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Siân Jenkins
Partnership Officer
Bournemouth Borough Council
Room 106
Town Hall
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8 February 2019

Dear Ms Jenkins,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report for Bournemouth (DHR10) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 12 December 2018. I apologise for the delay in providing the Panel's feedback.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final report. The Panel concluded that this is a good, thorough report in which there has been good family involvement and effective use made of research to highlight the impact of child sexual abuse.

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

- You may wish to review some of the narrative around barriers to seeking help which could be perceived as victim blaming. For example, the assertion that the victim gravitated towards relationships with older males. The Panel felt this conclusion appears to disregard the fact that the victim could have been groomed by older men;
- Paragraph 6.54 concludes that the victim's unwillingness to engage with services limited her opportunities, but there is no discussion around services being unable to find a way to engage with the victim;
- Linked to the above, the Panel noted the point being made in paragraph 6.55 but felt the focus should be on barriers the victim faced in accessing services rather than agency and practitioner barriers;

- Paragraph 4.53 describes a MARAC meeting which had taken place following a referral but there is no analysis of the escalation criteria and what safety plan was developed following the meeting;
- Given the findings, the Panel felt a recommendation for children's services to ensure that children in care receive the appropriate therapy for the adverse experiences in their lives to mitigate future risks to their wellbeing in adulthood could be considered;
- There is no examination of equality and diversity which was especially relevant given factors such as substance misuse, age, sex, vulnerability, sexual exploitation and child in care;
- You will wish to review the relevance of one of the terms of reference which asks whether the incident was a 'one-off';
- The use of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme as outlined in the terms of reference has not been addressed in the review;
- The Panel felt it may be helpful to make the executive summary shorter and more concise;
- The precise date of death could be removed to further enhance anonymity.

The Panel does not need to review another version of the report, but I would be grateful if you could email us at DHREnquiries@homeoffice.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 the PCC for information.

Yours sincerely

Hannah Buckley
Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel