

Minute of Meeting

Interim Adult Protection Board NI – Wednesday 4th February 2025
2pm via MS Teams

Present:

Ciara McKillop, Interim Director, SPPG (Chair)
David Petticrew, Co-Director, SPPG
Caroline Holloway, Social Care Lead, SPPG
Jill Duffie, PSNI
Jo Burns, SEHSCT (on behalf of Lyn Preece)
Petra Corr, NHSCT
Helen McVicker, NISCC
Sandra Aitcheson, PHA (on behalf of Heather Reid)
Mary Emerson, AHP
Stephen McLaughlin, WHSCT (on behalf of Tom Cassidy)
Catherine O'Reilly, WHSCT (on behalf of Karen O'Brien)
Briege Donaghy, RQIA
Tracy Reid, BHSCCT

Apologies:

Amanda Burgess, NHSCT
Brian Beattie, Director of Older People and Primary Care, SHSCT
David Robinson, SEELB
Lynn Preece, SEELB
Heather Reid, PHA
Tom Cassidy, WHSCT
Colm McCafferty, SHSCT
Maura Dargan, NHSCT
Julie Scobie, NHSCT
Randal McHugh, SPPG
Des Flanagan, NIAS
Fiona Rowan, DoH
Katherine McElroy

Colin McMullan, BHSCCT
Nadeshda Ferguson, PSNI

Minutes from the last meeting

Minutes from the last meeting (11/12/24) were circulated and the group agreed that they were an accurate record.

Transformation Board

D Petticrew updated that the last meeting of the Transformation Board did not take place in January. However, written updates were distributed. Key points as below:

Draft Adult Protection Bill:

D Petticrew advised that the APB team confirmed the content of the draft Bill is currently being finalised. Discussions are still ongoing about Clause 4 and NIPS.

Business Case:

D Petticrew noted that the Business Case for the APB has reached final stages and it has been forwarded to departmental finance colleagues. A quality assurance process is currently on-going.

Matters Arising

Statutory Guidance Project Team:

C Holloway advised that the name 'Statutory code of Guidance' has been questioned as it should be more focused on practice and should be plain English. Meetings are currently in place to discuss the name and to continue to make good progress.

Fiona Rowan will provide an update at the next IAPB meeting on the 02/04/25.

Prevention Sub-Structure of IAPB:

Following a discussion at the IAPB meeting on 11/12/24 it was decided that the prevention sub-structure would not sit within the IAPB. ToRs for the preventative substructure will be developed and a framework will be produced to support the prevention agenda. Once established this IAPB will receive up-dates on progress.

SPPG to develop ToRs before asking for membership of this group.

Update on Sub-groups

Serious Case Reviews

C Holloway shared that she had recently taken on a Task and Finish piece colleagues to draft a SCR protocol/pathway. Dr Lorna Montgomery from QUB has been instrumental in supporting this work by assisting in the development of an SCR process and model. Dr Montgomery's contributions included identifying what is best practice based on background work and research conducted in early 2024.

Other members of the SCR sub-group include Deborah Hanlon from SHSCT, Laura Smith from the Policy department, and Lorna Montgomery. All members have shared pieces of work and D Hanlon and C Holloway have agreed to produce a first draft of a process and model for NI. Once the first draft is complete, they plan to liaise with Lorna Montgomery to ensure that the draft is checked by her colleagues that are accustomed to the SCR processes in England.

C Holloway highlighted that it is important that this connects with other processes we currently have that are underway including SAI processes and domestic homicide reviews. She advised colleagues that the Pan-London model has been key to informing all serious case /management /learning reviews across England.

C Holloway will provide updates on the protocol / pathways.

P Corr confirmed that this work would contribute to other work that is currently ongoing and suggested that the Pan-London work would need mapped together with all other associated work as consistency is required in how things are approached moving forward.

C McKillop to examine how consistency can be reached with policy colleagues and to provide feedback at the next meeting.

T Reid raised concern about how the SCR work will align with regard to domestic homicide reviews. C McKillop responded by stating that critical work will be required to identify where the reviews fit with the other learning processes.

Policy & Procedures (Adult Joint Protocol)

Currently at the final stages of developing the draft J.P procedures. The final outstanding issues were discussed and a meeting is being held on the 6th of April with SPPG, PSNI and OSS to discuss the safeguarding arrangements around HSCTs and PSNI, in particular around the ability for HSCTs to consult PSNI as part of an initial conversation on a safeguarding incident.

Data & Performance

C Holloway has been making progress with regard to Data & Performance (D&P) and the PSSID team are planning to develop a dashboard to provide IAPB with key data. It is PSSID's intention to

finalise the dashboard by the end of March 2025. Therefore, numbers, trends, issues will be visible and it will help determine what Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are required for the Adult Protection Board.

The D&P subgroup had a planned face to face meeting to decide on 3-5 KPI's and a proposal to be brought to the board with the help of a RQIA data analyst colleague. However, it was cancelled due to the impact of the recent storm.

C Holloway to rearrange a face to face meeting with the D&P subgroup.

J Duffie advised colleagues that the PSNI monitors KPI's monthly to reduce / identify repeat victims and suspects for example, suggesting that she could share such information with C Holloway and T Reid to inform their decision making.

J Duffie to share KPI monthly information with C Holloway.

Training & Development

The Training & Development (T&D) subgroup held a face to face meeting last week. The parent advocates involved asked a significant number of pertinent questions and a beneficial discussion was had about what the objectives say in the ToRs. It was agreed by the Office of Social Services (OSS), C Holloway and the subgroup that the ToR objectives are to address wider adult safeguarding training needs. Thus, it is intended that the ToR, the objectives and action plan will be revisited. However, approval by this group is needed first.

C Holloway then preceded to share that herself, B Beattie and R McHugh before Christmas about trying to shift the focus of the subgroup to looking at the future and taking away pieces of work. Accordingly, C Holloway and F. Rowan are planning to approach the Framework to identify what needs added to it and how the independent Community and Voluntary sector sit within the Framework. An issues log has been developed to ensure all issues are addressed before inputting the Adult Protection Bill information.

Engagement Hub

Engagement has been ongoing with parents who are involved with PCC. Currently C Holloway and colleagues are trying to encourage collaboration within the sub-group and to recruit to broaden the cohort of people through social media and PCC advertisements. Discussions have since been had with Comms about how advertisements can be improved to encourage engagement. Thus, it is a goal now to approach engagement differently to encourage involvement.

T Reid then questioned whether representatives for all different types of abuse were being captured, including all potential victims including individuals who have experienced domestic abuse and human trafficking. Discussion then occurred about whether there are any options that could be considered that have yet to be explored.

S Aitcheson suggested connecting with Linda Craig and Martin Quinn from the PHA would be beneficial in gaining advice/direction as they have broad experience in engaging with service users from minority backgrounds. P Corr suggested that in addition, independent organisations could be contacted as they would be useful for gathering views/experiences in a co-produced approach. B Donaghy added that it may be worthwhile to commission a piece of work for scoping of possible approaches/ideas to help put forward some options/ideas.

C McKillop proposed that C Holloway should contact Joe Duffy and Laura Lundy from Queen's University as they have done valuable work that can be utilised across different areas. T Reid informed the group that individuals involved with 10,000 voices should be considered.

AOB

T Reid expressed her concern about responses and reactions to domestic violence (DV) by HSC as she had noticed a significant increase in DV cases in Northern Ireland. Therefore, she queried whether IAPB were able to provide direction in relation to expected responses as she noticed that each Trust has been responding differently and there is overlap in terms of DHR'S under the domestic violence and sexual violence strategy.

C McKillop asked T Reid for her opinion on whether she thinks that all DV victims require a safeguarding response. T Reid said that decisions are based on the circumstances of each individual situation and Trust expectations. However, it is currently unclear what each Trust's position is and current policy is broad which is currently creating confusion, hence, clarity is required.

S McLaughlin highlighted that the WHSCT held a DV conference late last year that over 300 people attended. During the conference attendees recognised the role that adult safeguarding must play across the continuum when it comes to DV and that he is confident about what the WHSCT are doing to respond appropriately to victims.

C McKillop noted that not everything can be HSC's responsibility and that there are a significant number of agencies that also have responsibilities in helping victims of DV including the police for example. C McKillop added that if there are policy and or consistency issues relating to HSC, that separate discussions will be required offline to solve them.

S McLaughlin, C Holloway, G Hamilton, TASS Leads, ASG Ads from each Trust and T Reid to discuss DV and to provide feedback during the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: 14th May @ 2pm via MS Teams.