

Gwynedd and Anglesey
Community Safety Partnership
Council Offices
Caernarfon, LL55 1SH

27 November 2023

Dear ,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report 'Joan' for Gwynedd Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 25th October 2023. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt that the pen portrait and condolences at the beginning of the report were positive and there was clearly involvement of the family throughout the DHR. The report was well written, analytical, and compassionate, with good consideration for equality and diversity issues.

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, and at the request of the CSP that only the Executive Summary is to be published. The QA Panel also agree that the panel members names do not need to be published.

Areas for final development:

- The report would have benefited from a representative from an agency supporting Deaf victims and survivors of domestic abuse.
- Clare's Law was not mentioned as a potential safeguarding option and missed opportunity.
- There was no public health or suicide prevention representation on the panel.
- Paragraph 3.3.15 noted that the police did not progress the Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) due to the bail conditions; a DVPN can be issued when bail has been imposed as long as there are no conditions attached or the conditions imposed are not duplicated.

- Paragraph 3.3.54: the term victimless is incorrect as there is a victim and therefore should be considered for evidence led prosecution.
- Joan was a child when she met Matthew, and this could have been explored more.
- Paragraph 3.3.66 where Joan was advised if she resumed the relationship this would have implications in terms of concerns about the children, this is victim blaming as Joan had been acting proactively reporting incidents, so should be rephrased.
- The technology-facilitated abuse Joan was experiencing could be explored more within the report.
- There were two places where the author has included real initials of people which need to be removed, 5.3.22 initials of alleged perpetrator and 5.3.46 the initials of Grandmother 'Hazel'.
- The recommendations for the school should have picked up on the fact that the school was aware of the domestic abuse, and the bail conditions Matthew had. Therefore the role of schools in recognising and responding to risk and how perpetrators use children and schools to continue to abuse could have been explored more.

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,

Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel