

Interim Adult Protection Board NI

Policies & Procedures Sub-Group

Terms of Reference

Background

The Health Minister has undertaken to bring forward a new Adult Protection Bill for Northern Ireland, to help protect care home residents and other vulnerable members of society. This is in response to the first report from an independent review commissioned to examine the health and social care system's response to care failings at Dunmurry Manor Care Home. This review, by CPEA, was commissioned by the Department of Health (DoH) following the Commissioner for Older People's 2018 'Home Truths' report on Dunmurry Manor. CPEA concluded that adult safeguarding practice 'did not actively contribute' to keeping residents safe at Dunmurry Manor and that family's voices were repeatedly unheard. It also found divergent safeguarding practices across the HSC Trusts. These findings along with other inquiries, including Muckamore Abbey, have driven these developments. The report proposes establishing an Adult Safeguarding/Adult Protection Change programme and an Adult Safeguarding/Protection Bill.

1.1 In line with the Review's recommendations, the Minister stood down the Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NIASP) in a move towards the establishment of an Independent Adult Safeguarding/Protection Board at arms-length from the DoH. In the interim the HSCB established an Adult Protection Board. The terms of reference for the IAPB are based on the following planning assumptions:

The move to an independent structure will require a statutory footing. The development and commencement of legislation (primary and secondary) and the establishment of the Board is likely to take at least 2 years, under review.

The Interim APBNI arrangements will remain in place until the necessary legislation has been passed and commenced.

The interim APBNI arrangements will enable the Board to test new ways of working, underpinned by Human Rights considerations, which will inform the new legislation and adult protection arrangements.

The interim APBNI will be hosted by the SPPG (HSCB) and Chaired by the Director for Community Care.

2. Policies & Procedures: (P&P)

A key priority and responsibility for IAPB is:

to develop and update all policies and procedures relating to the Adult Protection Bill and Adult Safeguarding

3. Purpose: Policies & Procedures Subgroup:

The purpose of the Policies & Procedures sub group is to develop and maintain a Regional set of Policies and Procedures for Adult Protection & Safeguarding in accordance with the legislation.

4. Objectives:

Year 1

To develop a revised Protocol for Adult Joint Protocol for the Investigation of Adult Protection referrals via a working group.

Year 2

Review the 2015 / 2016 Policies & Procedures published by NIASP

Review the recommendations relating to P&P outlined in the CPEA report.

Revise and develop Adult Protection and Safeguarding Policies & Procedures to reflect the (Draft) Adult Protection Bill and recommendations from CPEA and Home Truths Report

Provide a first line of assurance whereby development and changes to Policies and Procedures are agreed

Develop an electronic system to store and maintain revised and updated Adult Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

5. Membership

Subgroup membership will include: -

Strategic Planning & Performance Group (SPPG) Adult Safeguarding

Trust Adult Safeguarding Specialists (TASS)

Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI)

Community Voluntary and Independent Sector

User involvement / Lived Experience representatives

Trust Adult Safeguarding Trainers

Public Health Agency (PHA)

Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC)

The subgroup will have membership that ensures that key interests are represented. It is particularly important that the subgroup is able to represent the views of Service Users and those that care for them. The Panel will review its membership as required and may co-opt others as necessary.

6. Process

The subgroup will meet on a monthly basis

The Chair/co-chair aim to distribute agenda, papers at least 5 working days before the meeting

Support will be provided by the IAPB secretariat

Members are expected to attend all meetings or delegate attendance via IAPB admin

Members are expected to read papers and contribute and engage with action plans.

Members are expected to table any items for discussion in advance of the meeting with highlight papers via IAPB admin

Members are expected to sign the members agreement

Members of the subgroup will nominate staff from their organisations to sit on task and finish groups, as and when required, to develop specific activities on the work plan.

Meetings will be conducted using a Hybrid model. Face to face and electronically

7. Governance

The Chair of the Committee will report directly to the Chair of the IAPB.

The Chair of the Committee will provide a report of activity to the IAPB.

This report may be used to inform the annual report.

Attendance will be monitored and any issues will be discussed with the Chair.