



Ministry
of Justice



Home Office



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody

Note of the IAP virtual weekly meeting 5 May 2020

Item 1: Welcome

Juliet welcomed the panel and secretariat and asked for comments on timing of future weekly meetings; the panel decided Tuesdays from 11am-12pm would be suitable with 12-12.30pm set aside for briefings/updates from sectors and stakeholders.

Action: Adrian will resend an invitation with zoom details.

Item 2: Minutes and actions from last meeting

Juliet gave an update on some of the actions from the previous meeting:

- **Secretariat to confirm receipt of letter with the Lord Chancellor's Private Office.**

Receipt of letter was confirmed and the Minister's office was in the process of responding.

- **Secretariat and Juliet to collate panel questions and write to Louise Davies and Cathy Edwards (NHS England).**

The email was sent and a response received stating that data will be supplied for March and April. The panel hoped these would be the start of regular updates. The figures, or lack of them, will be needed for the panel's letter to Matt Hancock and for publication of all covid-19 related deaths in custody. John reminded colleagues of the need to speak to CQC; Juliet said that the Chair, CEO and colleagues would be invited to the next full meeting for an hour on 1st June.

- **Secretariat, Juliet, Jenny T and Jenny S to meet to discuss how the IAP can work with Prison Radio information.**

They met on 4th May and decided to split responses into the five themes below which will be set out in a briefing in due course:

- Communication and information
- Attitudes and approaches of prison staff
- Cleanliness and decency
- Mental health
- Variation between and within establishments.

Plan to meet 6th May with draft to go to the Prisons Minister, Phil Copple for governors and staff and relevant MoJ teams in next few days. It was surprising that family contact

did not feature more but there was a lot about effects of isolation. There were several quotes from women – the panel wanted to know what the split was; Alison will check.

**Action: Draft briefing to be circulated.
Alison to check on the split of Prison Radio responses from men and women across IAP and Hidden Heroes logs.**

One caller alleged abuse by staff - Juliet has asked Prison Radio about its safeguarding policy in regard to this and who has been notified. Juliet has spoken to Inside Time who will take a selection of quotes from prisoner letters they have received to supplement the NPR quotes.

- **Carl Melia** will consult with colleagues about the current situation for Approved Premises and feedback.

Juliet said that she would thank Carl.

Feedback from the week

Juliet met Phil Copple earlier in the day. He had been moved by the Keeping Safe conference and has maintained safer custody as a priority across the prison estate. He acknowledged that the prisoner release scheme is extremely complex with numbers of releases only a little above 40. HMPPS still needs more headroom for the cohorting strategy - at the moment only 25% of prisons are able to adhere. Phil thought that the situation with the pandemic was likely to last for a while longer and will need staff time and physical space in the medium to longer term in order to keep people safe and build back regimes.

The panel felt that this issue needs to be kept under review and Juliet suggested that the panel should be thinking about how to advise on making it a less complicated system. Seena will consider this and speak to Anne Davies at the MOJ; Jenny Shaw, Jenny T and Juliet would also be in the conversation.

Action: Piers to arrange a meeting between panel members and Anne Davies.

MBDC

Phil Copple was keen to reconvene as were scrutiny bodies in IAP earlier meeting. Piers said that key challenge is to make it happen - difficult virtually. Will explore a full board but if not possible, will look at other options, such as a prison board.

Panel had ideas for the Board:

- Families focussed
- Papers/updates from scrutiny bodies needed
- Need data about numbers of deaths
- Make it wider than just prisons if possible to allow for learning across departments.

Website

Feedback on what is relevant content to move across from old site. Adrian - sent email on material to carry across earlier and requested a response by COP Thursday. Juliet asked for Adrian to resend with more information under each heading. The item to be tabled for next week's meeting.

Action: panel members to respond to Adrian about website material to transfer

Action: Website development and transfer to be tabled for next meeting

AOB

Juliet asked panel to think of people to invite to give briefings at future meetings to discuss at next week's meeting. Immediate suggestions were:

- Dr Eamon O'Moore, Public Health England
- Steve Gillan, POA general secretary and Andrea Albutt, president PGA
- Nicola Padfield - research on post-probation deaths and use of PFD (at a later stage).
- Samaritans prison lead.
- Other NGOs?

Actions list:

- **Adrian will resend an invitation to IAP weekly meetings with zoom details.**
- **Draft IAP/Prison radio briefing to be circulated.**
- **Alison to check on the split of responses from men and women in Prison Radio responses.**
- **Piers to arrange a meeting between panel members and Anne Davies.**
- **CQC CEO to be invited to next full IAP meeting**
- **Panel members to respond to Adrian about website material to transfer COP 7th May**
- **Website development and transfer to be tabled for next meeting.**

Next meeting 11am-12noon on Tuesday 12 May