

██████████
Domestic Abuse Incidents Review Coordinator
Domestic Abuse Team
Oldbury
B69 9EN

21 September 2022

Dear ██████████,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Jeera and Amrinder) for Sandwell Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 27th July. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt the report is considered and probing, with the voice of the female victim heard throughout the report due to positive interaction and involvement with her daughter. The issues which may have contributed to this sad case and the way in which the victim may have felt 'blamed' have been clearly identified and explored and the thoughts and perspectives of the victim's daughter throughout the report has added value and substance to the report and the findings. The terms of reference were well thought through, and the chronology is in depth and flows well, giving a comprehensive overview of events.

The report thoroughly analyses and appropriately challenges agencies' responses and victim blaming language targeted towards Jeera in relation to her parenting of Gurnam. The report highlights and challenges statements such as 'failing to protect Deepika' and 'mum needs to regain control over Gurnam', these victim blaming statements have been highlighted throughout the report and addressed and the report identifies these placed an additional barrier to Jeera accessing support. Recommendations throughout the report highlight these concerns and they are effectively addressed with actions for training for services.

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, the DHR may be published.

Areas for final development:

- There is very little information in the section on parallel processes (1.8) - given the professional practice and multiple missed opportunities in respect of mental health services, it would be useful to understand if there was a specific mental health review.
- Page 5, 1.2, 2: When describing Amrinder, it merely states he was the stepfather of Deepika (the victim's daughter) however it would be helpful to also clarify his relationship to the perpetrator (he was also stepfather to the offender) as this is of relevance.
- There is not much evidence of research included in the report relating to Adverse Childhood Experiences, Trauma Informed Care or Child to Adult abuse or Child to Child abuse. It would be useful for this to be included.
- The panel did not include a relevant cultural specialist. It would be useful to understand the rationale for this.
- It would be useful to understand more about whether there was an attempt to engage with the Gurdwara, both in respect of this specific case and more widely.
- There is no explanation regarding any attempts to resolve the issue of Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service not responding to the Chair. This should be addressed.
- It should be clarified if the family were offered specialist support.
- The action plan:
 - The plan as it stands needs updating as it is detailed but focuses on inputs, guidance updates and training.
 - Given how serious this whole system failure was, the action plan does not set out the expected outcomes of how safety will improve for victims in the future or milestones.
 - It should include how the issue of cultural competence across agencies and professionals will be addressed.
 - The review highlights conscious/unconscious bias on the part of some professionals who engaged with Jeera and the prevalence of victim blaming. It is unclear what in the action plan is designed to address this specific issue.
- The report uses the term death as opposed to murder.
- Section 1.8: should clarify that this is a Homicide Case Worker from Victim Support Homicide Service so as not to be mistaken with a Victim Support non-specialist advocate.
- All acronyms should be presented in full at the first use to avoid confusion to the reader and maintain consistency.

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.

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,

Lynne Abrams

Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel