accordingly, copying this letter to your PCC for information.

Yours sincerely

Christian Papaleontiou
Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel