Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) Interim Adult Protection Board (IAPB) NI Meeting	
Location:	Microsoft Teams
Date:	Thursday 5th February 2026
Time:	2pm – 4pm

Members in Attendance:	
Ciara McKillop – SPPG, **Chair**	David Petticrew – SPPG
Rebecca Slane – SPPG, Minute Taker	Randal McHugh – SPPG
Colin Logue – PSSID	Caroline Holloway – SPPG
Lynda Donaghy – PSNI	Amanda Burgess – NHSCT
Maura Dargan – NHSCT	Clare Smyth - PSNI
Amber McCloughlin – Interim Director of Nursing (on behalf of Emily Roberts)	Carina Boyle – WHSCT (on behalf of Karen O'Brien)
Stephanie Patterson – NHSCT	Lindsay Bell – BHSCT (on behalf of Rhoda McBride)
Karen Harvey – RQIA	Stephen McLaughlin – WHSCT
Katherine McElroy – PCC	–

Apologies:	
Colm McCafferty – SHSCT	Emily Roberts – Director of Nursing -PHA
Petra Corr – NHSCT	Caroline McGonigle – SPPG
Leah Crothers – PSNI	Colin McMullan – BHSCT
Kerrylee Weatherall – BHSCT	Brian Beattie – SHSCT
Lyn Preece – SEHSCT	Karen O'Brien – WHSCT
Mary Emerson – AHP	David Robinson – SEHSCT
Tom Cassidy – WHSCT	Michelle Laverty – WHSCT
Tracy Magill – NHSCT	Des Flannagan – NIAS
Helen McVicker – NISCC	Rhoda McBride –BHSCT
Sandra Aitcheson – Assistant Director of Nursing -PHA	Kerry Brennan – PSNI
Stacey Chambers – NIAS	

1.	**Welcome and Apologies**
	C McKillop welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted. Introductions were provided for Amber McCloughlin.
2.	**Previous Minutes for Approval – 06/11/25**
	No further amendments or issues were raised regarding the previous minutes.
3.	**Matters Arising – Previous Meeting (06/11/25)**
	<u>Action:</u> C Holloway to distribute the final version of the Adult Joint Protocol for approval at next meeting (on agenda). **<u>Action:</u> C Holloway to request copies of the PowerPoint presentations shared at the conference for distribution to group members (requested, not yet received).**
4.	**Adult Protection Transformation Board Update – Last Meeting on 29/01/26** • **AP Bill Implementation Plan/Costings** • **Health Committee**
	Health Committee: The Adult Protection Bill (APB) remains at the Health Committee stage and it will remain at that stage until the 27th March 2026. The Health Committee has sought clarification from Trusts, the DoH, The Bill Team and the SPPG on a range of complex matters, particularly in relation to the Statutory Guidance, where provisions on capacity, CCTV and consent are complex or nuanced. Furthermore, they have expressed concern about whether the expectations articulated in the Statutory Guidance are sufficiently robust to guarantee effective delivery of the APB in practice. There will be a Public Consultation on the Statutory Guidance in due course. A Health Committee briefing is scheduled to take place on Thursday 12th February 2026. During the briefing, the Health Committee will provide feedback on the APB, and C McKillop and D Petticrew will present a comprehensive overview of the work undertaken by the group to date. **Previous Transformation Board Meeting:** The meeting on 29th January involved a significant discussion about the naming of the Prison Service in Clause 4 in terms of duty to report. It was agreed by most in attendance that the Prison Service should be named as having a duty to report. However, the Prison Service advised that being named would mean

	that the Courts, Youth Justice and Probation Services would have to be considered for inclusion. The matter will be escalated for ministerial direction. Self-harm and Self-neglect were also addressed. It was confirmed that they will not be named in the APB as the legal advice is that harm of this nature can be managed already within the APB, also other approaches can be used to address those issues and manage complex issues regarding consent. **APB Implementation Plan/Costings:** Funding has yet to be secured for the APB. Thus, it has been requested that DOH finance produce small business cases for each component of the APB. Alongside that, an implementation plan has been developed for the no to low costs elements that might be subject to early roll-out. The implementation plan will be shared with the Executive Directors of Social Work and to IAPB following that for discussion.
5.	**NHSCT – Adult Protection Restructure Presentation**
	S Patterson provided a presentation about the Adult Protection Transformation work that has recently occurred within the NHSCT. Positive feedback was given on the new governance structure implemented by NHSCT. The model effectively supports greater consistency and standardisation across the Trusts and will help facilitate the review of the 2015 Operational Guidance. In addition, it aligns well with the current Adult Protection approach within the WHSCT.
6.	**Statutory Guidance Update**
	The Statutory Guidance was addressed under Agenda item 4.
7.	**Muckamore Abbey Hospital –** • **Update on Muckamore Inquiry (Letters of Criticism)** • **Hospital Closure**
	It is anticipated that the Inquiry report will be published and publicly available in March. Once the report is made available, SPPG aims to ensure that all members of this group receive the report ahead of the next IAPB meeting. The Inquiry Report will be a key Agenda item during the meeting to allow members to look at the recommendations and discussion next steps.
8.	**Information & Adult Safeguarding Oversight – Headline Data** ➢ **ASG Dashboard**
	C Logue provided an overview and a demonstration on how to use the ASG Dashboard.

	M Dargan sought clarity regarding how Trusts are providing data that can be viewed on the draft ASG Dashboard. S Patterson from the NHSCT advised that they are submitting their data using what they have available to them on Encompass alongside manual data gathered by DAPOs. S Patterson completes a monthly verification process to ensure the data submitted is as accurate and reliable as possible. D Petticrew queried why self-referrals had the highest numbers out of all the referral types when historically, self-referrals numbers were low. C McKillop responded by noting that variations in agreed definitions across the region may explain the higher than expected level of self-referrals and recommended future consideration by the Data & Performance Sub-Group. C Holloway acknowledged that the data has not been aligning and that coding behind the raw data has not been fully resolved. She also explained that the significant increase in self-referrals during the Covid-19 Pandemic may have been a reason as to why the numbers are high. Therefore, examining the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on self-referral rates may be worthwhile to gain a good understanding of that data. S Patterson added that differences in interpretation and inaccuracies within Encompass data may have influenced the self-referral rates. **Next Steps:** ➢ IAPB members to review the draft ASG Dashboard to identify whether there is anything missing that they would like added and to advise if there is anything that should not be included in the Dashboard that currently is part of it. ➢ Once metrics are agreed, the Data and Performance are to commence work on achieving a consistent agreement for all metrics. ➢ Once regional consistency has been agreed, Trusts will be responsible for ensuring that they are applying what has been regionally agreed. C Logue advised that the Power BI file cannot be distributed to group members due to its size. Thus, meetings with members will be required for C Logue to share it and gain feedback. Following the finalisation of the Dashboard, it will be uploaded onto the Power BI server and the PSSID will be requesting email addresses to provide an access link to all that require permission to access it.

	<u>Action:</u> Meetings to be arranged between group members and Colin Logue so that feedback can be provided on the ASG Dashboard.
9.	**Draft News-Sheet**
	Overall, feedback on the News-Sheet has been very positive. However, due to work load and competing demands, the intention is that the News-Sheet will be provided approximately two to three times a year to provide an overview of ongoing work, good news stories, information on ongoing work being done by LASPS, and high-level figures. **<u>Action:</u> C Holloway to continue working on the IAPB News-Sheet.**
10.	**Sub-Group Updates**
10.1	**Engagement Platform**
	C Holloway informed the group that she recently engaged with the PCC so that they can facilitate access to families, service users, and carers who can contribute to the development of the Work Agenda through participation in the sub-groups. She also met with Jill Manthorpe Visiting Professor at Queen's University Belfast on 4th February to discuss user involvement. Jill Manthorpe provided valuable feedback, ideas, and support, while also highlighting potential challenges that may arise. She has offered to remain involved moving forward. As next steps, TASS and the LASPs will work collaboratively to identify how best to progress this work. **<u>Action:</u> Katherine McElroy to provide a written update about the Engagement Platform.**
10.2	**Serious Case Reviews**
	The SCR sub-group are satisfied that no further amendments are required to version 7.5 of the SCR Protocol and Guidance (attached to the meeting invite), as it was disseminated widely for comment. The feedback from service users and families in particular, made a significant contribution to its final content. Special acknowledgement was given to L Montgomery (QUB), for providing her academic insight that enhanced the robustness and overall quality of the final version. It was agreed by the IAPB members in attendance that the SCR document is ready to proceed to wider consultation, with a view to signing it off and progressing to implementation.

	Kerry Loveland Morrison has written to OLC Office of legal Commission to make a formal request to change the name to *Adult Protection Learning Reviews.*
10.3	**Policies and Procedures – Draft Adult Joint Protocol for approval**
	The draft Adult Joint Protocol (AJP) draft has been completed and is now awaiting sign off from the PSNI. Once approval has been received, the proposed implementation date will be confirmed. The AJP is a work in progress as future amendments may be required to keep it aligned with the Adult Protection Bill (APB). An implementation workstream will be set up to track identify training and track the roll out of the AJP in real time. Statutory guidance: the statutory guidance is a work in progress. Lynda Johnston has been commissioned to write the guidance with Trust involvement. Review of Procedures: this subgroup is now keen to review the 2016 ASG operational procedures as the next phase. The group will need reconfigured and a new chair and co-chair appointed. Trusts staff are keen to progress this task. **Further Next Steps:** ➢ An implementation group to be set up. ➢ To disseminate the AJP to staff and the Training & Development sub-group. ➢ Joint Protocol Training development. ➢ To revisit the operational policies. **<u>Action:</u> SPPG colleagues to engage with Aine Morrison regarding resource to progress the implementation of the Adult Joint Protocol.**
10.4	**Performance & Data**
	The Performance & Data sub-group have split into two Task and Finish Groups (T&FGs), each responsible for their own workstream. **<u>Group 1:</u>** C Holloway is currently the interim Chair of this group. They have responsibility for reviewing the data set and guidance. This has been reviewed, and a number of changes have been identified. Work is ongoing with C Logue regarding whether those changes can be implemented without going through a CRIT process. **<u>Group 2:</u>** This group, Chaired by A Beckett from Positive Futures, are responsible for identifying public expectations of the Adult Protection Board

	regarding data, which will help future proof ahead of the launch of the Adult Protection Bill. Small groups who represent families have engaged with group 2 thus far, and the group plan to engage with service users to gain an insight into the views of the general public.
10.5	**Training and Development**
	The Training and Development sub-group have also split into three T&FGs to review and provide recommendations on training needs required once the APB comes into operation for each of the 7 levels of training. Each T&FG is being Chaired by an individual from the Independent Sector or a member of one of the Trusts. The next Training and Development Group meeting will involve T&FGs sharing their progress to date, as well as any recommendations they have identified, which will be shared at the next IAPB meeting.
11.	**Prevention Framework** ➢ **Quarterly attendance of LASP Chairs – dates to be agreed 26/27.**
	C McKillop noted she is keen to build on the IAPB's connection with all LASPs so that IAPB is updated on their ongoing work and can provide support when necessary. She highlighted the importance of the LASP Chairs attending future IAPB meetings as it would provide them with an opportunity to update this group on their local plans and achievements, as well as discuss their work plan. D Hanlon, the SHSCT LASP Chair has been asked to attend the next IAPB meeting. C Holloway advised that she is dedicated to attending as many LASP meetings as possible to maintain a strong connection with the LASPs. The last LASP Chairs meeting involved reviewing the annual report template and the parameters of that have been agreed – there will be common themes and Trust specific priorities detailed. The LASP Chairs have also began background work to assist in the development of the Prevention Framework. The background work has included reviewing approaches taken by English Local Authorities, which has informed the group's intention to develop a concise, one page, easy to read document. R McHugh suggested arranging a half day workshop for IAPB and all five LASPs to update one another on the progression of ongoing work, particularly work LASPs are doing collectively and individually.

	C McKillop was supportive of the idea, suggesting that funding for the workshop could be obtained through the DoJ, under the DSA Strategy. **<u>Action:</u> C McKillop to engage with Julie Wilson from DoJ regarding the possibility of gaining funding through DoJ for a future workshop.**
12.	**AOB**
	Adult Safeguarding in Prisons: R McHugh outlined ongoing concerns regarding staffing to support the adult safeguarding work within prisons. He explained that following a workshop held last year, an Action Plan was completed and signed off by respective Directors. The next steps will be identifying staff to progress the work. The overall programme, originating from Aine Morrison, is expected to take 12–18 months, and includes four key workstreams: 1. Policies and procedures 2. Pathways and multi-agency interface 3. Trust responsibilities in managing cases 4. Data collection and reporting Executive Directors have previously been briefed and are supportive. When the request for staffing was entered into the system earlier this week, Trust colleagues raised several queries around resourcing, though no objections to the work itself. Some Trusts queried their involvement, and it was clarified that oversight is required as individuals in custody may originate from any Trust area. To address uncertainties, R McHugh and C Holloway plan to engage with safeguarding leads and task group representatives to clarify the requirements, discuss pressures, and determine what can realistically be allocated to subgroups. C McKillop emphasised the complexities and unique challenges of adult safeguarding within prison settings, noting it differs significantly from safeguarding work in community-based environments due to the secure setting and lack of control over the environment. The group agreed on the need to return to first principles, identify potential early wins, and plan the workload over the long 12–18 months' timeline. **<u>Action:</u> SPPG/DOH colleagues to meet with ASG leads to progress this work**.

	Future IAPB Meetings: D Petticrew noted that he will review the proposed meeting dates R Slane provided and will circulate confirmed dates once checked. **<u>Action:</u> D Petticrew to confirm future IAPB meeting dates for the rest of the year and R Slane to send meeting invites.**
13.	**Next Meeting**
	The next meeting date is Thursday 30th April 2026 2 – 4pm