

Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) Interim Adult Protection Board (IAPB) NI Meeting	
Location:	Microsoft Teams
Date:	Thursday 30 th April 2026
Time:	2pm – 4pm

Members in Attendance:	
Ciara McKillop – SPPG, Chair	David Petticrew – SPPG
Rebecca Slane – SPPG, Minute Taker	Caroline Holloway – SPPG
Noeleen Higgins – SPPG	Stephanie Patterson – NHSCT
Deborah Hanlon – SHSCT (on behalf of Colm McCafferty)	Karen O'Brien - WHSCT
Lynda Donaghy – PSNI	Des Flannagan - NIAS
Rhoda McBride – BHSCT	Marie-Louise Sloan - SEHSCT
Stephen McLaughlin - WHSCT	Petra Corr - NHSCT
Stephanie Patterson – NHSCT	-

Apologies:	
Colm McCafferty – SHSCT	Emily Roberts – PHA
Katherine McElroy – PCC	Caroline McGonigle – SPPG
Leah Crothers – PSNI	Colin McMullan – BHSCT
Kerrylee Weatherall – BHSCT	Brian Beattie – SHSCT
Lyn Preece – SEHSCT	Maura Dargan - NHSCT
Mary Emerson – AHP	David Robinson – SEHSCT
Tom Cassidy – WHSCT	Michelle Lavery – WHSCT
Tracy Magill – NHSCT	Karen Harvey – RQIA
Helen McVicker – NISCC	Amanda Burgess - NHSCT
Sandra Aitcheson – PHA	Kerry Brennan – PSNI
Stacey Chambers – NIAS	Clare Smyth - PSNI

1.	Welcome and Apologies
	C McKillop welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted.
2.	Previous Minutes for Approval –
	No amendments were raised and the minutes were approved as an accurate record.
3.	Matters Arising – Previous Meeting (04/02/26)

	Action: Meetings to be arranged between group members and Colin Logue for feedback on the ASG Dashboard - ongoing. It was reiterated that Colin Logue remains available to provide demonstrations or support regarding the Adult Safeguarding (ASG) Dashboard. No requests for demonstrations have yet been received. Action: Katherine McElroy to provide a written update about the Engagement Platform – ongoing. No update received. It was agreed that C Holloway/R Slane would follow up with K McElroy for an update. NEW ACTION: C Holloway / R Slane to follow up with K McElroy for an update on the Engagement Platform ahead of the next meeting. Action: SPPG colleagues to engage with Aine Morrison regarding resourcing re implementation of the Adult Joint Protocol launch – ongoing. C Holloway is currently in the process of trying to secure funding from DoJ and Aine Morrison to support the launch event for the implementation of the Revised Adult Protection Joint Protocol. NEW ACTION: C Holloway to continue finding discussions so that an update can be provided ahead of the next meeting. Action: C McKillop to engage with Julie Wilson from DoJ regarding the possibility of gaining funding through DoJ for a future workshop – complete. It was noted that the workshop will aim to: • Share good practice • Improve interagency understanding • Gain updates from DoJ regarding the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy • Strengthen and promote collaborate working. NEW ACTION: C Holloway, N Higgins and S McLaughlin to engage to develop an agenda for the September workshop.
4.	Adult Protection Transformation Board Update – Last Meeting on 04/03/26 • Progress of the Bill • Issues from TB / future meeting plan
	The most recent Transformation Board meeting took place on 4th March. Further meetings were scheduled for 26th March and 30th April; however, they were stood down. Meetings have reduced in frequency due to uncertainty

	relating to the enactment of the AP Bill and also launch date of Muckamore Inquiry Report. The next Transformation Board meeting is scheduled to take place on 25th June. Progress of the Bill: Significant scrutiny of the Adult Protection Bill (APB) is ongoing through the Health Committee who have undertaken a comprehensive review. Key areas of concern raised include provisions relating to independent advocacy, powers of entry and Trust accountability. Independent Advocacy – The Health Committee advised that current provisions are insufficient and may seek amendments to strengthen advocacy requirements. Powers of Entry – They raised concerns about reasonable cause thresholds, safeguards and oversights, as well as human right implications. Trust Accountability – Discussions have been ongoing regarding whether Trusts should continue investigating safeguarding case complaints themselves and whether additional oversight or appeals mechanisms are required. Issues from TB / future meeting plan: The Health Committee are to consider findings from the Muckamore Inquiry before finalising the Bill. However, the Health Minister advised that he would prefer the Bill to progress within the current mandate and avoid delays into the next Assembly term. The next Transformation Board meeting will be dedicated to formulating responses to the queries outlined in the Health Committee's feedback document.
5.	Muckamore Abbey Hospital • Update on the Muckamore Inquiry • Hospital closure
	Update on the Muckamore Inquiry: The Inquiry Report is expected to be released at the end of June 2026. Hospital closure: Resettlement work for the remaining residents continues. Further updates will be provided at the next meeting.
6.	Statutory Guidance Update

	The Regional Statutory Guidance Working Group are currently meeting fortnightly to review and provide feedback on all sections of the draft statutory guidance document. Areas reviewed to date include: • Principles of the Bill • Definitions of adults at risk • Serious harm thresholds • Duties to inquire, report and cooperate. • Themes • Evidentiary standards The statutory guidance is intended to support the practical implementation of the APB, with a focus on interpreting the legislation, while operational procedures will provide detailed practice guidance. It is planned that the first draft will be shared with policy and legal colleagues by June for feedback and further consideration.
7.	Sub-Group Updates
7.1	Performance & Data
	The Performance & Data sub-group are continuing to face challenges regarding data accuracy, Encompass coding issues and the reliability of extracted safeguarding data. However, data collection is continuing to occur. The two parallel workstreams within the group are ongoing and making significant progress. Working Group 1: Reviewing the current statutory dataset to ensure the correct data is being collected. The group is working with partner agencies, focusing on future planning and the development of KPIs, which will align with the work of the Policies and Procedures Subgroup. It is committed to ensuring that the right questions are being asked and to future-proofing data collection. The group is currently developing a report, which will be presented at the next IAPB meeting. <u>Action:</u> Alison Beckett to present the report produced by her Working Group during the next IAPB meeting.
7.2	Serious Case Reviews

	• Nominations for Chair
	The Serious Case Review (SCR) protocol and guidance document has been complete and preparations are now being put in place for it to go out for consultation and feedback. It was clarified that the document had not yet been circulated due as the group are waiting on feedback from D Petticrew. <u>Action:</u> The SCR protocol and guidance to be distributed receipt of D Petticrew's feedback. <u>Action:</u> Members to provide their feedback on the SCR protocol and guidance by the end of May 2026. The SCR sub-group will be meeting again to continue to oversee feedback collation, amendments and revisions. D Hanlon agreed to Chair the subgroup moving forward. <u>Action:</u> D Hanlon to provide an update on the SCR protocol and guidance during the next meeting.
7.3	Policies & Procedures • Prevention Framework
	The Revised Adult Protection Joint Protocol: The Revised Adult Protection Joint Protocol has been finalised. Therefore, three regional pre-launch training events have been organised. The first event in Belfast that took place on the 23rd April involved approximately 60 attendees. It was successful and feedback received will inform the two remaining events which will take place in Derry/Londonderry and Armagh during May. The formal launch event is planned for 15th June, which will be aligned with World Elder Abuse Day. The launch event will highlight the work of this board, showcase safeguarding progress and include brief presentations from key stakeholders. Funding for the event remains under discussion. Prevention Framework: N Higgins is currently working on developing a Prevention Framework which will be informed by: • Public health approaches

	• Learning from other nations across the UK and the Republic of Ireland • Existing NIAS work • Emerging themes of harm The Framework aims to support prevention activity, cross-sector collaboration and strategic safeguarding development. A draft of the Framework is expected to be ready for circulation ahead of the next meeting. <u>Action:</u> N Higgins to circulate the draft Prevention Framework before the next meeting.
7.4	Training & Development • Nominations for Chair
	It was advised that the current of the Training & Development sub-group will be retiring soon. Therefore, it was agreed that S McLaughlin would be the new Chair moving forward. <u>Action:</u> S McLaughlin to engage with C Holloway about progress to date within the Training & Development group. The three working groups within the sub-group are continuing to progress identifying safeguarding training requirements in preparation for the implementation of the APB. The working groups are in the process of mapping legislative requirements, different training levels and emerging safeguarding themes. An associated report is currently being developed and it should be ready for sharing with this Board by the next meeting for discussion.
7.5	Engagement / Service User Involvement
	Service user involvement is currently ongoing. N Higgins is undertaking a review and revision of work completed to date. A stakeholder roundtable discussion is being planned to gather feedback, strengthen trust and partnership working, and explore concerns and emerging issues. N Higgins has drafted a letter to invite stakeholders and she is in the process of identifying which stakeholders to invite. It is intended that stakeholders in attendance will consist of members from regulatory bodies, mental health services, learning disability services, and carer organisations.
8.	IAPB News Sheet Update

	The next news sheet is scheduled for issue ahead of the next meeting in June 2026.
9.	ASG in Prisons • Next steps
	C Holloway is arranging a roundtable discussion with Prison Service representatives, DoJ officials, and other relevant stakeholders, as adult safeguarding in prisons remains a complex and unresolved area. The discussion will aim to address: • Interfaces issues between the DoH and DoJ including responsibilities • Issues relating to funding and resourcing • Concerns identified through inspection findings • Potential safeguarding models Next steps will be determined by the outcomes of the discussions.
10.	LASPS • Quarterly attendance of LASPs chairs – dates to be agreed 26/27.
	C McKillop and D Petticrew highlighted the significance of strengthening the relationship between the IAPB and the LASPs. It was agreed that: • LASP Chairs should attend future meetings • One LASP Chair is to present at future meetings about their current priorities, work plan, challenges, and support needs. C Holloway informed members that she is still dedicated to attending the ongoing LASP Chair bi-monthly meetings. She also confirmed that the standard annual reporting template has been agreed, and the associated report is due next May. Action: C Holloway to ask one of the LASP Chairs to present on their LASP during the next meeting.
11.	AOB SEHSCT BSO Audit: N Higgins informed members of the recent SEHSCT BSO audit, noting that its recommendations could support regional learning, particularly in relation to governance and leadership. It was therefore agreed that sharing this information with the Board would be beneficial. Accordingly, it was proposed that Majella Fegan (SEHSCT) present the audit recommendations as part of the SEHSCT LASP update at the next meeting.

	Action: Marie-Louise Sloan to liaise with Joe Burns and Majella Fegan regarding a SEHSCT presentation at the next meeting.
12.	Next Meeting Date
	The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 18th June 2026.