

**Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody
Minutes of IAPDC meeting: 26 January 2022**

Attendees:

Juliet Lyon - Chair

Jenny Talbot

Seena Fazel

Kish Hyde

Jecentha Shunmugam

Adrian Blake

Piers Barber

Oscar Rushton (Item 3 only)

Deena Nawbatt (Item 3 only)

Apologies:

Deborah Coles

Jenny Shaw

Item 1: Self-harm and suicide prevention

1. The HMPPS Safety in Custody statistics will be released on 27 January 2022 and will show an increase in self-inflicted and natural deaths. Juliet invited views from the panel on how the IAPDC should respond, including in the context of commitments made by the panel following the Keeping Safe project.
2. Juliet suggested proposing that deaths in custody should be a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) in the panel's response to the Prisons Strategy White Paper. Panel members suggested proposing either a reduction in line with the National Suicide Prevention Strategy's target for reducing self-inflicted deaths in the community or a total reduction of self-inflicted deaths. Juliet asked panel members to consider this further.
3. Seena mentioned that the removal of ligature points should also be considered as a KPI. Ligatures should be removed in regular cells as well as new 'safe cells'. Establishments needed to be explicitly told to review and remove dangerous ligature points and have this maintenance work funded.
4. Juliet suggested work, potentially in collaboration with the Royal College of Psychiatrists, on the mental health impact of restricted conditions on prisoners during the pandemic.
5. Panel members suggested other items to raise in the panel's White Paper response:
 - a. Seena mentioned the importance of facilitating – and potentially incentivising – prison research.
 - b. Jenny T mentioned the need to improve mental health staffing, including through heightened recruitment and retention of prison nurses, and the importance of ending the use of prison as a 'place of safety'.
 - c. Seena raised issues regarding the commissioning of mental health care, suggesting this should be delivered in collaboration with local NHS Trusts so that transfers can be completed more easily. Piers suggested asking DHSC about the

implications of new Integrated Care Systems for healthcare in different places of detention.

Action 1: Secretariat to ask DHSC about Integrated Care Systems and how this will change custody healthcare contracting in both prisons and police custody.

Action 2: Juliet to explore with Jenny, Seena and other panel members specific suggestions for a KPI on suicide prevention in prison for the IAPDC to recommend in the panel's Prisons Strategy White Paper response to strengthen its commitment to safety.

Item 2: Information Sharing Agreement

6. Oscar Rushton, MoJ Safety Team, updated the Panel on the work that his team are doing on Information Sharing.
 - a. MoJ issued a new risk identification toolkit to prison staff in 2021.
 - b. MoJ are developing a new safety training package for new and existing prison officers, including a new module on safety and its risks.
 - c. There is a new digital project pilot in place at HMP Nottingham which aims to improve the quality of risk of harm information processed at reception.
 - d. A cross-department Task and Finish Group is developing guidance for prison healthcare staff around national information sharing protocols.
 - e. A project to develop resources and tools to support information sharing between prisons and families is being developed in conjunction with PACT. This is being piloted using an online portal across three sites.
 - f. The team will be feeding into a review of Person Escort Records (PERs) to ensure that risks are better reflected. The Safety Team will be issuing communications to remind staff of what key information should be captured.
 - g. MoJ are exploring how consistent and timely access to Police National Computer (PNC) information can be established.
 - h. The Safety Team have looked at the panel's Information Sharing Statement and think that it is still a useful document that can support other work but needs to be updated to incorporate recent legislation.
7. Seena raised that suicide and violence risk factors are very different and that this should be factored into the risk assessment toolkit. Oscar believed that both involve similar behaviours to look out for. The toolkit is centred on circumstances during early days and stresses that risks change over time, so it needs to be regularly updated. Oscar will share the toolkit with the Panel and Seena asked to speak with the Safety Team separately about research on risk assessment.
8. Jenny T asked about the gender specificity of the work, whether there is collaborative work with social care and health staff, and on what platform training is available. Oscar advised that the Safety Team have psychologists from the Women's Self-Harm Taskforce feeding in and gender will be an element in the training courses. The information sharing Task and Finish group contains representation from healthcare partners. More time is being given for risks and triggers in training modules. Training will be delivered face-to-face within 12 months of recruitment.
9. Juliet commented on issues caused by misunderstandings around confidentiality in this area. She asked if the work on Person Escort Records (PERs) involved collaborative work between the MoJ Safety and Oxford Commissioning Group. She also asked if the Samaritans were liaising on the toolkit work and if any family members were consulted about their experiences. Oscar commented that the training will stress the importance of

engaging families. He will find out the latest update regarding the PACT and HMPPS project on working with families and feedback.

10. Deena raised the work being done to combat violent behaviour in prison and spoke about a Challenge Support Intervention Plan (CSIP) video of prisoners speaking about what worked in changing their behaviour whilst in custody. Deena will forward a link to the video to the Panel.
11. Juliet offered to send them the panel's Keeping Safe report and report on preventing deaths in the women's estate to inform the work they are carrying out.
12. Piers suggested that the Secretariat can work with the Safety Team on updating the panel's Information Sharing Agreement for consideration by panel members.

Action 3: Juliet to provide MoJ Safety team with Oxford team contact working on Person Escort Records (PERs).

Action 4: MoJ Safety team to share toolkit regarding the risk and triggers safety model; contact PACT for an update on their family support project with HMPPS and feedback; follow-up to consider Samaritans input into training modules; and share link to Challenge Support Intervention Plan (CSIP) training video.

Action 5: Secretariat to send MoJ Safety team reports on Keeping Safe and Women in Prison.

Action 6: Seena to contact MoJ Safety team for a discussion regarding risk assessment research.

Action 7: Secretariat to work with MoJ Safety team on updating the panel's Information Sharing Agreement.

Item 3: Practitioner and Stakeholder Group (PSG)

13. Piers and Adrian provided an analysis of the PSG and suggestions for next steps. Adrian explained that the PSG has seen an increase of 109 members to 128 in the last year and that there is a diverse membership, with a few members from outside of England and Wales. When members sign up, they are asked to state their primary and secondary interest and are now also asked to indicate to which custody sector they are most involved in. This will help to target members more appropriately.
14. Piers stated that although it is a good list, there are some key members and sectors missing, namely some MBDC members, bereaved family members, former detainees, coroners and parliamentarians. There are also too few members interested in secure mental health. He also mentioned that the Fulton Report is vague about how the PSG should be utilised and suggested some options for next steps.
15. In the discussion:
 - a. Jenny T suggested holding a PSG event, where members would be invited to feed in to work and that members should also be involved in projects. The PSG has the potential to add perspectives that fall outside immediate panel member expertise.
 - b. The panel reflected on how the PSG has worked in the past and suggested using members' interests in a more targeted way. Prior to Juliet's appointment as chair this included small conferences, though the membership was smaller. A number of PSG members attended the Keeping Safe conference in February 2020.

- c. Juliet welcomed Adrian's work to re-establish a regular newsletter mailed to PSG members.
 - d. Juliet stated that she has put out a call for family members to join the PSG in the February edition of Inside Time, and will discuss the prospect of an event with Jenny S and Deborah for a short paper ahead of the next IAPDC meeting.
 - e. Adrian asked if the PSG should have an upper limit and if the PSG should be two groups – a mailing list and an active group to work with. This will be kept under consideration.
 - f. The panel suggested that a survey of PSG member experiences and expectations could be considered at a later date.
16. Piers summarised next steps, including to encourage PSG members to contribute to Panel work at an early stage of a project, and to consider how a PSG event could be scoped and delivered.

Action 8: Juliet to discuss ideas for a PSG event with Jenny S and Deborah to inform a short secretariat paper for discussion at the next panel meeting.

Item 4: Open actions audit and forward look

17. Kish presented a document with outstanding actions. Juliet will discuss outstanding actions with panel members during forthcoming catch-ups.
18. Piers asked if Panel members found the new planning document useful and whether it should be continued. It was decided that it would be produced again for February.
19. Piers also mentioned the following key dates:
- a. Juliet to meet Kit Malthouse MP on 27 January 2022.
 - b. MBDC co-sponsor to take place on 31 January 2022.
 - c. Juliet to meet Phil Copple on 3 February 2022 (now moved to 9 February). Panel members were invited to feed into the agenda.
 - d. Juliet to meet Victoria Atkins MP in February 2022

Action 9: Juliet to address outstanding actions with Deborah.

Action 10: Panel members to feed into agenda for Juliet's meeting with Phil Copple by 27 January 2022.

Item 5: AOB

20. Juliet has asked for long-COVID to be discussed at an upcoming HMPPS Recovery Independent Advisory Forum and asked for the Panel's input. Seena commented that he was not aware of any existing international research, though will ask his colleagues. Juliet will ask colleagues at the Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research (ICPR) and asked the Secretariat for some desk research on the subject.
21. Jenny T mentioned that Phil Copple has commissioned work on preventing self-harm in women's prisons and has asked Juliet to bring this up at their meeting. Juliet will also discuss compassionate release.
22. The Secretariat vacancy for a Band B has been advertised.
23. Seena asked for a contact who managed KPIs for forensic hospitals to discuss how they should be updated. The Secretariat will identify a contact.

24. The CQC will publish the latest statistics of deaths of people detained under the Mental Health Act on 27 January 2022 (this has since been delayed).
25. Juliet asked the Panel for suggestions of visitors to future IAPDC meetings. She has asked Hindpal Singh Bui, a lead inspector for HMIP, to attend a meeting to discuss Immigration Detention.

Action 11: Seena to ask colleagues about research on Long COVID; Juliet to enquire with Institute for Crime and Justice Policy Research (ICPR); Secretariat to conduct desk research.

Action 12: Juliet to invite Hindpal Singh Bui to a future IAPDC meeting.

Action 13: Secretariat to identify contact to discuss the setting of KPIs in forensic hospitals.

Date of next meeting: 7 March 2022

Actions:

Action 1: **Secretariat** to ask DHSC about Integrated Care Systems and how this will change custody healthcare contracting in both prisons and police custody.

Action 2: **Juliet** to explore with Jenny, Seena and other panel members specific suggestions for a KPI on suicide prevention in prison for the IAPDC to recommend in the panel's Prisons Strategy White Paper response to strengthen its commitment to safety.

Action 3: **Juliet** to provide MoJ Safety team with Oxford team contact working on Person Escort Records (PERs).

Action 4: **MoJ Safety Team** to share toolkit regarding the risk and triggers safety model; contact PACT for an update on their family support project with HMPPS and feedback; follow-up to consider Samaritans input into training modules; and share link to Challenge Support Intervention Plan (CSIP) training video

Action 5: **Secretariat** to send MoJ Safety team reports on Keeping Safe and Women in Prison.

Action 6: **Seena** to contact MoJ Safety team for a discussion regarding risk assessment research.

Action 7: **Secretariat** to work with MoJ Safety team on updating the panel's Information Sharing Agreement.

Action 8: **Juliet** to discuss ideas for a PSG event with Jenny S and Deborah to inform a short secretariat paper for discussion at the next panel meeting.

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