



Cindy BUTTS,
Deputy Chair,
Metropolitan Police Authority,
10, Dean Farrar Street,
LONDON,
SW1 0NY

**Kingston Upon Thames
Borough Commander**

5-7 High Street,
Kingston Upon Thames,
SURREY
KT1 1LB

www.met.police.uk

Your ref: 08017MW002

Our ref:

7 February 2008

Many thanks for your letter of the 8th January. I have passed on the comments and positive feedback to those involved.

In relation to the outstanding issues I am able to provide the following responses: -

- **Domestic murder review.** Having read and discussed the domestic violence review I can confirm that in relation to the management of the case in question there were no specific recommendations. I am satisfied that this is appropriate for this case from a domestic violence perspective and would not seek to identify recommendations for the sake of it. However, the case itself is an example of a far bigger lesson that we all continue to learn and are now beginning to focus on and tailor our activities towards. The case in question was essentially a family living chaotic lifestyles and who having received substantial support and treatment as adults were inconsistent in their engagement with service providers. The actual lessons are ones that partners now focus on primarily through the Children's Trust Board and the implementation of the Every Child Matters agenda. I say this as the history of those involved in this tragedy indicates that the lack of mainstream services many years ago in relation to the management of risk and preventative work in relation to vulnerable families may well have been a factor in the deterioration of the family unit. As a member of the Children's Trust Board the case actually serves as a reminder, if any were needed, as to why early intervention and the expansion of local services to support entire families and not just those who present themselves is the main area where partners look to improve their services.
- **Arrest figures.** I have clarified the data and interpretation of same, as on the face of it they did not provide clarity. The "incident" figure is a count of the number of *crimes, non-crimes and crime related incidents* flagged as DV, i.e. crimes and incidents where no criminal offences such as assault was committed. The "offence" figure is a count of detected and undetected CRIS (crime recording) records confirmed and with a DV flag, i.e. *crimes only*. The distinction is relevant in relation to arrest rates, as powers of arrest only exist for crimes so the percentage of arrests for incidents will always be lower. By way of example, Kingston has had 551 DV offences year to date. We have an arrest rate for offences of 74%. Our incident arrest

rate is only 39% because the sum is done as a percentage of a far greater number of incidents not just recorded crimes.

- **Supervision of 124D's.** A supervision template on the CRIS is now in place. First line supervisors are required to check the 124D and the initial investigation on CRIS. Any unsupervised reports are raised and addressed at the Borough's Daily Management Meeting. There is still a need for continuous improvement in this area and an additional supervisor per emergency response team is shortly to be introduced. Part of our review of the detection rate highlighted this as a contributing factor in failure and since the templates introduction the detection rate has increased by 3%.
- **Raising awareness in LGBT Communities.** An LGBT representative is an active member of the DV partnership forum. There are 3rd party reporting sites in a sexual health clinic and local nightclub. The DV One-Stop Shop advertises to LGBT Communities and as we discussed at the forum in relation to B.M.E. victims, the proportion of victims presenting at the One-Stop Shop from LGBT relationships is higher than through any other access point. In addition the DV information credit card includes information on LGBT support organisations. Several initiatives have taken place to raise awareness, e.g. Kingston University Freshers fare. I recognise however that awareness and building trust and confidence in police and other agencies is a constant and ongoing piece of work and applies equally here to other potentially vulnerable communities such as the Korean community.
- **DV Awareness in schools.** The DV Children's Sub-Group has produced lesson plans for use in schools on the borough for use in Personal, Social and Health Education lessons. The cluster groups of schools have received training on how to use these lessons plans and representatives from the cluster groups have also been able to access DV awareness training, which they can cascade to their staff. All teaching staff are able to access the three tiers of DV training which is currently being rolled out across the borough. At this time, it is down to individual schools to decide if they want to use the training materials that are provided and access the DV training. The sub-group would like to see some corporacy and common standards across the borough. It would be my intention to work towards this corporacy through the Children's Trust Board and in practice through developments that are taking place to deliver all services through the 4 Neighbourhoods structure of which the Heads of all schools are an integral part.
- **Safer Neighbourhood Teams.** The good practice identified was passed through Commander Sawyer to all Boroughs and the Central Safer Neighbourhoods Team. Since this time several Boroughs have made contact with Kingston to obtain further information on how we link Safer Neighbourhood teams into the support and investigation of Hate Crime.

I hope this provides you with clarity and confidence that Kingston Borough continues to be committed to the issue of domestic violence and along with partners and stakeholders seeks to deliver excellent services to all involved.

Laura Nicholson

Borough Commander Kingston Upon Thames

Cc Commander Sawyer