

Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership

**DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**REVIEW REPORT INTO THE DEATH OF**

**Sally**

**Date of Death  
February 2012**

**Report produced by:**

**Brian Boxall**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

# DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1 THE REVIEW PROCESS

- 1.1 This summary outlines the process undertaken by Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership in reviewing the murder of Sally.
- 1.2 In February 2012, Sally, a 17 year old girl from Chelmsford, failed to attend College. She had travelled to Barkingside to the flat of Farid, a 19 year old male with whom she had been having a relationship for a number of months. Whilst there Farid attacked her with a hammer and strangled her inflicting fatal injuries. He was subsequently arrested, charged and, in June 2012, convicted of her murder.
- 1.3 Farid had entered the country illegally in December 2008. He was assessed to be under the age of 18 and he became a looked after child under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989. Essex Social Care had responsibility for him and he was placed in foster care.
- 1.4 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). This provision came into force on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

The purpose of a DHR is to:

- Establish what lessons are to be learnt from the domestic homicide regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims
- Identify clearly what those lessons are both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result
- Apply these lessons to service responses including changes to policies and procedures as appropriate, and
- Prevent domestic violence homicide and improve service responses for all domestic violence victims and their children through improved intra and inter-agency working.

These reviews are not inquiries into how the victim died, or into who is culpable; that is a matter for coroners and criminal courts, respectively, to determine as appropriate.

- 1.5 In September 2012 the Coalition Government announced a revised definition of domestic violence, which came into force from the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. It states that:

### ***Domestic violence***

*Domestic violence is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:*

- *psychological*
- *physical*
- *sexual*
- *financial*
- *emotional*

### **Controlling behaviour**

*Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.*

### **Coercive behaviour**

*Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.*

This DHR has considered the implications of this definition.

- 1.6 The case was referred to the Essex Safeguarding Children Board to consider whether or not Sally's death should be subject to a Child Serious Case Review as defined within 'Working Together 2010.' The Serious Case Review Panel agreed that it did not fit the criteria and recommended that Essex County Council Children's Social Care undertake an Internal Management Review instead.
- 1.7 In May 2012, the case was reviewed by Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership to consider if it should be subject to a DHR. It was agreed that it should not be subject of a DHR and the Home Office were informed of the decision. Following a review by the Home Office Quality Panel, the Community Safety Partnership was informed on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012 that a DHR should be undertaken.
- 1.8 The process began with an initial meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012 of all agencies that potentially had contact with Sally and Farid, prior to the point of death. As a result Individual Management Reviews (IMRs) were requested from the following agencies:
  - UK Border Agency (UKBA)
  - Essex County Council Children's Social Care (CSC)
  - North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT)
  - Havering Further & Higher Education College (the College)

IMRs were not requested from either Essex or the Metropolitan Police as neither had significant contact with the victim or perpetrator prior to Sally's death. IMRs from the school and college attended by Sally were considered but it was agreed that given the information they held a full IMR was not required. The author spoke with leads from both establishments.

- 1.9 Terms of reference for the DHR set out in detail the areas required to be addressed within the Individual Management Reviews (IMRs). The category headings were:
  - Agency Context
  - Policy and Procedure
  - Information Recording and Sharing
  - Victims /Perpetrators
  - Supervision
  - Assessment
  - Training/Awareness
  - Action Plans
  - Good Practice

- Ethnic, Cultural, Linguistic Issues
- Lessons Learnt

- 1.10 The period of time that was agreed should be subject to review was December 2008 to February 2012. This covered the period from Farid's arrival in the country up to the time of the fatal incident.
- 1.11 Significant change in agency practice, identified in the IMRs, has commenced or been completed prior to the completion of the overview report.
- 1.12 It is recognised that Sally's family have had to come to terms with the loss of Sally and condolences go out to them. Sally's mother was informed of the DHR and agreed to be interviewed as part of the process. The author would like to thank her for her involvement at a very difficult time. Her input has been invaluable.

## **2 AGENCY INVOLVMENT**

- 2.1 All the agencies identified as having had significant involvement with either Sally or Farid produced an Individual Management Review (IMR) and a chronology of contact. These were combined into a comprehensive multi agency chronology. The accounts of involvement cover different periods of time and some had more significance than others.
- 2.2 The chronologies identified that agencies involved with Farid as a young unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC) and looked after child (LAC) had no knowledge of or contact with Sally.
- 2.3 Neither the Essex or the Metropolitan Police had any involvement with Sally prior to her death and were only involved with Farid during his initial detention in December 2008 and following the fatal attack on Sally in February 2012.

### **Placement with foster carers: December 2008 to July 2010**

- 2.4 Farid was accommodated under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 and was under the care of Essex County Council Children's Social Care. He was placed with foster carers and allocated a place at a local college. The foster carers were very experienced and provided Farid with very good support considering all his needs, including his cultural needs.
- 2.5 In January 2010, a Needs Level Document and Life Skills Assessment was presented to the Essex Access to Resources Panel. The panel agreed to continue funding his foster placement until July 2010. This was on the basis that he was not considered ready for independent living. Farid's foster carers and his college teacher both felt he was not ready for independent living supported this conclusion.

### **Funded Semi Independent living: July 2010 to July 2011**

- 2.6 In July 2010, he moved to a one bedroom flat in Romford. This was funded semi-independent living with 14 to 20 hours per week floating support provided by the Supported Living Housing Provider. He was 17 years and 4 months at that time.
- 2.7 Farid was expelled from college in February 2011 following a sexual assault on a female student. She was over the age of 18 years and did not wish the incident to be investigated by police.

- 2.8 In February 2011 following his expulsion Farid stated that he wanted to kill himself. He was referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). It was considered that a referral to Adult Mental Health services was not required. There was no evidence that he ever tried to physically harm himself.

#### **No recourse to public funding accommodation: July 2011 to February 2012**

- 2.9 Farid's appeal rights were exhausted in June 2011 and he no longer had legal status in the UK. This meant that he had 'No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)' and therefore could not gain employment. In July 2011, he was placed in shared accommodation for individuals with NRPF. This was in Barkingside- the neighbouring London Borough.

### **3 LESSONS LEARNT**

- 3.1 This DHR has reviewed the relationship between two young people, Sally, who was 17 years of age at the time of her death, and Farid a failed asylum seeker under the care of the Local Authority as a LAC since December 2008. Whilst Farid made a number of references to having a girlfriend to various professionals, her identity remained unknown to the agencies supporting him.
- 3.2 There was no known history of police involvement, or other agency involvement with them as a couple, so the traditional information available in many abusive relationships such as previous incidents, assaults, increased violence etc. was not present in this case. A new definition of domestic violence was introduced in September 2012, post Sally's death. This DHR has identified issues that need to be considered by agencies in light of the new definition.

#### **Information Sharing**

- 3.3 Farid was a LAC with the added complexity of being a UASC. Essex County Council Children's Social Care had no reliable background information to assist with assessments; including his age, which was subject to a number of changes in the early stages. Nonetheless, it was always accepted by the UKBA that he was under the age of 18 years.
- 3.4 Farid became frustrated with the asylum process and often took his frustrations out on the social workers and the perceived lack of support. The use of an advocate to support and advise him specifically about the asylum process may have assisted the social care team as it would have allowed them to focus exclusively on his care.
- 3.5 The Children's Social Care's role was not assisted by the UKBA, who failed to supply the CSC with on-going information in respect of the asylum process in their role as his 'corporate parent'. Any correspondence was sent direct to Farid and his solicitor, who incidentally had stopped representing him very early on in the process.

There was also a lack of information being passed back to the UKBA from the CSC including, Farid's change in behaviour, his expulsion from college following a sexual assault and his various changes in accommodation. The setting of a clear contact management strategy between the two agencies would have assisted communication and understanding of what was happening by both parties as Farid moved through the process.

## **Risk Assessment**

- 3.6 Farid's move to independent living was the point at which his behaviour deteriorated. This was evident within the College. He started to drink and spend beyond his limited means. Where he was obtaining this additional money does not appear to have been questioned.
- 3.7 Farid exhibited behaviours including anger and a threat to self-harm. He also demonstrated unacceptable attitudes towards females and was eventually excluded from College for a sexual assault. This was not, at the request of the victim who was 18 years of age, passed to the police for investigation. Farid's social worker attended the disciplinary hearing at the college, so he was fully aware of the circumstances. However, the serious nature of the incident is not evidenced and reflected in future planning or assessments. It appears to have been minimised, and it is unclear why.
- 3.8 Soon after his expulsion, Farid was referred to CAMHS following threats to harm himself. During one of his sessions he indicated that he was going to '*teach his girlfriend a lesson*' as she wanted to finish with him. This information was passed to the CSC but neither the CSC nor the CAMHS fully assessed the implications of the threat in conjunction to his known behaviour towards women and specifically the sexual assault.
- 3.9 This was the one potential opportunity to have identified a possible future risk to women and specifically to his girlfriend Sally. No risk was identified, as the links and potential danger were not understood or recognised. There is no evidence to indicate that Farid's references to a girlfriend were explored with him to establish who she was.
- 3.10 His expulsion from the College was a pivotal point as it removed his support structure and his routine. His actions were minimised by CSC at the time and in future assessments. Concerns about him self-harming only arose after his expulsion, and there is no evidence that he had ever attempted to self-harm, rather he appears to have only threatened it.

## **Domestic Abuse and Young People**

- 3.11 In respect of Sally, it is known that her father died unexpectedly in March 2010. This was traumatic event in Sally's life but she had to be strong to support her mother, who was greatly affected by the death. Around that time she is said to have commenced the online friendship with Farid. She was vulnerable so likely to be attracted to attention/support and the emotional links with Farid when he informed her about his father being killed.
- 3.12 They eventually met up and the relationship became physical. This was thought to be her first real relationship. It appears that Farid's behaviour was controlling, jealous and when Sally tried to end the relationship he made her feel guilty. He hacked into her Facebook account, attempted to turn her friends against her and ran up a bill of £1000 by accessing Sally's mobile account.
- 3.13 Despite this, there is no evidence that she displayed any signs at school or later at College that would indicate that the relationship was affecting her studies, attendance or behaviour. Initially her mother was aware that it was taking place and expressed disapproval. She tried to get it stopped in February 2011 and she thought that in the summer of 2011 the relationship had ended. However, Sally sought to keep the relationship secret.
- 3.14 Her best friend was aware of the on-going relationship and was concerned about Farid's behaviour towards Sally. She was aware that she had gone to meet him on the day of her death, but Sally declined offers for her to go with her.

- 3.15 Friends mentioned that this sort of one-sided relationship is not unusual amongst young people, especially in first serious relationships. They disclosed that whilst the College and school deal with issues such as drugs and sexual health, there is currently little information as to what a good relationship is like or who students can speak to about concerns they may have about a relationship, other than to teachers or parents.
- 3.16 This relationship may have involved abuse and with the new definition of domestic abuse now in place educational establishments should review how they are going to inform their young students about domestic abuse, and sexual exploitation.
- 3.17 The new definition will challenge agencies' current training and views in respect of domestic abuse as young persons' relationships pose different challenges.

### **The Role of Schools and Colleges**

- 3.18 It was acknowledged that raising awareness in respect of relationships and domestic abuse and links to sexual exploitation within the College was limited. Individual issues such as drugs were covered, but the links between relationships, sexual exploitation and domestic violence were not at that time. It has subsequently been fed back to the panel that Sally's College is reviewing their current approach in light of the feedback from this review.

Sally's friends expressed a desire for such awareness-raising within the college environment supported by some form of confidential service that they could consult with about their concerns. Her best friend disclosed that she had been in a relationship that was potentially controlling, which she ended as a direct result of what happened to Sally. This comment was very thought provoking and evidenced the current lack of awareness.

### **Sexual Exploitation**

- 3.19 Sally, who was 16 years when the sexual relationship commenced, was in a situation that was potentially abusive due to Farid's controlling behaviour, jealousy, etc. Therefore, sexual exploitation was a possibility and cannot be ignored. However, the author totally accepts the view of some of the panel that sexual exploitation had not been clearly evidenced in this case and that there may be elements of exploitation in many young people's initial sexual relationships. Sexual exploitation must be explored when training and making young people aware of abusive relationships.

## **4 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 This review has identified a number of issues that agencies need to consider when dealing with young unaccompanied asylum seekers. It has also identified the level awareness that has to be achieved by professionals when implementing the new definition of domestic violence.
- 4.2 Although there were a number of opportunities for professionals to identify that Farid and Sally were in a relationship, they were reliant on a number of other factors, such as Farid informing the agencies who his girlfriend was and for Sally to have wanted to have engaged if she had been approached. The evidence would suggest that this was unlikely to have happened, so it is hard to conclude that any action taken would have prevented the tragic outcome.

## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The overview sets out two levels of recommendations:

- 1) Recommendations for multi-agency partnership groups.
- 2) Recommendations for individual agencies not captured within the agency IMR.

### **1) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MULTI-AGENCY PARTNERSHIP GROUPS**

#### **Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership**

Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership to share the report with a number of relevant organisations and to monitor the implementation of the recommendations allocated to:

- a) Essex Safeguarding Children Board
- b) Essex Domestic Abuse Board
- c) London Safeguarding Children Board

#### **(a) Essex Safeguarding Children Board to:**

- 1) Review how awareness of the new definition of Domestic Violence is being introduced into statutory and voluntary agencies and provide an update to the Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership within six months of receipt of the report.
- 2) Ensure that local Schools and Colleges consider the findings of this DHR and review how they currently advise/support young people about domestic abuse within relationships. This should include the role of friends and the issue of breaking a confidence when risk is known. Provide an update to the Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership after six months of receipt of the report.

#### **(b) Essex Domestic Abuse Board to:**

- 1) Review current domestic abuse training in light of the new definition and ensure that it now includes reference to sexual exploitation and provide an update to the Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership on progress within six months of receipt of the report.

#### **(c) London Safeguarding Children Board to:**

- 1) Share the report with relevant partners and confirm to the Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership that the lessons learnt have been disseminated as appropriate within three months of receipt of the report.

#### **Essex County Council Children's Social Care**

To have in place a clear contact strategy between ECC Children's Social Care and the UKBA for each young UASC to ensure that information between the two agencies is shared, as the UASC travels through the asylum process.



## **UK Border Agency**

To have in place a clear contact strategy between UKBA and ECC Children's Social Care for each young UASC to ensure that information between the two agencies is shared, as the UASC travels through the asylum process.

## **2) INDIVIDUAL AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Below are listed the recommendations and outcomes taken from the agency IMR.

### **Havering College of Further and Higher Education**

Police to be notified when a student is expelled due to assault regardless of whether or not Social Services are involved. To ensure that the incident is logged by the police in case of future incidents.

### **UK Border Agency**

1. The UK Border Agency should make immediate efforts to re-document failed asylum seekers in an effort to facilitate the removal. This will result in the timely removal of immigration applicants from the UK, and will evidently reduce any risk of eventual domestic violence.
2. Other statutory agencies, whether responsible for the victims or perpetrators, should routinely and immediately contact the UK Border Agency to share information and intelligence. This will allow the UK Border Agency to focus on cases where there is a need for immediate or swift intervention in relation to immigration matters; whether to assist the victim or to deal appropriately with the perpetrator. This should also apply to information sharing to other agencies by the UK Border Agency.

### **North East London Foundation Trust**

1. Completion of the review of the NELFT policies and procedures on domestic violence.
2. Domestic Abuse Training to be included in the core training skills programme for all clinical staff.
3. Havering CAMHS staff to attend DA training.
4. Implement a system to identify/flag all LAC with an open referral on the CAMHS case load.
5. To raise awareness of CAMHS staff in relation to requirements for escalation and management in the event of increased risk factors.
6. Health LAC team to receive notification of all LAC children placed in borough from Essex County Council within 5 working days of placement change.

## Essex County Council Children's Social Care

1. There is a need for interagency agency working and information sharing to be improved. Where there are formal meetings, minutes and documentation should be provided in a secure way to ensure this information is received.
2. There are gaps in communication between the UKBA and CSC. Consideration needs to be given to regular liaison and updates between the UKBA and CSC.
3. There is a need for interagency agency working and information sharing to be improved. Where there are formal meetings, minutes and documentation should be provided in a secure way to ensure this information is received.
4. Consideration to be given to DASH training being made available to all practitioners but essentially to those involved in the initial assessment and intervention process and those working with young people.
5. Consideration needs to be given to additional training and workshops for practitioners working with this user group to assist them in their assessment of need, including where therapeutic interventions are required.
6. Consideration needs to be given to additional training and workshops for practitioners working with this user group to assist them in their assessment of need, including where therapeutic interventions are required.
7. Consideration needs to be given to the formulation of policy and procedure in relation to domestic violence amongst and between young people.
8. Given the level of involvement and work undertaken with UASC in CSC, consideration needs to be given to the availability of legal support and guidance to the L&ACT working with UASC and young people.
9. UASC and young people do not often have any one to advocate for them, consideration should be given to UASC being provided with an advocate.
10. The Assessment of Need and Pathway Plan is currently devised with the young person by the Personal Advisor and reviewed every six months. More consideration could be given to this being a joint meeting with all professionals involved in the young person's life and chaired by an independent person equal to the Statutory Childcare Reviews undertaken when a LAC.
11. Given the uncertainty around the immigration status of UASC and young people, they should not be provided with a stand-alone independent living accommodation. Consideration should be given to placement within supported Living, Supported Accommodation with Sharing Housing being considered the least favourable and last option.
12. There needs to be a balance of UASC and young people remaining in Essex and having their cultural, diversity needs met. Where possible efforts should be made to provide placements in Essex as this will ensure there is more accessibility and greater contact to the provision of service provided by Essex County Council.
13. More focus and attention should be given to the view of foster carers when considering a move onto semi-independent/independent living

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

CSC	Children's Social Care at Essex County Council
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
EDT	Emergency Duty Team
GP	General Practitioner
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
IMR	Individual Management Review
LAC	Looked After Child
L&ACT	Leaving & After Care Team
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
NELFT	North East London Foundation Trust
NRPF	No Recourse to Public Funds
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child
UKBA	UK Border Agency

# Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership

## **DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW**

**INTO THE DEATH OF**

**Sally**

**Date of Death February 2012**

### **Appendix 2**

### **Agency Action Plans**

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION What are we going to do?	BY WHOM Who is going to do it?	OUTCOME What so we intended to achieve?	MONITORING What has been achieved	BY WHEN What further action is needed?	PROGRESS (Red Amber Green)
<b>NORTH EAST LONDON FOUNDATION TRUST (NELFT)</b>						
1a. Completion of the review of the NELFT policies and procedures on domestic violence.	Review the NELFT policies and procedures on domestic violence.	Domestic Abuse Lead NELFT	Staff will be better trained and effective in identifying actual and potential domestic abuse in order to manage risks.	Review of policies and procedures is currently in progress.  Policies and procedures have been reviewed.	01/04/2013	Green
1b. Domestic Abuse Training to be included in the core training skills programme for all clinical staff.	Review the organisational training matrix to ensure Domestic Abuse Training is part of the core training skills programme for all clinical staff.	Nurse Consultant Safeguarding / Domestic Abuse Lead NELFT	Increased awareness amongst clinical staff in relation to recognition of domestic abuse and actions required.	Audit of domestic abuse referrals	30/09/2013	Amber
2a. Havering CAMHS staff to attend DA training.	Arrange dates for DA training. Havering CAMHS team managers to ensure that 100% of staff attend the training.	Domestic Abuse Lead NELFT CAMHS Service Director	100% CAMHS staff attendance at DA training within 6 months.	Attendance data	31/08/2013	Amber

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>ACTION What are we going to do?</b>	<b>BY WHOM Who is going to do it?</b>	<b>OUTCOME What so we intended to achieve?</b>	<b>MONITORING What has been achieved</b>	<b>BY WHEN What further action is needed?</b>	<b>PROGRESS (Red Amber Green)</b>
2b. Implement a system to identify/flag all LAC with an open referral on the CAMHS case load.	CAMHS staff to create a flag for all LAC on their caseload.	CAMHS Service Manager	CAMHS staff are aware of the LAC on their caseload.	Audit	30/04/2013	Amber
2c. To raise awareness of CAMHS staff in relation to requirements for escalation and management in the event of increased risk factors.	Review the Mental Health Service policy in relation to clients risk to self and others.	CAMHS Service Director	CAMHS staff follow the policy guidance in relation to escalation of risk when additional risk factors become known to them.	Re launch of policy and team meeting minutes.  Attendance at dissemination of learning events.	30/04/2013	Policy reviewed and signed off by Executive Management Team – Jan 2013
3. Health LAC team to receive notification of all LAC children placed in borough from Chelmsford within 5 working days of placement change.	To work with the Essex County Council to develop an agreed pathway to ensure timely notification of placement change.	Designated Nurse Chelmsford	Haverling health staff are aware of all Essex County Council LAC from out of area placed in borough.	Agreed protocol	30/09/2013	Amber

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION What are we going to do?	BY WHOM Who is going to do it?	OUTCOME What so we intended to achieve?	MONITORING What has been achieved	BY WHEN What further action is needed?	PROGRESS (Red Amber Green)
<b>Havering College of Further and Higher Education</b>						
Consideration should be given as to whether or not the police should be notified when a student is expelled due to committing sexual assault regardless of whether or not Social Services are involved or the victim is an adult.	Add to Safeguarding Policy and include in staff training.	Lead Safeguarding Officer	Ensure that the incident is logged by the police in case of future incidents.	Through fortnightly Line Management supervision and termly Governors meetings	Alter the Safeguarding Police by August 2012	Green
Review existing safeguarding tutorials and methods used to advise young people about domestic abuse within relationships.	Introduce an updates safeguarding programme for young people. Invite appropriate agencies into the college.	Head of Student Services	Ensure that young people are fully aware of issues surrounding domestic abuse and strategies to minimise risk	Evaluation and logs kept for each activity	Introduced an updated programme in September 2013	Green

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION What are we going to do?	BY WHOM Who is going to do it?	OUTCOME What so we intended to achieve?	MONITORING What has been achieved	BY WHEN What further action is needed?	PROGRESS (Red Amber Green)
<b>UK Visas &amp; Immigration (formerly UK Border Agency)</b>						
<p>The UK Border Agency should make immediate efforts to re-document failed asylum seekers in an effort to facilitate the removal. This will result in the timely removal of immigration applicants from the UK, and will evidently reduce any risk of eventual domestic violence.</p>	<p>A new asylum operating model is being implemented by the Home Office. As part of this the re documentation process is now integrated into the claim registration process and will be completed by the time refused applicants have exhausted all appeal rights.</p>	<p>The National Intake Unit and non-detained casework teams within the Asylum Casework Directorate of UK Visas and Immigration.</p>	<p>All refused asylum cases will be re- documented by the time they reach the appeal rights exhausted (ARE) stage. This will help to expedite voluntary returns and enforced removals.</p>	<p>The new re-documentation process is up and running within the Asylum Casework Directorate.</p>	<p>The effectiveness of the new operating model and its focus on earlier re documentation is reviewed on a monthly basis through regular performance monitoring by senior management. The AOM also includes embedded continuous improvement champions who will look at the effectiveness of new processes (like early re-documentation).</p>	<p><b>Green</b></p>



RECOMMENDATION	ACTION What are we going to do?	BY WHOM Who is going to do it?	OUTCOME What so we intended to achieve?	MONITORING What has been achieved	BY WHEN What further action is needed?	PROGRESS (Red Amber Green)
<p>Other statutory agencies, whether responsible for the victims or perpetrators, should routinely and immediately contact the UK Border Agency to share information and intelligence. This will allow the UK Border Agency to focus on cases where there is a need for immediate or swift intervention in relation to immigration matters; whether to assist the victim or to deal appropriately with the perpetrator. This should also apply to information sharing to other agencies by the UK Border Agency.</p>	<p>Current operational guidance which is to be adhered to by all ACD non-detained case-working units states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Up to six months before the expiry of DL social services are contacted to inform them of the next steps (letter explains that individuals need to apply for further leave before their current leave expires or make arrangements to leave the UK).</li> <li>b) A letter is sent to the applicant and social services when all appeal rights have been exhausted to explain about termination of support</li> </ul> <p>Further an instruction has been issued to all ACD non-</p>	<p>All ACD case workers who deal with UASC cases.</p>	<p>This consistent approach to communications with social services across the country will help to ensure that all statutory agencies dealing with children and minors who are subject to immigration control have a full picture of their immigration status.</p>	<p>The effectiveness of the case management instruction will be reviewed on a monthly basis at the regular meeting of ACD non-detained casework leads.</p>	<p>ACD non-detained casework leads will seek feedback from social services contacts in their areas after 6 months in order to help assess the effectiveness of the UASC case management instruction.</p>	<p>Amber</p>

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	<p>detained case-working units (who deal with UASC cases) to promote the following best practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Any decisions on the application are copied to the named social worker to keep them informed</li> <li>b) Social services are contacted to check addresses and any welfare issues before forwarding any files to enforcement.</li> </ul>					

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<b>Essex County Council Children's Social Care (CSC)</b>						
<p>There is a need for interagency agency working and information sharing to be improved. Where there are formal meetings, minutes and documentation should be provided in a secure way to ensure this information is received.</p> <p>There are gaps in communication between the UKBA and CSC. Consideration needs to be given to regular liaison and updates between the UKBA and CSC.</p>	<p>To have a discussion between the UKBA and Children Social Care and where possible to include the London Safeguarding Children Board.</p>	<p>At Chief Executive/ Senior Manager level.</p>	<p>To achieve a uniformed method of assessment and regular liaison and updates between agencies.</p>	<p>Need to have agreement whether this is possible</p> <p>Introduce guidance to reflect expectations</p> <p>Introduce monitoring processes.</p>	<p>Review in 3 months</p>	<p>Red</p>

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION What are we going to do?	BY WHOM Who is going to do it?	OUTCOME What so we intended to achieve?	MONITORING What has been achieved	BY WHEN What further action is needed?	PROGRESS (Red Amber Green)
<p>There is a need for interagency agency working and information sharing to be improved. Where there are formal meetings, minutes and documentation should be provided in a secure way to ensure this information is received.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to DASH training being made available to all practitioners but essentially to those involved in the initial assessment and intervention process and those working with young people.</p> <p>Consideration needs to be given to additional training and workshops for practitioners working with this user group to</p>	<p>To include specific training issues identified with in the DHR into current training programme.</p>	<p>LSCB Training Sub-Committee</p>	<p>Increased knowledge and awareness of issues pertaining to UASC and young people.</p>	<p>To ensure further specialist training as offered to workers from multi-agency organisations.</p>	<p>Review in 6 months</p>	<p>Red</p>

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION What are we going to do?	BY WHOM Who is going to do it?	OUTCOME What so we intended to achieve?	MONITORING What has been achieved	BY WHEN What further action is needed?	PROGRESS (Red Amber Green)
assist them in their assessment of need, including where therapeutic interventions are required.						
Consideration needs to be given to the formulation of policy and procedure in relation to domestic violence amongst and between young people.	To formulate policies and procedures regarding domestic abuse between and amongst young people compatible with the domestic abuse development within Essex County Council.	Domestic Abuse Strategic Group (Joint between Police and Social Care)	Increase practitioner's knowledge and awareness of domestic abuse amongst young people and processes and procedures in place to assist assessments.	Emphasis the issues of domestic abuse as they impact on 16-18 year olds.	Review in 3 months	Red
Given the level of involvement and work undertaken with UASC in CSC, consideration needs to be given to the availability of legal support and guidance to the L&ACT working with UASC and young people.  UASC and young	To discuss the provision of Legal Advice and advocacy support to UASC.	Social Care (Children in Care and Leaving & Aftercare Team) and Legal Department	Accessibility of Legal support and advocacy to UASC.	To consider what services can be implemented in relation to legal advice, advocacy and independent visitors.	Review in 3 months	Red

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION What are we going to do?	BY WHOM Who is going to do it?	OUTCOME What so we intended to achieve?	MONITORING What has been achieved	BY WHEN What further action is needed?	PROGRESS (Red Amber Green)
people do not often have any one to advocate for them, consideration should be given to UASC being provided with an advocate.						
The Assessment of Need and Pathway Plan is currently devised with the young person by the Personal Advisor and reviewed every six months. More consideration could be given to this being a joint meeting with all professionals involved in the young person's life and chaired by an independent person equal to the Statutory Childcare Reviews undertaken when a LAC.	To further explore the independent reviewing of statutory reviews and Pathway Plans.	Social Care (L&ACT and the Independent Reviewing Service)	Independent monitoring and reviewing of the Pathway Plan to ensure appropriate planning is achieved.  Age assessments of UASC to be regularly at statutory reviews.	Service Manager and Independent Reviewing Officer Managers to consider.	Review in 3 months	Amber

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION What are we going to do?	BY WHOM Who is going to do it?	OUTCOME What so we intended to achieve?	MONITORING What has been achieved	BY WHEN What further action is needed?	PROGRESS (Red Amber Green)
<p>Given the uncertainty around the immigration status of UASC and young people, they should not be provided with a stand-alone independent living accommodation. Consideration should be given to placement within supported Living, Supported Accommodation with Sharing Housing being considered the least favourable and last option.</p> <p>There needs to be a balance of UASC and young people remaining in Essex and having their cultural, diversity needs met. Where possible efforts should be made to provide placements in</p>	<p>Further consideration and discussion with the Access to Resources, Commissioning and Fostering Teams regarding placements for UASC.</p>	<p>Commissioning Service</p>	<p>Wider placement choice and availability of support within placement.</p>	<p>UASC with unresolved immigration status will no longer be provided with stand alone independent living accommodation.</p> <p>Consideration will firstly be given to Supported Living, Supported Accommodation and Shared Housing being the last considered option.</p>	<p>Review in 3 months</p>	<p>Amber</p>

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION What are we going to do?	BY WHOM Who is going to do it?	OUTCOME What so we intended to achieve?	MONITORING What has been achieved	BY WHEN What further action is needed?	PROGRESS (Red Amber Green)
<p>Essex as this will ensure there is more accessibility and greater contact to the provision of service provided by Essex County Council.</p> <p>More focus and attention should be given to the view of foster carers when considering a move onto semi-independent/ independent living.</p>						



Ms Averil Price  
Director of Safer Communities  
Safer Communities  
Chelmsford City Council  
Duke Street  
Chelmsford  
CM1 1JE

1 November 2013

Dear Ms Price,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report from Chelmsford to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The review was considered at the QA Panel meeting in October.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final report. In terms of the assessment of DHR reports the QA Panel judges them as either adequate or inadequate. It is clear that a lot of effort has gone into producing this report, and I am pleased to tell you that it has been judged as adequate by the QA Panel.

The QA Panel would like to commend you on your approach to conducting the review. In particular the QA Panel noted that whilst the Government's new definition of domestic violence and abuse came into effect after the death of the victim however the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) took this opportunity to consider the area's response to, and provisions for, young people involved in domestic violence and abuse, in light of the revised definition. The QA Panel commends the CSP on taking this step and considers it to be an example of good practice, and offers an opportunity to increase awareness of domestic violence and abuse issues in under younger people.

The QA Panel also considered the efforts made to contact the victim's mother abroad and to interview her demonstrated good practice. This was considered to be an open and transparent review and report.

There were some issues that the Panel felt might benefit from more detail and/or analysis, and which you may wish to consider before you publish the final report:

- Please add some text to clarify what will happen to the perpetrator at the end of his sentence. Has a deportation order been added to his sentence intending to remove him towards the end of his tariff? Consider including some details regarding that potential process;
- Consider including a recommendation for the Action Plan for Essex Social Services and local schools and colleges to be given training on DASH risk assessment and safeguarding; and,
- Consider a recommendation for Essex Social Services and local schools and colleges to update their awareness training regarding domestic abuse and assault concerning young people, and good practice around supporting students and young people under their care helping them to make informed choices to, for example, report incidents of domestic abuse or sexual assault to the police or other statutory agencies.

The QA Panel also noted there are lessons to be learned regarding information sharing between UK Border Agency and Social Services across England and Wales, when dealing with young people. The QA Panel recognised that this is potentially an issue of national importance and we will explore ways to progress this issue with UKBA officials and the Association of Director's of Children's Social Services. The CSP should consider including them as a national recommendation as well as local, in the report. For example, the recommendation at page 37 about information sharing between Children's Social Services Care and the UK Border Agency.

The QA Panel does not need to see another version of the report, but I would ask you to include this letter as an appendix to the report when it is published.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Cooper, Chair of the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel  
Head of the Violent Crime Unit

**Appendix 3**  
**Response to the letter from the Home Office**

- 1) **Please add some text to clarify what will happen to the perpetrator at the end of his sentence. Has a deportation order been added to his sentence intending to remove him towards the end of his tariff? Consider including some details regarding that potential process;**

**Response:**

- Farid is not eligible to serve his sentence in Iraq as there is no protocol between both governments. He has indicated he would not want to apply even if such a scheme was available to him.
- His tariff end date is 13/08/22.
- A deportation order is in place.
- About nine months before 13/08/22, November/December 2021, Farid is likely to be deported back to Iraq. This is the current situation subject to any successful appeal against the deportation order. The prison has no information that Farid is currently appealing this order. This could change.
- A life licence will be issued but will not be enforceable in Iraq.
- If Farid did return to the UK, he would be subject to life licence.
- In March/April this year, Farid will be transferred to the adult prison estate.
- The Iraqi embassy has been approached to offer Farid some support, but to date this has not been forthcoming.

- 2) **Consider including a recommendation for the Action Plan for Essex Social Services and local schools and colleges to be given training on DASH risk assessment and safeguarding; and,**

**Response:**

This recommendation has already been covered in the IMR produced by Essex Social Care within section 10.5 on page 44:

*“(10.5) Consideration to be given to DASH training being made available to all practitioners but essentially to those involved in the initial assessment and intervention process and those working with young people so that practitioners are able to develop a focus upon assessing risk and to develop their practice where there is domestic violence/abuse.”*

- 3) **Consider a recommendation for Essex Social Services and local schools and colleges to update their awareness training regarding domestic abuse and assault concerning young people, and good practice around supporting students and young people under their care helping them to make informed choices to, for example, report incidents of domestic abuse or sexual assault to the police or other statutory agencies.**

**Response:**

Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership is making recommendations as part of this DHR to the Essex Safeguarding Children Board and the Essex Domestic Abuse Board, who are in the best position to influence the roll out of awareness training across local schools and colleges and within Essex County Council Children's Social Care.

This will highlight the need to focus on raising awareness within multi-agency and individual training on the issues relating to young teenage relationships, child exploitation, domestic abuse and how to deal with it, etc.