



LB/ED DHR&SCR (Home Office Ref: TRO8624/18)

23 February 2021

Sent via email - DHREnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk

Dear Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel

We write to you regarding the submission of a DHR for Gloucestershire following final sign off by the Gloucester City Community Safety Partnership in conjunction with Safer Gloucestershire.

This review was commissioned in 2018 following the murders of a Mother and Daughter in the Gloucester District of our county. The review has been chaired by Nicole Jacobs, who was at the time of commissioning the review, the CEO of Standing Together, and now of course the designate domestic abuse commissioner for England and Wales.

The family have requested that the real names are included in this review, and we hope that the QA panel will honour this request when they consider the report.

This review has taken longer than the stated 6 months within the statutory guidance, however, Safer Gloucestershire has assured itself that this was necessary in order for the review to fully consider the input of the family, which has been outstanding. Safer Gloucestershire would like to take the time to thank the family for their courage and contribution to the review which truly provided the panel with an insight in to the lives of the victims. This was essential in enabling the learning from this review to reflect on important changes that we can make that will hopefully prevent this type of tragic incident from happening again in our county.

The review was unfortunately delayed also by changes in report author staff at Standing Together, which has been apologised for in the main report. The family have however raised an issue which unfortunately caused a significant amount of upset and trauma during the course of review. It was not felt appropriate to include this in the main report, but we have agreed with the family that we will include this incident in this letter to ensure the QA panel are aware.

During the course of the review, an email was sent from the report author, on her last day of working for Standing Together, outlining concerns that following a panel meeting in December 2019, the family went on to breach confidentiality by discussing the details of the report with the school. This email was sent without the knowledge of the chair, or

the key CSP members, and without prior discussion, and understandably caused the family a great deal of upset after having already experienced meeting the review panel in the days prior.

Following this incident, the CSP determined that no breach of confidentiality had been made and an apology was issued on behalf of the CSP alongside our County DASV Strategic Coordinator visiting the family in person to provide reassurance that the family had done nothing wrong. The chair of review also made contact with the family to discuss and apologise on behalf of Standing Together.

The family however did not receive a direct apology from the report author; something which has continued to cause trauma and upset to them; and something which we felt was important for the QA panel to be aware of and consider.

The family have received fantastic support from their advocate from AAFDA, and we have locally also made a commitment to the family for ongoing engagement to be had to ensure their inclusion in sharing the learning locally and awareness of actions being taken. Our County DASV Strategic Coordinator will maintain this contact with the family, and we welcome their ongoing input.

Many thanks for your consideration of this report and the above information. We will await the feedback from the QA Panel prior to publication as per the statutory guidance. We will however continue to make progress with the action plan whilst the final report is being considered.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Brierley', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Chris Brierley
Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner