

**Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody
Minutes of IAP meeting – 18 March 2021**

Attendees:

Juliet Lyon - Chair

John Wadham
Seena Fazel
Deborah Coles
Jenny Shaw
Piers Barber
Kish Hyde
Graham Randall
Adrian Blake

Charlie Taylor, HMCIP, for item 1

Apologies:

Jenny Talbot

Item 1: Charlie Taylor, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons

Charlie Taylor gave brief updates on:

1. Neurodiversity review - HMIP were commissioned by the Lord Chancellor to carry out an independent evidence review on neurodiversity in the criminal justice system. HMIP are now collating the evidence and putting together a short analysis for publication soon. In the discussion Jenny S raised next steps for the CHAT screening tool for young people (though the youth estate is not within remit of this review). HMIP preparing a short analysis of MoJ policy and practice considerations.
2. Mental health joint thematic – Delayed due to COVID. Now HMIP are consulting with prisoners and staff, reviewing relevant records and meeting service managers to look at the range of services and facilities in place, including resettlement and through-the-gate. The panel discussed how to measure mental health outcomes, including how prisons could be rated on how they are managing self-harm. Publication is planned for August 2021.
3. COVID-19 in prisons thematic – HMIP looked at the impact on prisoners of lockdown; they interviewed 76 prisoners, many of whom had been locked up for 22 hours a day with another person, with minimal access to work or activity. Prisoners had largely been grateful for HMPPS's response in the early days of the pandemic, though views had shifted as restrictions eased in the community. They reported feelings of helplessness, not making progress with their sentence and little contact with families. HMPPS now need to build on the good things that have come from the lockdown.

There was a feeling that the report had challenged the troubling narrative that heightened lock-up meant improved safety outcomes.

4. Short-term holding facilities review – this was the first review of its kind. HMIP saw some good treatment and well-meaning staff but processes were often poor and chaotic – for example some people were left in their wet clothes, not given hot drinks, there was no training for staff and inadequate leadership of facilities. No data about numbers of people being held was available, no proper recording of self-harm and a lack of safeguarding.

The panel agreed to keep in touch with HMIP on mutual areas of concern.

Item 2: Actions from last meeting and feedback from panel only meeting

5. All actions from the previous meeting were complete or in progress.
6. During the panel-only meeting the panel had discussed:
 - The publication of the IAPDC's strategy for preventing deaths in immigration removal centres and the Home Office's associated action plan.
 - Race and representation. Deborah noted that there was no mention of race in the joint letter from Juliet and the policing minister. It was noted that the letter drew attention to the inquest into the death of Kevin Clarke as the focus for this new Policing and IAPDC leadership initiative.

Action 1: Race to be a substantive agenda item at the next IAPDC meeting.

Item 3: Updates on key workstreams and projects

7. Piers gave an update on progress of workstreams:
 - **Vaccinations** – correspondence sent to the Joint Committee for Vaccine Immunisations, Secretary of State for Department of Health for Social Care and the Lord Chancellor.
 - **Policing leadership** – Multiple responses received to the joint letter from Juliet and Minister Malthouse to Police and Crime Commissioners. Juliet and the policing minister had met with the Independent Office of Police Conduct.
 - **The self-harm in prison seminar** took place in February and the Secretariat carried out a follow-up review on lessons learned.

Action 2: Secretariat to arrange discussion with Jenny and Seena on how to approach a mapping exercise of existing self-harm interventions and trials.

- **Substance misuse deaths in prison** – the panel have progressed planning for an expert roundtable event along with a relevant background research paper.
- **PFDs sampling project** – Adrian and Graham have completed the first stage of the sampling exercise and shared with panel members.
- **Bereaved families** – updates have now been received from agencies and key organisations on how they engage with bereaved families. An initial analysis of responses will be discussed with the panel soon.
- **Women in prison** – Juliet presented at the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women in the Penal System, and a letter has been drafted requesting audit from the Prisons Minister on recommendations from IAP 2017 women's report.
- **Evidence submissions** – evidence was submitted on reforms to the Human Rights Act.

- **Mental Health Act White Paper** – meetings have taken place with officials and the panel's draft response developed.
- **CSTRs and sentencing** – Jenny T has progressed work in partnership with the Magistrates Association and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services on 'scenarios' facing sentencers of vulnerable people, including availability of places of safety.

Item 4: Suicide in inpatient units

8. The panel discussed the IAPDC's statistical update. Discussions have been held with the CQC about population size figures to enable analysis based on rates. There remained an issue about some hospitals not providing data on their capacity. Seena explained that he also needed prison population figures for 2018 and 2019 and full year data for police, but otherwise has the data to progress analysis and publication.
9. Jenny S explained that discrepancy remained between the data on detained in-patient self-inflicted deaths held by the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health, which was shared with the panel, and data given to IAPDC by the CQC.

Action 3: Seena and Secretariat to finalise data gathering ahead of drafting the report.

Item 5: AOB

- The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill has been published.

Action 4: Panel to discuss their response to the Police, Crime Sentencing and Courts Bill via email.

- 'Near misses' learning – discussion of how to draw and embed learning from the use of Article 2 near miss cases currently published on the panel's website.

Action 5: Secretariat to speak to Safer Custody team about learning from "near-miss" cases.

Next meeting

19 April, 2pm-4.30pm.

Summary of actions:

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