

**Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody
Minutes of IAPDC meeting: 28 February 2023**

Attendees:

Lynn Emslie - Chair
Seena Fazel
Deborah Coles
Jenny Talbot
Kish Hyde
Piers Barber
Sam Johnston Hawke

Apologies:

Jenny Shaw
Lana Ghafoor

Item 1: Panel only meeting

Item 2: Feedback from Panel only session

1. Lynn welcomed everyone to her first meeting as IAPDC Chair. She advised that the Panel had discussed having a master calendar for meetings. Piers explained that the panel previously had a Forward Look document, which the team would update and send to her so she could consider if she wanted to make use of it going forward.
2. Panel members had also suggested that virtual meetings should be shorter and time for in-person meetings be increased to allow for more discussion. They also asked to receive written summaries from guest speakers ahead of the meeting to allow for more meaningful discussion. The Secretariat will arrange this going forward. Piers suggested additional time in the agenda to profile the work of Panel members, which was agreed.

Action 1 - Secretariat to send an updated IAPDC Forward Look to Lynn so she can consider its use going forward.

Item 3: Minutes and actions and 2023 panel dates

3. The minutes were approved by the Panel.
4. Kish advised that all actions from the last meeting were either complete or in progress. She noted the following actions for comment:
 - *Secretariat and Panel to agree IAPDC meeting dates for the remainder of the current panel's term* - Deborah said that she would send her availability before the end of the day.

- *Deborah to share costs of an INQUEST Family Listening Day* - Deborah will forward these.
 - *Secretariat to scope out a fuller proposal for a handbook outlining IAPDC reports and recommendations* - Sam explained that the Secretariat will set out a proposal and that monies will come from next year's budget and will be completed before the end of the current Panel's term. Seena suggested this could be done in smaller stages to make it more manageable. The Secretariat will share the proposal with the Panel.
 - *Deborah to share letter to Chief Coroner about the timing of writing PFD reports* - Deborah will forward this.
 - *Secretariat to draft a follow-up letter on concerns about immigration estate and Rwanda for Juliet sign-off* - Sam explained that more information about the planned expansion of the immigration estate will be available in the new Bill, which was due to be published. He suggested that the panel look at the provisions before drafting a reply to the Home Secretary. The Panel agreed.
5. Sam explained that a response had been received from Robert Jenrick MP, Immigration Minister, in response to the panel's recent letter about conditions at Manston. He will circulate to the panel to decide on next steps. Deborah welcomed the Panel's recent efforts to build relationships with key organisations in this sector.
6. Lynn said that she had plans to meet with Juliet for a handover and wished to meet with other Panel members during her first weeks in post.

Action 2 - Secretariat to circulate letter from Robert Jenrick MP, Immigration Minister, in response to IAPDC letter about conditions at Manston holding facility and then draft reply to the Home Secretary's letter once the new Bill is published.

Item 4: Feedback from Prevention of Future Deaths reports family roundtable event

7. Deborah updated on the PFD roundtable event held earlier in the day. Four families had attended and provided excellent evidence for the report. She noted that families had been particularly critical about not being able to push for action to be taken by the recipients following a PFD report.
8. In the discussion Panel members raised:
- How the roundtable had shown that evidence from jury findings were not collated properly and that this was a missed opportunity.
 - Questions about the complex, fractured nature of MHA detention, which frequently involves private providers, and how this must make it difficult to disseminate findings and suggested changes.
 - The work of an academic who is developing a tracker of PFDs on hospital deaths. The Panel wondered whether there was similar software they could use for their projects.
 - How independent reviews of MHA deaths were often not of high quality and not sufficiently independent from the hospital or Trust.
 - How families had suggested a checklist for coroners on organisations to send reports to. Piers suggested the Panel could put this together.
9. Deborah asked that the Secretariat thank the families for attending and sharing their experiences. Sam stated that he had also received input from services in response to a Secretariat survey. Deborah noted that she would like to present the National Oversight Mechanism at a future meeting of the panel.
10. As a next step Sam will pull together all the evidence and arrange a meeting to discuss interim findings. Panel members suggested bringing together all stakeholders, including

the Chief Coroner and investigatory bodies, at a roundtable after publication where families could be invited to speak and the Panel could present findings from the report. Deborah reminded Panel members that she was speaking at coroner training and could bring, and refer to, the report at each session.

Action 3 – Secretariat to send thank you email to families involved in the PFD roundtable.

Action 4 – Secretariat to send summary of discussion to families involved in the PFD roundtable.

Action 5 – Secretariat and Panel members to discuss interim findings and next steps from PFD project.

Action 6 - Secretariat and Chair to include discussion of INQUEST's proposal for a National Oversight Mechanism presentation by Deborah Coles and INQUEST at a future meeting.

Item 5: Ministerial Board on Deaths in Custody draft workplan

11. Piers summarised the background to the Board workplan in the circulated paper. Sam explained that the workplan contained unfinished work from last year's workplan, plus additional items from the Secretariat and co-sponsors. Discussion would continue at the co-sponsors meeting and afterwards to refine items, including with other Board members. A final version will be ready ahead of the Ministerial Board on 17 May.
12. Piers explained that the Secretariat had also carried out an evaluation survey which suggested members may find an escalation system to hold agencies to account on progress helpful. He asked Panel for their views on the current items and suggestions for themes and groupings, as well as any ideas for work that the Panel could take forward in their own workplan to complement the Board plan.
13. Panel members suggested work on improved support for families as part of the inquest system and that the Panel should have a role in scoping out an organisation which would investigate lack of independent oversight in hospitals. Deborah mentioned that there was a model proposed in the report that INQUEST will be publishing soon. Panel members also suggested work on learning from investigations, and those aspects of the Use of Force Act which have not yet been implemented.
14. Lynn advised that all workstreams should be SMART and have an objective and intended outcome. She stated that the progress should be measurable and the workplan focused. She asked to know how the workplan would be monitored and what good outcomes looked like. Piers explained that the Secretariat were scoping measurable objectives through conversations with relevant teams and that the workplan will be grouped thematically.

Item 6: Policing event update

15. Sam explained that the policing report on preventing deaths at point of arrest, during and after police custody was published last November and the event will follow on from that. The event has a provisional date of 18th May and will be held at the Home Office building. Sam explained that the agenda would align with other strategic work, such as Sir Stephen House's review of productivity in policing, and he asked the Panel for their views on the plans of the day:

- Deborah felt it would be a challenge to cover such a broad area of policing – i.e. deaths in and following police custody, post custody suicides, mental health response and those involving restraint.
- Ministers should be encouraged to attend for the full event.
- Seena was not keen on Q&A sessions and spotlighting particular areas; he suggested an academic who would be well placed to summarise the evidence base. PCCs could form part of a panel to consider how they would carry out the recommendations and use the evidence of good practise in their areas.
- Lynn asked about the intended outcome. Piers explained a zero-tolerance approach to deaths in police custody had been advocated by Juliet and Minister Malthouse, the previous Crime and Policing Minister, who wanted to use PCCs to influence policing on the ground. It was important that PCCs buy into this work and that they make it a priority. There was also an issue with a lack of sharing good practice across the 43 forces who are operationally independent from one another.
- Deborah referenced the death of Kevin Clarke which had been of particular interest to Minister Malthouse. She emphasised that there were elements of the Angiolini Review recommendations still outstanding which should not be lost.
- Seena wondered whether this should be the first of two events with the second event taking place in a year as a follow-up.
- The Panel discussed the Humberside model which the APCC were considering how to draw lessons from. Seena noted that if there were too many delivery models for mental health support being discussed that may be confusing to the audience who would not know what to necessarily take away.
- Panel members suggested that PCC Emily Spurrell should be higher on the agenda and that Nev Kemp should also be included.
- Deborah stated that if families were to be included, they would need clear explanation of why they were attending and what would be achieved as a result.
- Deborah referenced the recent leaflet about deaths in police custody, which detailed information about families' rights and which INQUEST had input into but which was not being distributed to families as it should be.

Action 7 - Secretariat to update policing event outline paper and recirculate.

Item 7: IAPDC projects update

16. Piers explained that the workstreams listed in the circulated paper were on the Panel's current workplan which will need refreshing in the summer.

IAPDC blog on police response to mental health crises

17. The Secretariat have prepared a blog following the publication of the policing report to promote its findings, focusing particularly on the issue of mental health and policing which stakeholders had raised following publication of the original report. This will be published in Jenny Talbot's name.

Action 8 - Secretariat to share draft blog on policing report with the Panel.

DHSC's suicide prevention plan

18. The Government will be publishing a standalone Suicide Prevention Strategy later in the year. The Secretariat had engaged prisoners, the Practitioner and Stakeholder Group and Samaritan Listeners for input. The IAPDC report had been sent to DHSC and the Secretariat will be meeting them soon to discuss next steps. If the Panel want to publish the report, a launch plan will need to be considered. Sam explained that Panel funds could be used to design the report.

Engagement with bereaved families

19. Kish gave a brief update to the project on how services engage with families after a death in custody, and the meeting in January with INQUEST. A paper outlining plans for a roundtable event with families had now been sent to INQUEST. Once INQUEST confirm the plans, the Secretariat will update the paper previously presented to the Panel and will arrange the event with families. The secretariat hope that a final paper on outcomes can be presented to the Ministerial Board in May. Deborah said that she would need to speak to the Family Casework Team and to check with families if they were willing to participate before she could confirm.

Action 9 - Deborah to speak to the INQUEST Family Casework Team to test whether families would be willing to speak about their experiences of engaging with custodial sectors at a family engagement event.

Item 8: AOB

IAPDC recruitment

20. Piers explained that the Chair campaign was now complete and that news about the panel member vacancy would be forthcoming. He also updated on the process to replace current panel members for which there were two options: for the Panel to operate with the skeleton staff of the new Chair, the new panel member plus two others from the merit list likely to start in July; or to extend current panel members for an additional three months to allow for continuity and handover. Panel members agreed that continuity is important and that they would let Piers know their individual preferences about extending tenures.

Budget

21. Kish reminded panel members that the Panel receive funding from the co-sponsoring departments which goes mainly towards paying their fees. From this, the Panel have £40,000 to spend on projects. To date the Panel had spent £2,748. Discussion had taken place at the last two meetings about projects on which to spend additional money. The Secretariat was putting together a paper for the Deputy Director's approval; this accounts for a further spend of £20,000.

22. Kish asked the Panel for any further ideas for projects or research to spend money on and to let the Secretariat know. Panel members suggested:

- International research on healthcare as first responders (rather than the police) to mental health crises in the community.
- Quality assurance of NHS data of people detained under the MHA
- Suicide risk factors in MHA detention.

(Secretary's note: subsequent information from the Finance Team confirms that money can only be accrued for items/products already received before 31 March 2023.)

Action 10 - Panel members to consider other work that the budget can be used for and to send ideas to Secretariat to scope further.

23. Lynn stated that she was pleased to be in post. She wanted to thank Juliet for the work and great improvements that she had made in her time as Chair. The Panel was now in a good place to build on these.

24. The Panel agreed to arrange an away day with the new members in the summer to ensure an effective handover.

Action 11 - Secretariat to share paper on regular IAPDC Chair meetings with Lynn.
Action 12 - Secretariat and Panel to discuss and arrange an away day with new members in the summer.

Date of next meeting:

April 28th – 102 Petty France

Actions:

1. Secretariat to send IAPDC Forward Look to Lynn so she can consider its use going forward. **complete**
2. Secretariat to circulate letter from Robert Jenrick MP, Immigration Minister, in response to IAPDC letter about conditions at Manston holding facility and then draft reply to the Home Secretary's letter once the new Bill is published.
3. Secretariat to send thank you email to families involved in the PFD roundtable. **complete**
4. Secretariat to send summary of discussion to families involved in the PFD roundtable.
5. Secretariat and panel members to discuss interim findings and next steps from PFD project.
6. Secretariat and Chair to include discussion of INQUEST's proposal for a National Oversight Mechanism presentation by Deborah Coles and INQUEST at a future meeting.
7. Secretariat to update policing event paper and recirculate.
8. Secretariat to share draft blog on policing report with the Panel. **complete**
9. Deborah to speak to the INQUEST Family Casework Team to test whether families would be willing to speak about their experiences of engaging with custodial sectors at a family engagement event.
10. Panel members to consider other work that the budget can be used for and to send ideas to Secretariat to scope further.
11. Secretariat to share paper on regular IAPDC Chair meetings with Lynn. **complete**
12. Secretariat and Panel to discuss and arrange an away day with new members in the Summer.