

Samantha Murray
St Helens Borough Council
Town Hall, Victoria Square
St Helens, Merseyside,
WA10 1HP

14th May 2026

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Carol) for St Helen's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Board. The report was considered at the QA Board meeting on 25th March 2026. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Please find the QA Board's feedback in the form below. On completion of the changes suggested the DHR may be published.

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 and the feedback form 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 Board letter and feedback form 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 Board, 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 Board

	DHR SECTION	DHR QA BOARD FEEDBACK (improvements required before publication)
	Title Page	The name Carol does not need to be in inverted commas because the pseudonym is explained within the report. Please amend accordingly. Amended
1	Contents Page	No amendments required.

2	Pen Portrait	A pen portrait is not included due to the dis-engagement of Carol's family. Please consider developing one based on what was learned about Carol during the review. This is not required in the 2016 Statutory guidance. This comment is as a result of the HO taking into use early a feedback template designed for the new DARDR template contained in as yet unpublished 'new' statutory guidance.
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DHR QA Board Feedback for the Community Safety Partnership

TITLE OF DHR	Carol
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP	St Helens
DATE REVIEWED BY QA BOARD	25 March 2026
DECISION	Publish with amendments
GOOD PRACTICE COMMENDED	• It is good practice that the Chair provided additional support to the panel on the completion of IMRs. • It is good practice to see reference to previous DHRs in the area within the analysis. • Sincere condolences are provided to family and friends of Carol by the Chair and CSP at the commencement of the report. • There is good consideration of protected characteristics and intersectionality in the equality and diversity section. • The terms of reference are detailed and specific.
FEEDBACK FOR FUTURE DHRs	• The Chair provided training to IMR authors to assist in the completion of the written reports. This should be continued in future reviews undertaken where needed/appropriate. • On occasion there is reference to 'domestic abuse between'. Please could this be addressed so that the reader is clear about who is doing what to who and the abuser is held accountable.

3	Condolences	No amendments required.
4	Confidentiality and Anonymity	No amendments required.

5	Terms of Reference	No amendments required.
6	Equality and Diversity	Please give examples of all of the relevant protected characteristics; pregnancy/maternity and sex are currently missing. Carol's sex is stated in the review and in this section. I do not intend to comment on pregnancy/maternity in relation to a 62 year old lady.
7	Background Information	No amendments required.
8	Combined Chronology	No amendments required.
9	Overview	No amendments required.
10	Analysis	- The analysis identifies that there is no evidence of John coercively controlling Carol, but that his disclosure of previously perpetrating domestic abuse, Carol's disclosure to the police of a previous attempt by John to strangle her and the concerns John shared about one day just 'snapping' due to the abuse he reported from Carol meant he posed a risk to her. In keeping with the learning presented and recommendation two around the importance of identifying the primary perpetrator, it would aid the analysis if the panel had sought to consider different scenarios of mutual abuse, violent resistance etc. This is particularly important in relation to male victims as the death of Carol demonstrates. Please consider including further information on this. New paragraphs 14.2.7 and 14.2.8 - The analysis correctly focuses on support for Carol around substance misuse. However, her drinking does not appear to have been considered as a possible coping strategy. Please consider including further information on this area. New paragraphs 14.5.13, 14.5.14 - Please amend the text at 14.12.3 to reflect the style of the report as it currently reads as if it has been directly lifted from the IMR with references to 'we'. Appropriate amendments made
11	Conclusions	No amendments required.
12	Lessons learnt and recommendations	No amendments required.

13	Timescales	No amendments required.
14	Involvement of family / friends / community	No amendments required.
16	DHR contributors	No amendments required.
17	DHR Panel	No amendments required.
18	DHR Author	No amendments required.
19	Parallel Reviews	No amendments required.
20	Dissemination	No amendments required.
21	Action Plan	No amendments required but please could the report state who will oversee implementation, given some similar themes have previously been identified. This is included as a footnote at 17 – page 70 – but needs completion with the name of group or agency tasked with oversight
22	Has there been a request to withhold publication? If Yes, include the reason for the request. Is it proportionate and appropriate?	No requests to withhold publication.
23	Any other comments	Whilst it is appreciated that there is 'little other information with which to provide context around Carol's unlawful death' (as stated at 1.6) please could the judge's sentencing remark describing her as a 'pathetic drunk' be

		removed. The report author correctly identifies that John's narrative was victim blaming. Inclusion of this remark does a disservice to Carol in death and must have been very difficult for the family of Carol to hear. Comment redacted
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