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15 March 2023

Dear Lindsey,

Thank you for resubmitting the report (Sammy) for North Tyneside Community Safety Partnership to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was reassessed in February 2023.

The QA Panel felt that the overview report is sensitive, insightful, and respectful to the victim. It was good to see the author paid condolences to Sammy's family and formally apologised to the family for the delay in completing the DHR. There was good involvement of Sammy's family and in particular his brother who provided a very moving and emotional insight into his brother Sammy's life, including the childhood abuse he suffered whilst a child in care and the impact this trauma and abuse had on Sammy's life into adulthood.

The report includes useful research from David Mandel about how perpetrator's manipulate systems and professionals. The report then goes to make an important recommendation about designing training for professionals around this area. There is also a very good recommendation following learning from the report that partners must have policies and procedures in place for the management and promotion of safe environments to enable disclosures of abuse. The Home Office noted that most of the issues raised in the previous feedback letter following the first submission have now been addressed.

As you have had legal advice that requires you to not publish the full DHR, we support your intention to produce a learning document and publish that instead. Please do also consider publishing the action plan.

There are some areas of development listed below which the QA Panel would like the CSP to note.

- The original pseudonym is still used throughout the Executive Summary.
- The date of death is still discernible from 1.1.1 and from the Executive Summary front sheet.

- Within the report, there were multiple categories of abuse identified - domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour, physical, sexual, emotional and sexual abuse, as well as financial in the context of 'mate crime' however, this has not been addressed in any depth, especially looking at how Sammy and the others were 'groomed'. Drawing on research could have helped to deepen the understanding of these issues.
- 1.6.1 does not clarify if the family were offered specialist advocacy services. Given that in Eddie's foreword he talks about how he has had no help, that Victim Support did not get back to him and that therapy he was offered had to take place in a police station, it appears not, and this is incredibly disappointing.
- There is a good recommendation around raising safeguarding alerts and refresher adult safeguarding training for professionals. Though it is recommended that domestic abuse awareness training is encompassed within this, it would be more effective for domestic abuse awareness training to be carried out separately and in addition to adult safeguarding training.
- There are still several typos remaining which need to be amended.

We would be grateful if you could provide us with a finalised digital copy of the report with attachments 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](mailto:DHREnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk). This is for our own records for future analysis to go towards highlighting best practice and to inform public policy.

Please also send a digital copy to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner [DHR@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk](mailto: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