

**Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody
Minutes of monthly meeting – 17 May 2021**

Attendees:

Juliet Lyon - Chair

Jenny Shaw

Jenny Talbot

Seena Fazel

Piers Barber

Kish Hyde

Graham Randall

Adrian Blake

Apologies:

Deborah Coles

John Wadham

Item 1: Feedback from panel only session

1. The panel had discussed:
 - Re-appointments and the ongoing delay (*Note – reappointments have since been confirmed*)
 - Impact of pandemic on detained people - comparisons with periods of quarantine and solitary confinement.
 - Health and wellbeing of panel members.

Item 2: Minutes of the last meeting, actions and Secretariat updates

2. There were three actions from the last meeting, all of which were complete.

Item 3: JSC inquiry into mental health in prison

3. Graham has led on an initial draft which is due for completion on 19 May at 6pm. Graham has invited the panel to provide feedback. Jenny Shaw offered to send the submission drafted by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.
4. The panel discussed each of the three topics in the inquiry:
 - How mental health issues are identified on arrival at prison and/or while a prisoner is serving a sentence
 - Support (clinical and non-clinical) available to those with mental health needs, whether it meets the needs of those in prison; any gaps in provision of care
 - Whether current commissioning of mental health services in prisons is working

5. Seena and Jenny commented that the current commissioning model is considerably wasteful and should be replaced in favour of a method prioritising local services. Changes have resulted in a perceived greater focus on metrics rather than the quality of time spent in clinic. Overall, there is need for great stability and consistency in commissioning.
6. The panel also mentioned:
 - a. Challenges posed by the use of agency nurses, and that gaps in teams have restricted relationship-building;
 - b. Issues with siloed working between different healthcare teams, and the number of separate providers in a particular prison;
 - c. Issues with variation on approaches to transfers;
 - d. The need to avoid constant reassessment a different stages of a patient's pathway; and
 - e. The need for mental health screening for all on reception

Item 4: Ministerial Board discussion with Ministers

7. The meeting with co-chair ministers will take place on 25 May, where the new areas of focus will be discussed:
 - Mental health and substance misuse
 - Sharing and embedding of learning
 - COVID-19 and physical health (this is to re-worded to 'Physical health and COVID-19' to reflect focus)
8. The panel agreed on the above as priorities areas but agreed on the need to be specific about the scope of what is to be achieved. All priority areas will include the thematic strands – data, race and family.

Action 1: Secretariat to share background note to meeting with ministers on the Ministerial Board.

Item 5: Key updates

9. IAPDC and race: Junior Johnson agreed with the idea of a consultant to support the panel in this area and is currently considering potential recommendations. Juliet has written to Anne Fox, as Clinks have done a similar consultation.
10. Drug and alcohol deaths: Jenny Shaw thanked the team for their work. A paper has now been drafted and sent to Jane Trigg to inform/advise the HMPPS substance misuse strategy. The document will also be sent to all collaborators for their feedback. There is another team meeting scheduled for 20 May.
11. Coroners' PFD reports: Graham and Adrian have carried out an initial thematic analysis, before passing it on John and Deborah for their analysis. There have been six more reports added to the original 13. The next meeting will be in June. There are some concerns about the consistency of the quality of the reports. A next step is likely to be to look to arrange a round table event with the coroners.
12. Statistics: Seena has received the required statistics and produced a draft paper, as well as a separate academic-focused note on the methodology applied to calculating rates. A lack of information about certain denominators has posed challenges to calculating rates for certain protected characteristics.

Action 2: Seena to send Secretariat his draft statistics for additional work and for thoughts on presentation.

13. Prison Radio/IAPDC series: there will be a series of four interviews broadcast throughout June, encouraging people in prison to join in the conversation about the safe easing of COVID-19 restrictions.
14. Vaccinations: Juliet has drafted a letter for the Times and is exploring the possibility of it being co-signed by the Royal Colleges, POA and PGA (*note – this has now been published with POA chair and PGA president co-signs*).
15. Policing: the 23 PCC responses have been analysed and Adrian is currently preparing a briefing paper. This will inform a presentation to the NPCC, where it is planned that Juliet and Minister Kit Malthouse will present.

Action 3: Draft policing briefing using PCC responses to be shared with Jenny, John and Juliet.

Item 6: Workplan 2021-22

16. Piers and Kish had produced a progress update of last year's workplan. There were 26 projects in total; 11 of these are deemed complete, 3 were duplications of other workstreams, and so could be closed. It was recommended that 10 should be carried forward to next year. One had been delayed and another had little progress made; these should also be carried onto the next workplan.
17. A draft IAPDC workplan for 2021-22 will be discussed after the upcoming Ministerial Board meeting.

Action 4: IAPDC panel to consider what will go into next years' workplan. Further discussions to follow.

Item 7: AOB

18. Juliet is grateful for the work completed on IAPDC workplan and MBDC reforms. The next meeting will be used to discuss Article 2 near-miss cases – Chris Barnett-Page and his colleagues will be attending for the discussion.
19. Adrian advised that the Practitioner and Stakeholder Group list now has 91 names in total. Juliet encouraged the panel to consider who else should be invited to be on the list, especially bereaved family members, people with lived experience and past members. Need now to consult/produce updates for this group.

Action 5: IAPDC members to consider who else should be invited to be on the Practitioner and Stakeholder Group (PSG) list. Secretariat and Juliet to prepare updates and any consultation questions and send to PSG members.

Date of next meeting

16 June, 10:00 – 12:30

Actions

- 1: Seena to send Secretariat the draft presentation of the statistics for their thoughts and comments**
- 2: Draft PCC briefing to be shared with the IAPDC panel next week.**
- 3: Draft policing briefing using PCC responses to be shared with Jenny, John and Juliet.**
- 4: IAPDC panel to consider what will go into next years' workplan. Further discussion to follow.**
- 5: IAPDC members to consider who else should be invited to be on the Practitioner and Stakeholder Group (PSG) list. Secretariat and Juliet to prepare updates and any consultation questions and send to PSG members.**