

Interim Adult Protection Board NI

Serious Case Review 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. The finding of these reports, along with several other inquiries, including Muckamore Abbey have driven developments. The CPEA 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 SPPG(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 of Hospital and Community Care.

2. Serious Case Reviews (SCR)

A key responsibility of the IAPB is:

Establish arrangements and take responsibility for Serious Case Reviews as defined by the Adult Protection Bill

3. Purpose of sub group:

“Achieving improvement in adult safeguarding policy, systems and practice is a core function of IAPB. The Board therefore needs to be focused on learning from the experience of its professionals across the agencies. The Board must establish serious case reviews where they meet the criteria in regulations, and ensure that they are effectively managed, supported and resourced. The Board is also required to monitor the extent to which any recommendations made by SCR are being met and what has changed as a result”.

Until such time as the AP Bill is enacted, and in preparation for same, the sub group propose the following.

Commissioning an options paper to draw on national and international best practice to identify a SCR framework for NI.

4. Objectives

Year 1

Commission an academic options paper proposing the various SCR models

Consider the options paper and make a recommendation to the IAPB

Agree SCR model and prepare to adopt

Develop a SCR framework and governance structure and process

Year 2

Develop criteria for referral to the SCR panel

Develop pathways to and from the various review panels in NI. Serious Adverse Incidents (SAIs) / Case management Review (CMR) / Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs).

Develop assurance and governance processes that demonstrate action plans are developed and delivered as a result of Serious Case Reviews

Develop a process for cascading regional learning ensuring recommendations are progressed and implemented.

Develop a learning culture across the IAPB and its member agencies in response to lessons learned from SCRs to further the objectives of protecting adults

Membership

Serious Case Review subgroup membership to include:

Public Health Agency (PHA)

Strategic Planning & performance Group (SPPG) Older Persons

Strategic Planning & Performance Group (SPPG) Governance

Trusts Adult Safeguarding Specialist (TASS)

Trust Adult Safeguarding Trainers

Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI)

Regulation Quality Improvement Agency (RQIA)

Community, Voluntary & Independent Sector

User / Lived Experience involvement

The membership of the subgroup ensures all interests are represented. It is particularly important that the subgroup is able to represent the views of Service Users and those who 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 6-week basis

Chair / co- chair aim to have agenda and associated papers distributed at least 5 working days before the meeting.

Admin support will be provided by 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 with briefing papers in advance of the meeting, through IAPB admin support.

Members are expected to sign the members agreement (Appendix 1)

*individual members will be nominated to represent the subgroup on the Engagement Hub

To develop the work plans of the subgroup, members will nominate staff from their organisations to sit on task and finish groups, as and when required.

7. Governance

The Chair/co-chair of the subgroup will report directly to the Chair of the IAPB

The Chair/co-chair of the subgroup will provide regular updates to the IAPB

The Chair/co-chair of the subgroup will provide IAPB with an annual report of subgroup activity

Membership and attendance will be reviewed and issues discussed with the chair of IAPB