



Meeting Minutes

NPM Scotland Subgroup Quarterly Meeting

Thursday 11 June 2026, 10:00-12:30

Chair: RA

Present:

RA, Chair, Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC)
MK, UK National Preventive Mechanism (UK NPM) (virtual)
RJ, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)
CA, Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC)
SS, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons Scotland (HMIPS)
JC, Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland (MWCS)
KS, Independent Custody Visiting Scotland (ICVS)
CH, Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) (non-voting)
NH, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland (CYPSCS) (non-voting)

Apologies:

CW, Care Inspectorate (CI)

In attendance:

CK, UK NPM
SR, UK NPM

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies

RA led a round of introductions and noted apologies from **CW**.

2. Declarations of Interest

Nothing to add to existing declaration registry.

3. Review of March minutes and action items

All agreed to the minutes.

Action	Agreement/action	Responsible	Status/Notes
1	Amend 27 November minutes	SR	Complete
2	Organise mental health transfer data subgroup meeting and invite Caroline Kelly to speak. Request to see data collected by Forensic Network in meeting.	CK	MH working group to meet Forensic Network in early September

3	Send key points of Future of Secure Care response to CK to share with SSG members.	NH	Complete
4	Introduce CK/SSG to new HMICS press officer	RJ	Ongoing – CK/RJ arranging
5	Invite Martyn Evans, Chair of Sentencing and Penal Policy Commission, and colleagues to future SSG meeting.	CK	Postponed - An invitation to Martyn Evans has not been extended to the next Subgroup meeting as Police Scotland will be attending instead. JC noted a Police Scotland contact, John McDermott.
6	Share Deaths in Custody Database with SSG by end of March	CK	Complete
7	Produce short paper on SSG strategy	RA	Complete – RA presented new strategy to SSG
8	Meet with all SSG members individually, CK/SR to facilitate	RA (CK/SR)	Ongoing
9	Produce event note for State of Detention in Scotland Event.	CK	Complete
10	Circulate event note to the MSPs who did not attend 6 March event	CK	Complete

[ACTION 11] SR to put March minutes on UK NPM website.

4. NPM Scotland Subgroup (SSG) strategic planning 2026-27

The Chair led the SSG through strategic planning, focusing on how the group has a presence as a collective entity and where it sits within the UK NPM. The strategy proposes a new way of working, to strengthen and integrate the NPM mandate Further within individual organisations.

The Chair asked SSG representatives to draw on what is already happening within their organisations, and consider what that work might contribute to the SSG and the NPM's strategic objectives. The aim is to make the SSG outcomes-focused and ensure collaborative working, without necessarily creating new activities, and to maintain momentum on priority issues.

The group discussed issues of independence and a need to get buy-in from certain organisations, and agreed the SSG can say things that individual bodies might not be able to. The NPM "voice" can influence policy and procedural change.

[ACTION 12] RA to write short paper on overall strategy and objectives of the SSG.

5. Person-centred journeys project

RA and **CA** explained the person-centred journeys project to the SSG, noting that it will be a good opportunity for collaboration, and it is a natural progression of the mental health transfer data (looking at what is happening before and after transfer). The first stage of the project would entail mapping out people's journeys and different transition points, when in need of mental health care. This mapping would also help to identify any barriers to this care and understand the human impact.

The group discussed several issues and scenarios including:

- Elderly, infirm prisoners and dementia in prisons, including people entering the court process with dementia, and people developing dementia at a later point in their journey of deprivation of liberty.
- The likelihood of geographic disparities in outcomes for people depending on where they are in Scotland (especially in courts). It was suggested it might be worth doing the same "journey" or case study in two different areas to highlight these gaps.
- The cyclical and non-linear nature of these journeys was also raised. E.g. while police custody is the first point of contact for most, 97% have been arrested before, so it is not really the "start" of their journey. There is also a step before police custody, as frontline officers have an opportunity to assess and divert individuals.
- Different pressures in different parts of the system: in some cases, people can be stuck in secure hospitals for decades with no release date and often for longer than a prison sentence.
- Hidden disabilities that people are punished for (e.g. Foetal Alcohol may not act as a deterrent).
- The overall need for further education for duty bearers around hidden disabilities and mental health, as individuals presenting with a specific condition are often recorded as "declared mental health".
- That a person-centred pathway will need a person-centred policy in response, which may require significant policy reform.

Overall, the group approved the project and recognised its value, agreeing to focus on one journey at first, but potentially two locations.

[ACTION 13] CK to consult SSG members on potential journeys.

[ACTION 14] ALL to contribute/highlight issues for awareness in future developments of the work

6. Pre-circulated written updates and issues log

The group discussed the Issues Log and other SSG activities, noting the following developments and actions:

The group noted that the Children Care and Justice Act guidelines around children turning 18 in secure accommodation are to be established in November 2026, with guidance and onboarding for staff from February 2027. The group noted that there is a good opportunity to pick this work back up, and agreed a letter would be appropriate at this time.

[ACTION 15] CK/SR to draft letter to Minister regarding regulations around the circumstances under which young people attaining the age of 18 may remain in secure accommodation services.

The group discussed the ongoing closure of custody centres in Scotland, noting that closures are primarily due to staffing, but mean that individuals are being transferred elsewhere for custody. This also impacts on healthcare, where individuals are crossing local health boards.

The group was pleased to be informed that the investigation of deaths in mental health settings has received a funding commitment, and await further progress on this work.

With regard to deaths in prison custody, a job description and terms of reference are being drafted for the NOM. **SS** also noted the *Giant on the Bridge* research, explaining that the discussion centred on the journey out of incarceration and what that might look like in Scotland. The forthcoming research project will allow for shared learning between Scotland, the Netherlands and Norway.

[ACTION 16] SS to bring updates and next steps of *Giant on the Bridge* research to SSG.

[ACTION 17] ALL to send upcoming consultations to CK. CK to circulate consultations as and when necessary.

- **MH Transfers**

The working group on MH transfers will meet with FN in September. It was noted that the Forensic Mental Health Board, set up to take forward recommendations made in the Barron Report had closed, though there had been no conclusion to the recommendations. The group will write to the relevant Minister to enquire as to what plans are in progress to take forward recommendations made in the report. MWCS is awaiting updated data from the Forensic Network regarding mental health transfer times.

[ACTION 18] CK/SR to draft letter to relevant Ministers regarding the Barron Report recommendation to establish a Forensic Mental Health Board.

- **Deaths in Custody**

Since the last SSG meeting, the Deaths in Custody Database has been shared with the group and will continue to be updated. **CK** met colleagues from the Scottish Centre for Crime & Justice Research (SCCJR) to discuss the data being collected by both parties. The SSG suggested writing to Cabinet Secretary for Justice Neil Gray

to enquire about progress on recommendations around deaths in prison custody, including the Independent Review of the Response to Deaths in Prison Custody. The SSG agreed to close deaths in custody as a key issue, but will roll the topic into other workstreams as they emerge and focus on deaths in custody when a specific issue arises.

[ACTION 19] CK/SR to draft a letter to Neil Gray regarding Deaths in Custody Database.

7. Foreign National Offenders Legislation

MK updated the SSG on the Northern Ireland Subgroup's work on Foreign National Offenders (FNOs). The discussion in the Northern Ireland Subgroup is ongoing, but this work and the final paper are to be put on the SSG agenda for discussion at a later date.

[ACTION 20] CK/SR to put FNO paper on September agenda; enquire with Northern Ireland Subgroup re: sharing paper.

8. Post-election engagement update

Meeting invitations have been sent to new Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers, alongside the State of Detention report and NPM/OPCAT factsheets. With the announcement of new committees, it is worth thinking about parliamentary engagement and considering new MSPs. A targeted approach to engaging with senior civil servants was also suggested. The group agreed that it is important that the new parliament understands what the NPM is.

9. Supreme Court decisions

The group briefly discussed relevant Supreme Court decisions, asking the wider question of whether the group highlights interesting cases and act on them. There might be a link between the person-centred journeys project and legislation. **CA** noted a webinar on the Cheshire West case, which can be discussed with more nuance at the next meeting.

[ACTION 21] ALL to send any relevant information/webinars to CK. CK to circulate to SSG via email.

10.AOB

The group discussed the impending closure of Dungavel IRC, with potential plans to use facilities at Edinburgh airport and/or police custody centres for immigration detention instead. **CH** and **MK** offered to enquire and share information regarding this change.

[ACTION 22] CH/MK to share relevant information re: closure of Dungavel IRC.

Close 12:30

Summary of agreements and actions

Action	Agreement/action	Responsible	Status
11	SR to put March minutes on UK NPM website.	SR	Complete
12	RA to write short paper on overall strategy and objectives of the SSG.	RA	Ongoing
13	CK to contact SSG members regarding potential pathways.	CK	Complete
14	ALL to contribute/highlight issues for awareness in future developments of the person-centred journeys work.	ALL	Ongoing
15	CK/SR to draft letter to Neil Gray/Siobhian Brown regarding regulation on children attaining the age of 18 in SAS.	CK/SR	Will raise in meeting
16	SS to bring updates and next steps of <i>Giant on the Bridge</i> research to SSG.	SS	
17	ALL to send upcoming consultations to CK . CK to circulate consultations as and when necessary.	ALL/CK	Ongoing
18	CK/SR to draft letter to Angela Constance regarding recommendations from the Barron Report.	CK/SR	Will raise in meeting
19	CK/SR to draft letter to Neil Gray regarding Deaths in Custody recommendations progress.	CK/SR	Will raise in meeting
20	CK/SR to put Foreign National Offenders paper on next relevant agenda and enquire with Northern Ireland Subgroup re: sharing paper.	CK/SR	Ongoing
21	ALL to send any relevant information or webinars to CK . CK to circulate to SSG via email.	ALL/CK	Complete
22	CH/MK to share relevant information re: closure of Dungavel IRC.	CH/MK	Complete