

Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody

**Minutes of the Independent Advisory Panel meeting
24 October 2018**

Attendees: Juliet Lyon (JL) - Chair

Seena Fazel (SF)
Jenny Shaw (JS)
Jenny Talbot (JT)
John Wadham (JW)
Deborah Coles (DC)

Andrew Fraser, Head of Secretariat (AF)
Adrian Blake, Policy Advisor, Secretariat (AB)

For item 5

Chris Barnett-Page (CBP) – Head of Safer Custody, HMPPS
Britte Van Tiem (BVT) – Programme Manager for Prison Support, Samaritans
Hazel Alcraft – Postvention lead, Samaritans

Apologies:

Kishwar Hyde, Deputy Head, Secretariat (KH)

Item 1: Welcome, introductions and minutes

1. The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from Kish were noted.
2. DC said that she thinks the disproportionality of BME deaths in custody is an important issue. She advised that the IAP should maintain an interest in this area, and consider it during future work.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Action log:

4. All actions were either completed or on the agenda for substantive discussion. However, there was brief discussions on the following actions:
 - Action 2: Angiolini Review: The Panel agreed to maintain an interest in the unaccepted recommendations in the Review in

particular recommendation re-establishment of Office for Article 2 Compliance.

- Action 3: PFDs: The Panel agreed to have this as an agenda item at the December IAP meeting.
 - **Action: DC to prepare a short paper on PFDs for the December meeting.**
- Action 5: Legal Aid inquiry:
 - **Action: AF to recirculate the IAP's letter.**
- Action 7: Magistrates survey: AB confirmed that it is currently out with Magistrates with a deadline of 5 November. AB said he would continue to liaise with the Magistrates Association, and encourage them to seek a good response rate.
 - **Action: Secretariat to produce a paper on the responses for the December IAP meeting.**
- Action 9: IAP work paper: The Panel asked for further information on the outcomes from the Harris Review.
 - **Action: Secretariat to produce a short (e.g. 2 sides) paper on the outcomes from the Harris Report for the December meeting.**
- Action 11: Immigration visits: AF said he had not heard anything further and will follow up with the Home Office.
 - **Action: AF to chase the Home Office for confirmation on the IAP visits.**
- Action 13: IAP Statistics: AF confirmed that he had sent SF details on this and they will arrange to discuss.
 - **Action: AF and SF to discuss further by early November.**

Item 2: Update on IAP work to date

Keeping Safe

5. The Panel discussed concerns about IPP prisoners and their risk of suicide and self-harm. SF advised analysing the statistics before coming to any conclusions about heightened risk at this stage. The Panel agreed that they would review the data.
Action: Secretariat to provide information on IPP statistics (e.g. number of deaths, rates of deaths, by type, age profile) in time for discussion at the December meeting.
6. The Panel briefly discussed some people serving IPP sentences signing Do Not Resuscitate orders, and JW and JL agreed to discuss further outside of the meeting
Action: JW and JL to discuss the DNR issue further.
7. The Panel discussed the idea of a 'Keeping Safe' event. The Panel considered the idea of an event in late February but also noted that the preparation time would coincide with the next Ministerial Board and school half-terms.
Action: JL to discuss possible event dates with stakeholders.

Safety Impact Assessment

8. The Panel discussed the Safety Impact Assessment, and the next steps for the work. The Panel agreed that it might be helpful to add in a review element six months or a year into the change detailed in the assessment. The Panel agreed to review the latest version and prepare it for discussion with MoJ/HMPPS officials.
Action: Secretariat to revise the SIA and resend to the Panel.
Action: Panel to respond with any further comments.
Action: JL and Secretariat to discuss next steps with Nick Poyntz once the SIA is in an agreed draft format.

PAVA

9. The Panel discussed the introduction of PAVA into prisons and noted that their advice had not been sought on its introduction.
Action: JL to write letter asking about PAVA and any equality impact assessment that accompanied it.

IAP recommendations paper

10. AF noted that learning from bereaved families and the barriers to learning outlined in the IAP's paper are planned to form part of the MBDC's 'Year 2' work programme.
11. The Panel discussed the best means of learning after a death and questioned whether there are any good practice examples that could be shared between sectors. The Panel agreed to add a workstream on this to the work programme.
12. The value of reflective learning was discussed. If teams were expected to inform bereaved families on lessons learned following reports by the PPO and the Coroner, could such an approach help to embed learning and so prevent future deaths?
Action: JL, JS and JT to discuss with teams on selected prison visits

Item 3: Communication and website

13. The Panel reviewed the website paper and agreed the central recommendation to move the website to a new provider. Panel members agreed to send in their thoughts on the new website to AB. SF advised that the priority should be creating a simple website with core IAP information in the first instance. Panel discussed publishing formal IAP letters to, and responses from, Ministers in interests of transparency/improved communication with stakeholders.
Action: Panel members to send in ideas for the new website by 9 November.
Action: AB to draw together website suggestions and produce further recommendations by December IAP meeting.

Item 4: IAP strategy and work programme

14. The Panel discussed the work programme. The strategic principles and work programme were revised to reflect Panel members' views on the detail and timescales of the proposed work (see work programme).
Action: Panel members to send further thoughts on the work programme to the Secretariat by 9 November.

Item 5: Samaritans Postvention Support Project

15. BVT explained that the Samaritans have the grant to run the project until 2020. The overall aim of the project is to minimise the risk of a self-inflicted death, or a cluster of deaths, following an initial one. This will be done via:
- a. Helping listeners provide support to prisoners
 - b. Developing resources for prisoners
 - c. Strengthening guidance for prison officers
 - d. Working with Karen Slade from Nottingham Trent University who will evaluate it
16. BVT explained that she is keen to get the views of the panel at this stage.
17. DC asked about support for staff. CBP said the grant has to be prisoner focussed, but thinks staff will still benefit from the overall aims of the project.
18. DC asked about co-production. BVT said that they want to work with a number of prisons in the development phase. This is likely to involve prisons in London, but the team are still working out which prisons will be used. CBP said it needs to be in establishments where senior leadership want to be involved and can facilitate the intervention.
19. DC asked about prisoner interaction with other bodies such as PPO and whether these are risk points for prisoners in the aftermath of a death. BVT said that they are trying to think about the good practice for staff involved in such points.
20. SF noted that the control groups will need to be carefully considered to ensure that the team can identify the causal variable. SF said that they could think about undertaking an RCT to try to identify which of the four elements of the intervention is the relevant variable, and to avoid bias in selecting the prisons. BVT said that the evaluation still needs to be further thought out.
21. JL asked and CBP confirmed that the Samaritans have spoken to the Portman Clinic team.

22. JS suggested speaking to Sharon MacDonald at Manchester, and offered to give thoughts on evaluation directly to Karen Slade.
23. The Panel agreed to send through any further reports or information that it might be helpful for the intervention team to review.
Action: Panel members to send through any relevant reports to forward to the intervention team.
24. BVT thanked the Panel for their input and said that the Samaritans would be happy to share further documents as the work progresses.

Date of next meeting:

12 December 2018 at 102 Petty France