Health and Social Care Board

NORTHERN IRELAND ADULT SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP

PROGRESS REPORT

2010 - 2011

Contents

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

Living a life that is free from harm and abuse is a fundamental right of every person. All of us need to act as good neighbours and citizens in looking out for one another and seeking to prevent the isolation which can easily lead to abusive situations and put adults at risk of harm.

In recent years there has been a growing awareness on local, national and international levels of the nature and extent of the abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults at risk of harm.

Health and Social Care, together with Criminal Justice Agencies, has a lead role to play in preventing and detecting abuse, and in providing protection to adults at risk of harm. Specifically, they seek to ensure that such adults receive protection, support and equitable access to the Criminal Justice System. However, a successful safeguarding agenda requires the support of a much wider network of agencies, organisations, bodies and communities of interest, across the statutory, voluntary, community, Independent and faith communities.

Throughout the United Kingdom, Government at the highest level is developing policy frameworks which aim to improve safeguarding and protection outcomes for adults who are at risk of abuse, exploitation and neglect.

As part of this programme of policy development, in March 2010 the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety and the Northern Ireland Office (now Department of Justice) jointly published "**Adult Safeguarding in Northern Ireland: Regional and Local Partnership Arrangements(2010)**."

This document describes the key areas of responsibility in relation to adult safeguarding activity, and sets out the arrangements and structures to be put in place across Northern Ireland to ensure these responsibilities are addressed.

The creation of the Northern Ireland Safeguarding Partnership (NIASP) is central to the implementation of the agenda for action set out in this document.

This report highlights the main achievements of NIASP since it was established in September 2010, and sets out the key priorities for Adult Safeguarding in Northern Ireland in 2011-12.

SECTION 2

PROGRESS TO DATE

The primary function of the **Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership** (NIASP) is to develop a strategic approach to safeguarding adults. The NIASP is comprised of representatives from the statutory, voluntary, independent and community sectors including local Councils, the Social Security Agency, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and a representative from the Faith Community. It is Chaired by the Assistant Director for Older People and Adults. NIASP held its initial meeting in September 2010 and meets on a quarterly basis.

The **Local Adult Safeguarding Partnerships** (LASPs) are located within each of the Health and Social Care Trust areas. The role of LASPs is to implement NIASP guidance, policy and procedures at a local level. Membership is drawn from local statutory, voluntary independent and community sectors, including representation from Criminal Justice Agencies, Local Commissioning Groups, Local Authorities and the Faith Community. LASPS are Chaired by a Trust Assistant Director and meet on a quarterly basis.

In order to progress the key responsibilities outlined in "Adult Safeguarding in Northern Ireland", NIASP has

established four workstreams, focusing on the following areas:-

a) Policy and Procedures;
b) Training;
c) Information Management; and
d) Communication and User Engagement.

The Chair of each workstream is a member of NIASP, and is supported by a Trust Adult Safeguarding Specialist.

The priority areas of the workstreams over the next year are outlined in the attached workplan.

Alongside the work currently being undertaken by these workstreams, activity has focused on:-

a) the development of a **DVD** highlighting issues of abuse within institutional care, and targeted at care workers;

b) supporting **Volunteer Now** in the development of a training package to support voluntary sector organisations in designing an organisational response to the abuse of adults. This is due for completion by the end of June 2011;

c) working with the **Directorate of Legal Services** to produce a guidance handbook for practitioners and managers on adult safeguarding and the law. This also is due for completion by the end of June 2011;

d) working with the Social Care Institute of Excellence(SCIE) to develop an on-line resource for practitioners. **The Central Adult Safeguarding and Protection Information Resource (CASPIR)** is jointly funded by the DHSSPS and Atlantic Philanthropies and will provide a resource not only for local researchers and practitioners but also for practitioners across the rest of the United

Kingdon and Ireland. CASPIR is expected to be fully operational by September 2011; and

e) working with the Social Security Agency, Office of Care and Protection Coroner's Office and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to develop effective partnership arrangements to support adult safeguarding.

In addition, formal links have been established with the Health Service Executive, Dublin, and the National Centre for the Protection of Older People, based in University College, Dublin.

The Regional Adult Safeguarding Officer, on behalf of NIASP, meets with the Chairs of the LASPs on a quarterly basis, and with the Trust Adult Safeguarding Specialists every month. The purpose of these meetings is to:

- ensure consistency of approach and developments within adult safeguarding throughout Northern Ireland;
- facilitate communication across and between safeguarding systems; and
- identify and where possible address emerging practice issues.

The Regional Adult Safeguarding Officer also meets with the DHSSPS on a weekly basis, to contribute to the development of a new regional policy on adult safeguarding. The new policy is scheduled to be available for public consultation in June 2011.

Since September 2010, NIASP has facilitated two **workshops**. The first workshop brought NIASP members together to develop a shared and common understanding of the role of NIASP and each member's contribution to NIASP's work. A second workshop was held to identify the challenges and opportunities involved in addressing adult safeguarding in acute settings.

Since September 2010, NIASP has worked successfully to develop positive connections to Criminal Justice Agencies and public protection arrangements. In particular, work has centred on the following:

a) Streamlining processes related to the **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)**. These Conferences are Chaired by the Police, and are victim-focused meetings where information is shared on the highest risk cases of domestic abuse between Criminal Justice Agencies, representatives from Health and Social Care, housing, independent domestic violence advocates or workers, and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. NIASP has sought to clarify the relationship of the MARAC processes to adult safeguarding procedures and to ensure there is a consistent response for victims of domestic violence or abuse;

b) **Public Protection Arrangements in Northern Ireland (PPANI)** have issued revised guidance for the management in the community of sexual or dangerous offenders. The revised guidance makes specific and helpful reference to adult safeguarding. NIASP has ensured that Trust Adult Safeguarding Specialists are included in regional training initiatives for the PPANI arrangements.

NIASP has also responded to public consultations in relation to the revision of arrangements to support access to justice for vulnerable or intimidated people through the application of Special Measures in the collection and presentation of evidence and witness statements to the Courts, and on the development of a new Community Safety Strategy, due for publication in the Autumn of 2011.

<u>Summary</u>

"Adult Safeguarding in Northern Ireland" sets a complex and challenging agenda for the development of adult safeguarding. Progress to date has concentrated on establishing the NIASP and LASPs, and on creating the linkages and structures necessary to enable NIASP to effectively progress the safeguarding agenda.

SECTION 3

NIASP WORKPLAN 2011-12

In setting priorities for 2011-12, NIASP has drawn both on the responsibilities outlined in "Adult Safeguarding in Northern Ireland" and on key themes that have emerged in 2010-11. The NIASP Workplan reflects activity across the full spectrum of adult safeguarding, namely:

Prevention: ie; actions necessary to prevent abuse occurring in the first place, empowering individuals and communities to keep themselves safe from harm, and developing organisational cultures that support a prevention-focused approach to safeguarding;

Protection: ie; ensuring that activities designed to protect adults at risk of harm are of the highest standard and achieve the best outcomes for individuals; and

Partnership Working: ie; each partner agency or organisation is able to:
- identify its unique contribution to adult safeguarding;
- develop clear adult safeguarding protocols and working relationships;
- take responsibility for its own contribution to safeguarding; and
- co-operate with the safeguarding activities of partner organisations.

The priorities identified in the Workplan are, of necessity, high-level statements of intent. Each area will require detailed planning and the development of individual Action Plans. Progress on the achievement of each priority will be reported to the quarterly NIASP meeting.

NISAP WORKPLAN 2011 - 12

Priority 1: **Regional Adult** **Safeguarding Strategy**	The publication of "Adult Safeguarding in Northern Ireland: Regional and Local Partnership Arrangements(2010)" and the development of a new regional policy for adult safeguarding, require NIASP to produce a regional strategy for adult safeguarding. The aim of this strategy is to: • provide a 5 year vision for the development of adult safeguarding; • provide direction for all partner organisations and agencies in the development of adult safeguarding activities; and • inform future annual work plans. **Responsibility for Implementation:** NIASP **Completion date for draft regional Adult Safeguarding strategy:** March 2012

Priority 2: **Regional Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures**	Alongside the development of a regional policy and strategy it will be necessary to review and, where appropriate, revise existing operational procedures. This will involve all partner agencies, including the Social Security Agency; the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the independent sector.

Responsibility for Implementation: **NIASP Policy and Procedures Workstream**

Completion date for draft operational procedures: **March 2012**

Priority 3:	The Departmental guidance requires NIASP, in partnership with LASPs to
Regional Adult	consider the establishment and provision of support to an Adult
Safeguarding Forum	Safeguarding Forum.

The role of the Forum is to:

- inform the development and review of strategies, policies and procedures;
- help with the development and promoting awareness of risk indicators;
- help equip people with information and plans to safeguard themselves;
- help identify barriers to the uptake of safeguarding services;
- facilitate the development of 'user-friendly' information about what to do and how to get help when needed;
- promote access to and dialogue with local communities and special interest groups; and
- promote maximum opportunity for local participation.

Responsibility for Implementation: **NIASP Communication and User Engagement Workstream**

Completion date: **September 2012**

Priority 4: **Regional Adult** **Safeguarding** **Engagement with the** **Acute Sector**	**For many victims of abuse their first and only, contact with the Health and Social Care system is through their use of acute sector services, both through general hospitals and specialist mental health units. However, responses to allegations or suspicions of abuse and the services to protect and support victims of abuse have developed primarily within the community sector.** **It is vital that staff working in all acute services, including psychiatric services, are alert to the signs and symptoms of abuse, are clear about the referral process to adult safeguarding and are fully engaged in the management of any risks identified within the Protection Plan. This will ultimately lead to a more consistent and coherent response by the Health and Social Care system to such allegations and contribute to better quality outcomes for service users.** **NIASP will, therefore:** a) **ensure that the Electronic Care Record (ECR) incorporates information from SOSCARE and is able to identify adults at risk of harm and adults in need of protection with an emerging pattern of attendances at Accident and Emergency departments;**

b) review the content of training on adult safeguarding currently being delivered to staff in the acute sector. Following that review, standardised and targeted training programmes for delivery within a range of settings will be developed.

c) develop a clear agreed pathway for the management of an adult safeguarding concern or referral. Such a pathway will require endorsement from NIASP, Trust Medical or Clinical Directors and the relevant professional bodies.

Responsibility for Implementation: **NIASP Information Management Workstream**

Completion Date: **March 2012**

| Priority 5: Regional Adult Safeguarding Information Sharing Protocol | Adult safeguarding is not the responsibility of any one organisation or agency. Effective safeguarding requires the appropriate sharing of information within and across organisations and partner agencies. However, determining what information can be shared by whom and when is a complex process. There is a need for clear agreements on sharing personal information, which, whilst compliant with Data Protection legislation, also assists in identification, assessment and management of incidents of abuse.

It may be necessary to have different protocols or agreements in place with individual safeguarding partners. However, by the end of March 2012 there will be at least one draft Information Sharing Protocol with a key partner organisation such as PSNI, Office of Care and Protection, Social Security Agency, etc.

Responsibility for Implementation: NIASP Information Management Workstream

Completion Date: March 2012 |

Priority 6: **Regional Adult** **Safeguarding Information** **Management**	Currently, activity and performance information in relation to adult safeguarding is held in a variety of places by a number of partner agencies, with no common or agreed set of definitions or method of analysis. NIASP will, therefore, identify a single, consistent method of reporting in relation to adult safeguarding. This will include the identification and recording of both prevention and protection activities, as well as information on outcomes for service users. **Responsibility for Implementation:** **NIASP Information Management** **Workstream** **Completion Date:** **March 2012**

Priority 7:	High quality training for staff at all levels and in all settings and services, is
Regional Adult	key to the delivery of effective safeguarding processes, and underpins all
Safeguarding Training	developments within safeguarding.

By March 2012, NIASP will identify and review all training activity within the statutory, voluntary and independent sectors targeted at adult safeguarding to ensure that:

- there is consistency of content;
- staff receive training at the appropriate level; and
- safeguarding training is provided across and within all sectors and services.

Responsibility for Implementation: NIASP Training Workstream

Completion Date: March 2012

Priority 8: **Regional Adult Safeguarding Awareness – Raising**	Increased awareness of the nature, extent and impact of abuse of adults at risk is vital for individuals and communities, so that both prevention and protection activities can be better targeted and can be more effective.
	By March 2012, NIASP will have developed targeted awareness raising activities.
	In the first instance, these activities will concentrate on:
	• **Acute sector (including psychiatric facilities); and** • **Primary Care Services (including General Practitioners).**
	Responsibility for Implementation: NIASP Communication and User Engagement Workstream
	Completion Date: March 2012

Priority 9:
Community Development
Approach to Prevention

In developing effective preventative approaches within adult safeguarding, it will be necessary to work with both individuals and localities to ensure that adults at risk are better able to keep themselves safe from harm, and to reduce the levels of risk they experience.

By March 2012, NIASP will have specified and tested a community development approach to build the capacity of individuals and communities to keep themselves from harm.

Responsibility for Implementation: LASPs

Completion Date: March 2012

Priority 10:
Regional Adult
Safeguarding Interface
with Human Resources
Processes

The interface between adult safeguarding investigative processes, employment law and human resources processes, is a complex one. On occasion, the interface can lead to disruption of the formal investigation of an allegation of abuse. An investigation can also pose challenges to employing organisations and place additional stress on service users and staff.

By the end of March 2012, NIASP will have drawn up clear guidance for all agencies on this interface. In addition to advice on employment law, the guidance will explore alternative ways of managing investigations within the workplace that also provide protection for service users.

Responsibility for Implementation: NIASP

Completion Date: March 2012

APPENDIX 1

Summary of Priority Actions

	Priority	Lead Responsibility	Completion Date
1	Development of a Regional Adult Safeguarding Strategy	NIASP	March 2012
2	Development of Regional Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures	NIASP Policy and Procedures Workstream	March 2012
3	Establishment of Adult Safeguarding Forum – Planning Phase	NIASP Communication and User Engagement Workstream	March 2012
4	Engagement with Acute Sector	NIASP Workstreams	March 2012
5	Development of at least one Information Sharing Protocol	NIASP Information Management Workstream	March 2012
6	Information Management System	NIASP Information Management Workstream	March 2012
7	Training Review and Standardisation of Content	NIASP Training Workstream	March 2012

8	Awareness Raising in Acute and Primary Care or Services	NIASP Communication and User Engagement Workstream	March 2012
9	Community Development Approach to Prevention	LASPs	March 2012
10	Adult Safeguarding Interface with Human Resources	NIASP	March 2012

APPENDIX 2

NORTHERN IRELAND ADULT SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP
-
MEMBERSHIP LIST

NAME	JOB TITLE	ORGANISATION
Aidan Gordon	Assistant Director	Western Health Social Care Trust
Alison Conroy	Criminal Justice Department	Police Service of Northern Ireland
Anne Donaghy	Chief Executive	Ballymena Borough Council / Society of Local Authority Chief Executives
Audrey Allen	Manager	Action Mental Health / New Horizons
Christine Best	Chief Executive	Crossroads
Clare McGartland	Lead AHP Consultant	Public Health Agency
Colum Conway	Chief Executive Officer	Extra Care
Colum McQuillan	Assistant Director	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Maria Dowds	Medical Adviser	Health & Social Care Board
Desmond Lowry	RCN Officer	Royal College of Nursing
Eleanor Ross	Nursing	Public Health Agency
Harry Douglas	Training Rep	Southern Health Social Care Trust
Helen Ferguson	Director	Carers NI
Hugh Hamill	Assistant Director	Probation Board for Northern Ireland

NAME	JOB TITLE	ORGANISATION
Irene Sloan	Director of Care	Praxis Care
Jacqui Corscadden	Head of Services	Age NI
Janet Montgomery	Director	Independent Health Care Providers
Lesley McDowell	Chair	Northern Ireland Association of Social Workers
Lindsay Conway	Director of Social Services	Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Marie Crossan	Acting Chief Executive	Cause
Miceal Crilly	Assistant Director Physical and Sensory Disability	Southern Health Social Care Trust
Michael Kelly	Assistant Director	Social Security Agency
Noelle Barton	Assistant Director	Northern Health Social Care Trust
Paul Darragh	Consultant	Public Health Agency
Pauline Brown	Senior Services Manager	Red Cross
Rosemary Magill	Area Manager	Women's Aid
Roslyn Dougherty	Assistant Director	South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust
Sarah Browne	Assistant Director of Older People Services	South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust
Steve Compton	Chairman	Action on Elder Abuse
Susan Reid	CEO	Victim Support Northern Ireland
Una Macauley	Co Director	Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
Veronica Gray	Co-ordinator	Volunteer Now