

Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership



ANNUAL REPORT

1 APRIL 2018 – 31 MARCH 2019



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the eighth Annual Report of the Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NIASP) and covers the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

Activity data suggests that adult safeguarding and protection is operating within a stable system, with some increases in activity noted as responses to particular investigations or enquiries. Work continues to streamline and standardise both the content and the methods of gathering data. This year, for the first time, the Annual Report contains PSNI-specific activity data.

Prevention activity continues to be led by the Local Adult Safeguarding Partnerships (LASPs), with significant developments in relation to awareness-raising materials, the development of Safe Place initiatives and the use of the NIASP webpage, hosted by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB).

Partnership working continues to be one of NIASP's key strengths and this year delivered new guidance for staff working with people who develop pressure sores or ulcers and key advice to colleagues charged with the introduction of Domestic Homicide Reviews in Northern Ireland.

NIASP has a robust training strategy in place, and this year saw significant levels of training being accessed by staff and volunteers working at all levels across the Health and Social Care system.



WORKPLAN 2018-19

THEME / OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	BY	Completion Date	Commentary
<p>RAISE AWARENESS OF ADULT SAFEGUARDING</p> <p>Continue to develop a regional programme of awareness raising and prevention activities to complement local prevention plans.</p> <p>Ensure relevant Adult Safeguarding information is easily available to staff, people who use services, their family carers and members of the public.</p>	Develop video graphic explaining abuse and how to get help.	Prevention Work stream	September 2018	Completed September 2018
	Pilot 6 monthly briefing note for Partners highlighting developments in Adult Safeguarding.		March 2019	Not yet completed. Further work required to ensure ownership and participation by all partners
	Partners to include link to NIASP website on their respective organisation's website	NIASP	September 2018	Completed September 2018
	HSC Trust Adult Safeguarding web page to include LASP member agencies and web links	LASP	December 2018	Completed December 2018

THEME / OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	BY	Completion Date	Commentary
	Publicise NIASP Work Plan on NIASP and HSC Trust websites	NIASP LASP	June 2018	Completed September 2018
	Promote regional awareness of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15 th June	NIASP LASP	June 2018	Completed. To roll forward to 2019-20
	Establish editorial team to quality assure additions to the NIASP web page, and complete annual review to ensure information is kept up to date.	HSCB	September 2018	Completed September 2018
GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE Support NIASP partner organisations to comply with the relevant requirements set out in <i>Adult Safeguarding: Prevention and Protection in Partnership (July 2015)</i>	Test ASC Annual Position Report Template for review in April 2019	Prevention Work stream	March 2019	Completed and shared for testing March 2019
	Conduct regional audit of referral activity to Adult Safeguarding Gateway Teams	HSCB	March 2019	Not yet completed. To roll forward in 2019-20
	Monitor and Review Adult Safeguarding activity data following implementation of revised Data 4 format	NIASP	March 2019	Not yet completed. Regional data set agreed March 2019. To complete audit in 2019-20

THEME / OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	BY	Completion Date	Commentary
	NIASP to meet 4 times per year providing a multi-agency forum to co-ordinate the implementation of <i>Adult Safeguarding: Prevention and Protection in Partnership (July 2015)</i>		March 2019	NIASP met on 4 occasions in 2018-19
	Develop an Adult Safeguarding Strategic Plan for the next 5 years.	NIASP	March 2019	Not yet completed. To complete in 2019-20
	Provide advice and guidance to other statutory agencies to include ASC requirements in their contract; regulation; or quality improvement frameworks.	HSCB	March 2019	Completed March 2019. To roll forward into 2019-20
TRAINING AND SHARED LEARNING Ensure that practitioners have access to relevant training and opportunities to learn from practice	Organise an annual learning event focusing on adult at risk of harm and alternative safeguarding responses	Prevention Work stream	March 2019	Not yet completed. To roll forward to 2019-20
	Cascade peer education / self-protection programmes such as “Keeping Yourself Safe” or equivalent training for Adults at Risk of harm	LASP	March 2019	On-going through LASP and HSC Trust activity. To roll forward into 2019-20

THEME / OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	BY	Completion Date	Commentary
	across services and settings.			
	Adapt and implement Department of Health & Social Care (Jan 2018) Safeguarding Adults Protocol: Pressure Ulcers and the interface with a Safeguarding Enquiry for the Northern Ireland context.	Protection Work stream	December 2019	On course for completion. Final document to be submitted to DoH by September 2019
	Review and update Adult Safeguarding Training Strategy and Training Framework 2016 to reflect emerging needs.	NIASP	March 2019	Not yet completed. To roll forward into 2019-20
	Support nursing colleagues with the development and implementation of the Adult Safeguarding Nursing Competence Framework	NIASP	September 2018	Completed September 2018

THEME / OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	BY	Completion Date	Commentary
	Facilitate Operation Repeat prevention training to Statutory and Independent Sector domiciliary care workers.	LASP	March 2019	Ongoing. Training provided by PSNI personnel
	Provide a network for taking forward regional learning from reviews and enquiries.	NIASP	March 2019	Not yet completed. To form part of revised Strategic Plan 2019 - 24
	Make the SAaRIH web site available to NIASP Partners for 2018/19	HSCB	June 2018	Completed. Website accessible to member organisations.
REFINE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES NIASP will ensure that the Manual of Operational Policies and Procedures is kept up-to-date and reflects developing practice in adult	Review the regional adult safeguarding procedures, 2016	Protection Work stream	September 2018	Not yet complete. Roll over to 2019-20
	Review and refine HSC / PSNI Joint Protocol arrangements.	NIASP	March 2019	Not yet complete. New target date of June 2019
	Develop / implement regional principles of practice to support staff when coordinating an Adult Protection	NIASP	December 2018	Best practice guidance completed and shared with NIASP members December

THEME / OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	BY	Completion Date	Commentary
safeguarding.	(and /or PSNI) / Human Resources (SHSCT guidance shared as good practice example).			2018
	NIASP will continue to keep its structures and operational procedures and Handbook under review	NIASP	March 2019	On-going. Roll over into 2019-20
FINANCIAL SAFETY Develop initial guidance for staff in responding to issues of financial abuse	Develop information booklet suitable for prevention and alternative safeguarding responses.	Prevention Work stream	March 2019	Not yet complete. To roll over into 2019-20
	Develop information booklet to support staff conducting investigations.	Protection Work stream	March 2019	Not yet complete. To roll over into 2019-20
	Continue to circulate Scamwise and Trading Standards information and updates through networks. Support regulated Independent Sector service providers improve their financial governance arrangements.	NIASP	March 2019 March 2019	Not yet complete. Roll over into 2019-20 On-going. To roll over into 2019-20

THEME / OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	BY	Completion Date	Commentary
<p>STREAMLINE INTERFACES</p> <p>Clarify the interface between adult safeguarding and other public safety strategies such as the Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy</p>	<p>Represent A/S at interdepartmental DV & SV strategy group and identify and raise interface issues</p>	<p>Prevention Work stream Protection Work stream NIASP HSCB</p>	<p>March 2019</p>	<p>Not yet complete. To roll forward to 2019-20 NIASP is represented on the Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategic Advisory group (SAG)</p>
	<p>Represent AS at interdepartmental Modern Slavery strategy group and identify and raise interface issues</p>		<p>March 2019</p>	<p>On-going. Roll forward to 2019-20. NIASP is represented by HSCB at the Interdepartmental Group</p>
	<p>Represent A/S at Interdepartmental Hate Crime Delivery Group and identify and raise interface issues</p>		<p>March 2019</p>	<p>Not completed. This Group did not meet in 2018-19</p>
<p>CO-PRODUCTION</p> <p>NIASP will ensure that the experience of service users is sought at all</p>	<p>Develop an action plan to implement learning from the 10,000 voices project</p>	<p>Prevention Work stream Protection Work stream NIASP</p>	<p>December 2018</p>	<p>Not yet complete. To roll forward into 2019-20</p>

THEME / OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	BY	Completion Date	Commentary
stages of the safeguarding process	Integrate outcomes from Adult Safeguarding interventions within work to develop social care outcomes framework	HSCB	March 2019	Completed Findings from the audit shared across the HSC system and submitted to DoH for inclusion in development work on a NI specific outcomes framework.
STANDARDS Ensure existing standards reflect good governance in Adult Safeguarding practice	Implement standards associated with the NI Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery Strategy 2016/17 where these intersect with Adult Safeguarding	Prevention Work stream	March 2019	Not yet completed. Roll forward into 2019-20
	On completion of the review of Joint Protocol arrangements Develop standards for Joint Protocol Investigations	NIASP	March 2019	Review not yet complete. Roll forward into 2019-20
	Ensure that Adult Safeguarding standards are included in Programme of Care Service Frameworks	HSCB	June 2018	Completed. In past year, two summary reports on progress have been submitted to the Service Framework Board at DoH



PREVENTION ACTIVITY

Prevention continues to be a key activity for all NIASP partners. However, finding the resource of both people and time to fully engage in prevention activities is proving challenging as, inevitably, resources are pulled towards dealing with protection referrals.

Nevertheless, colleagues in the voluntary and community sectors are working hard to raise the profile of adult safeguarding within their particular areas of interest. For example, a number of Housing Associations have made contact with NIASP to seek advice and information about their own policies and procedures and have asked to be considered for membership of a Local Adult Safeguarding Partnership (LASP).

Faith groups have also further developed awareness-raising materials for dissemination amongst their membership and associated organisations. The Safe Church initiative, which aims to support victims of domestic violence and abuse, has been extended through sponsorship from local Police and Community Safety Partnerships. This initiative is managed and delivered through Onus, a social enterprise established in 2007 which offers specialist training and consultancy services on domestic violence and abuse.

LASPs continue to engage with the PSNI to promote awareness of the Scamwise campaign, for example the South Eastern LASP jointly provided adult safeguarding and adult Protection information and advice to the congregation who attended the annual PSNI Lisburn & Castlereagh Community Christmas Carol Service in Christ Church (Church of Ireland) Lisburn.



L-R: Gareth McCausland Project Coordinator Age Friendly, Richard Gill Community Banker Ulster Bank, Jenny Fitzsimons SET Adult Safeguarding Specialist, Allison Gilchrist Trading standards, James Bingham PCSP and Shelly- Anne Grimes PSNI Crime Prevention Officer.

Public Awareness Raising Materials

The Southern LASP, on behalf of NIASP created a series of public awareness raising videos which illustrate the types of potential abuse, exploitation and neglect adults may be worried about in a variety of settings and which provides information to signpost adults to help and support. The video clips can also be used as a resource for training and staff development.

The introductory video clip was filmed with members of the public across various locations in the Southern LASP area who responded to the question “what do you think adult safeguarding is about?” Southern Trust staff were available throughout filming to respond and provide any necessary support. See Something Say Something Information and signposting to services was available over the period of filming.

This coproduction of the introductory clip informed the development of the series as a resource to stimulate thinking at an early stage and to encourage the public and staff not to wait but to report their concerns early to help prevent further possible harm from abuse, exploitation or neglect. Direct quotes have been taken from the 10,000 Voices survey to ensure key themes were meaningful and reflected service user and carer experience and perspectives.

The full series of videos includes a signed version with subtitles and is available on the NIASP website <http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/niasp/>

An initial response to the clips by the Southern HSC Trust PPI Panel commended the work reflecting they were particularly impressed by the issues raised within the institutional abuse clip.

A series of posters depicting images from the film clips have been produced to signpost the public to the website for further information and will be available in April 2019 for regional use.

This work involved a range of contributions, and NIASP gratefully acknowledges the leadership provided by the Southern LASP in the production of this material. In particular, thanks are due to the Southern LASP partners who supported the development of this work through the provision of venues to film; material to develop the scripts and staff to participate in the film. This includes Craigavon Area Hospital, Southern HSC Trust; Antrim Area Hospital, Northern HSC Trust; Four Seasons Healthcare; Praxis; Women’s Aid; Freedom Acts (a local organisation focusing on the eradication of modern slavery); Action Mental Health; and the NOW group, a social enterprise supporting people with learning difficulties and autism into jobs with a future.

The production of the video and publicity material was funded by the HSCB Physical and Sensory Disability Strategy resources and supplemented by the Southern Trust through the Regional Social Work Strategy.

Review of NIASP webpages

The NIASP webpage is hosted by HSCB on behalf of the partnership. In 2018-19, NIASP undertook a review of the content and presentation of the webpage.

As a result of this review, additional information has been made accessible to the general public, partner organisations and other interested parties such as provider organisations who are not members of an Adult Safeguarding Partnership.

The webpage hosts information for Adult Safeguarding Champions; access to awareness-raising materials, including the recently produced video clips; copies of annual reports and relevant policy documents; and advice on how to make a referral. The revised webpage is easy to navigate and presents information in a clear, logical way. However, some partner organisations have feedback that it can be difficult to find the specific page at the first time of use. In 2019-20, NIASP will work with HSCB to find ways to make this initial search easier.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – 15 June 2018

LASPs are all fully involved in local activities to promote World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on 15 June every year. These events are aimed at raising awareness of adult safeguarding as a general issue as well as providing opportunities to promote specific aspects of safeguarding such as Scamwise.



WEAAD 2019 in Lisburn: L-R Richard Gill Community Banker Ulster Bank, Bridgene Savage Adult Safeguarding Senior Practitioner Adult Protection Gateway Team , Amanda Grehan, Deputy Lord Mayor Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Lyn Preece, Operations Manager Disability Services SET.

NIASP Principles of Practice in Co-ordinating Adult Protection Investigations and HR Disciplinary Investigations

Where a disclosure of abuse involves a service user and a paid carer, a number of different process are activated. Adult Protection processes will focus on the risk to

the service user and any others. The PSNI will focus on investigating whether a crime has been committed. Where the alleged abuser is employed in a caring role eg a Care Worker, then internal disciplinary procedures are also invoked, including, if necessary, referral to the relevant regulatory body. While these processes overlap to some extent, it is not always possible to move through these processes concurrently.

NIASP has, in the past, worked with colleagues in the PSNI to try to reduce overlap in protection assessments and criminal investigations. However, challenges remain in managing the interface between concluding protection investigations and internal disciplinary processes. This problem appears particularly prevalent within the statutory sector.

In 2018-19, the NIASP Protection Workstream facilitated a regional workshop to consider a consistent approach to the coordination of such investigations. Existing good practice from across the Trusts was considered. It is acknowledged that each of the HSC Trusts have different structures in both Adult Safeguarding / Protection services and Human Resources and therefore a regional model would not be achievable. However, all HSC Trusts agreed that a common set of principles of good practice in this area could be agreed to inform the response within each of the HSC Trust systems. This workshop led to a drafting of a set of principles to apply within HSC Trusts where the person who is alleged to have caused the harm is an employee. It would be deemed good practice that these principles would also apply, with agreement, across contracted services with independent, community and voluntary sector organisations in the spirit of partnership working. Significant progress has been made within the reporting year as this draft was shared with NIASP for consideration and further discussion with the Regional Trade Union group took place.



PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Pressure Ulcer Interface

There is increasing concern across the HSC system about the prevalence of pressure ulcers in all settings (acute, community and domestic). Throughout 2018-19, NIASP worked with the Public Health Agency and other partners across the HSC system to develop guidance on the management of the interface between clinical care of pressure ulcers and adult protection interventions.

The aim of this document is to provide regional guidance, identifying pressure ulcers as primarily an issue for clinical investigation, but including indicators to help decide when a pressure ulcer case may additionally need an adult protection enquiry.

Whilst the operational responsibility for treating pressure ulcers is largely nurse led, NIASP has a strategic interest in the prevalence of pressure ulcers across the system as an important indicator of quality of care and an indicator of the potential; for serious harm to occur. Where a pressure ulcer is one of a number of safeguarding concerns in relation to an individual or setting then there should be a multi-agency approach coordinated by the local HSC Trust, with healthcare professionals taking the lead for the clinical investigation

Introduction of Domestic Homicide Reviews

Department of Justice statistics show that tragically, on average five people are killed every year in Northern Ireland by a current or former partner or close family member. As set out in the Government's Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy (2016), it is vital that agencies and organisations that have been in touch with the victim and/or their family in such circumstances reflect on their interventions and identify any areas of learning and improvement.

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were introduced in England and Wales in 2011 under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). This legislation also includes Northern Ireland.

The overarching purpose of a DHR is to improve service responses for all domestic abuse victims and their children, as a result of lessons learned, and prevent future domestic homicides. These reviews should not simply examine the conduct of professionals and agencies, but should also illuminate the past to make the future safer for those that may be at risk of, or subject to, domestic violence and abuse.

The Department of Justice is leading work on the introduction of DHRs in Northern Ireland, and NIASP has been fully involved in this process. Apart from engaging with the various working groups associated with the introduction of a new approach to the identification and sharing of learning, throughout 2018-19, NIASP provided specific advice to the Department of Justice on the interfaces between DHRs and other HSC learning processes such as Case Management Reviews, Mental Health Homicide Reviews and Serious Adverse Incident Reviews (Level 3). Regular updates are also provided to NIASP partners at the quarterly meetings and it is anticipated that the infrastructure for conducting these reviews will be in place in 2019 – 20.

Review of Joint Protocol

NIASP continues to keep adult safeguarding procedures and processes under review, including joint working arrangements with partner agencies.

In 2018-19, work continued on revising the Protocol for Joint Investigation of Suspected Cases of Abuse of Adults (the Joint Protocol). This work has been led jointly by HSC Trust safeguarding specialists and the PSNI. While the project has taken longer than originally expected, the pace has allowed for exhaustive and robust debate to take place before agreement was reached and has also facilitated the incorporation of early learning from both the Home Truths and A Way to Go reports.

The final draft of the revised protocol is due for consideration by NIASP in June 2019.



TRAINING ACTIVITY

Training for staff working in adult safeguarding and protection continues to be accessed through a variety of sources.

HSC Trust Social Services Training Teams have delivered significant levels of both awareness-raising and specialist training to staff within the statutory sector. This includes training of Investigating Officers, Designated Adult Protection Officers, and training in relation to the Joint Protocol and Achieving Best Evidence requirements.

Practitioners continue to demonstrate high levels of interest in the Specialist Award in Adult Safeguarding. This Award has 4 separate components, all of which can be completed independently and together make up the final award. In 2018 -19, staff completed these modules as follows:

Module	1	2	3	4-6
	16	1	17	19

Volunteer Now are contracted by the HSCB to provide different levels of training to the voluntary and community sectors on behalf of NIASP.

In 2018-19, Volunteer Now delivered a total of 25 training modules across the HSC Trusts, attended by 400 participants. The average satisfaction score for these events was 4.7 out of a possible score of 5.0

As part of the contracted activity, Volunteer Now was actively involved with all five LASPs throughout the year, attending LASP meetings and events, eg Volunteer Now provided an input for two South Eastern Trust Adult Safeguarding Champion (ASC) network events on 13th and 14th February 2019.

Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd also continue to promote the 'Keeping Adults Safe: Adult Safeguarding Champion & Appointed Person' training to each LASP.

Safeguarding Adults: A Core Competency Framework for Nurses and Midwives

The work has been led by the Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council for nursing and midwifery (NIPEC). The work was taken forward through a regional group of representatives drawn from the Public Health Agency, Health and Social Care Board and the Five Health and Social Care Trusts, Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership, Independent health Care Providers, Higher Education Institutes, Clinical Education Centre and the Health and Social Care Board who worked in partnership to produce the framework. The aim of this competency framework is to ensure staff gain and maintain the correct level of skills and knowledge in relation to adult safeguarding practice. It is intended that this will provide nurses and midwives with the confidence and skills to recognise and effectively manage those situations which may arise where there is suspicion of abuse, neglect or harm to an individual. This framework clearly identifies the skills, knowledge and attributes each registered nurse and midwife should have in relation to their own role. It emphasises an understanding of the processes within each Trust area, the need to know who the safeguarding team are and how to access them. The competency framework aims to enable nurses and midwives to identify their learning and development needs in relation to Adult Safeguarding ensuring the provision of

safe, effective person centred services. It is an important addition to a range of tools for best practice which include *The Code* (NMC, 2015), *Enabling Professionalism* (NMC, 2017), *Adult Safeguarding; Prevention and Protection in Partnership* (DHSSPSNI & DoJNI, 2015).

This competency framework is aimed at all registered nurses and midwives regardless of practice area or speciality. The framework has been developed taking cognisance of the NIASP Training and Development Framework which succinctly outlines the levels of training for everyone who is involved in the lives of adults at risk in Northern Ireland and will be formally published in 2019 - 20 .



ACHIEVEMENTS

Adult Safeguarding Champion Networks

The role of the Adult Safeguarding Champion (ASC) is emerging as central to securing ownership of and commitment to adult safeguarding across a significant variety of organisations.

The Association for Real Change (ARC) provides a forum for sharing of good practice and professional development for ASCs in member organisations. Regular meetings allow for case discussion, challenge and debate in a safe environment and have been instrumental in growing confidence and competence for member organisations and ASCs outside the statutory sector.

Each LASP also hosts an ASC Network for partners and other local organisations. Feedback from these network meetings again illustrates the value of coming together and learning from one another.

The ASC Networks have proven to be very powerful communication channels, and are also very effective in raising hitherto unrecognised challenges or queries in relation to adult safeguarding. They are both safe places to raise concerns and also excellent sources of advice and feedback to NIASP as a whole.

Organisational Policy Developments

A number of partner organisations continue to develop their understanding of the contribution their organisation can make to adult safeguarding. For example, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) is in the process of formalising adult safeguarding procedures within its organisation. In common with many partners, current challenges for the NIHE include increased use of agency staff, lack of paid resource and the fact that not all discussions are currently recorded, though advice for staff on recording referrals is being built into training.

The work of the NIHE in relation to developing understanding of how adult safeguarding applies outside the health and social care family is illustrative of the significant resource partner organisations have devoted to adult safeguarding in the last year. It should be noted that, while larger organisations may find it easier to dedicate personnel to the role, others, such as Action Mental Health or Association for Real Change, have contributed significantly with no additional resource being made available to them.



CHALLENGES

COPNI Report – Home Truths

In June 2018 the Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland launched an investigation into the care provided in Dunmurry Manor Care Home and the actions of its owner; the Department of Health; the regulator (RQIA); and four of the five Health and Social Care Trusts that had placed residents in the Home. Using statutory investigatory powers for the first time, the Commissioner responded to

complaints from residents' family members and former employees raising serious concerns about the standards of care and safety within the care home. The Home Truths Report contains 59 recommendations for change to the way care for older people is commissioned, regulated, monitored and delivered.

In responding to the report, the Department of Health appointed an independent review team to consider whether the concerns identified within the Commissioner's Report reflect more widespread issues across the entire system.

Both these processes have highlighted significant learning for adult safeguarding, for example in relation to inconsistent application of thresholds for referral to protection services and inconsistent use of recording tools.

In 2019-20, NIASP will co-operate fully with all aspects of the review process and seek to implement relevant learning and improvements identified through the course of both review processes.

Muckamore Abbey Hospital – A Way to Go

In November 2018 a e Review Team appointed by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust completed a Serious Adverse Incident (Level 3) Review into a number of adult safeguarding incidents within Muckamore Abbey Hospital. The Review is part of a larger investigation into allegations of serious and sustained abuse of patients within this facility. This extremely complex larger investigation is multi-agency and multi-organisational in nature, and at the time of writing, a large number of serious allegations are still being investigated by PSNI and adult protection specialists under the Joint Protocol arrangements.

Significant learning has already been identified and a programme to reform the delivery of care and treatment within the hospital has commenced.

The relevant Local Adult Safeguarding Partnership and NIASP have received regular briefings on progress in relation to this investigation. NIASP will ensure that any process or procedural changes required as a result of this investigation will be implemented in a speedy manner across the region.

Revisions to Regional Procedures

An emerging theme from both the Home Truths and A Way to Go Reports is the challenge posed to both providers and placing organisations when a service user is placed in a facility or service outside their Trust area. It is evident that over time, HSC Trusts have developed local versions of agreed regional documentation and approaches. This can be confusing and frustrating for provider organisations and increases the risk that core safeguarding information is not shared.

Formal learning from these significant adult protection cases has yet to be finalised. However, there will undoubtedly be significant lessons for NIASP both in terms of

strategic direction and in ensuring that regionally agreed procedures are fully and effectively implemented.

NIASP partners have agreed that formal amendments to existing procedures will await the publication of these learning reports and associated action plans. However, in the meantime, NIASP will work with the HSCB in 2019-20 on a project to resolve the main identified issues in relation to cross-Trust placements for adults, including issues of safeguarding and protection.



PROTECTION ACTIVITY

Pilot for Adult Safeguarding Data Return

Regionally, adult safeguarding data has been collated manually since 2006. Over time, this data has been refined and reviewed to reflect emerging trends across the region. The data returns are submitted to Community Information within the Health and Social Care Board by each Health and Social Care Trust on a monthly basis.

In 2010-11, the regional Vulnerable Adult SOSKARE module was launched and HSC Trusts began to implement the electronic recording of all protection cases. It was anticipated at this time that SOSKARE would provide the means to report on the existing data requirements and also meet developing service needs.

However, the success of this electronic solution varied across HSC Trusts and the move for some from SOSKARE to the PARIS electronic system posed many challenges for the accuracy and completeness of SOSKARE as a reporting system. As a result, the regional data return for adult protection remains a manual collection for most parts of the HSC system.

Following publication of “Regional Adult Safeguarding : Prevention and Protection in Partnership” (2015) and the subsequent regional procedures in 2016, it was recognised by NIASP that the language contained in both the SOSKARE module and also on the manual reporting template was outdated and no longer appropriate. It was further recognised that there are regional anomalies as to how data requests were interpreted and that the validity of the information to inform regional trends could be unreliable. The data as currently collected does not reflect the full spectrum of adult safeguarding or the complexity of the activity undertaken by HSC Trusts and the PSNI and therefore is not as meaningful as it could be in terms of service planning and addressing issues of demand and capacity.

On behalf of NIASP, the HSC Trust Adult Safeguarding Specialist Group reviewed the existing data set and developed a draft template for more meaningful data collection, which would also reflect strategic requirements and the identification of trends and patterns across the region. This will be submitted to the Community Regional Information Team within the Department of Health for endorsement.



ACTIVITY ANALYSIS

Given the challenges already described in relation to data collection and analysis, NIASP adopted a different approach to scrutiny of activity in 2018-19. This year, attention has again focused on the identification of trends and anomalies, with a particular emphasis on establishing acceptable levels of variation within each Trust area and on a regional basis.

This year also NIASP has been able to include separate information from the PSNI in the annual report for the first time.

Summary of Activity:

To maintain a focus on trends, activity has been analysed over a two year period, ie between April 2017 and March 2019. In that period, there were 11,232 referrals made to adult protection, with Belfast Trust accounting for almost 60% of the total activity. 5,121 investigations commenced, 5,184 care and protection plans put in place and there were 871 joint investigations between PSNI and HSC Trusts.

	No. of referrals	No. of Investigations commenced	% investigation commenced per referral	No of care and protection Plans	% of care and protection plans per referral	No of Joint Protocols	% of Joint Protocols per referral	% of Joint Protocols per care and protection plan
Belfast	6638	3071	46%	2991	45%	425	6%	14%
Northern	1089	319	29%	776	71%	28	3%	4%
SET	1080	590	55%	408	38%	117	11%	29%
Southern	1517	756	50%	657	43%	182	12%	28%
Western	999	385	39%	352	35%	119	12%	34%
Region	11323	5121	45%	5184	46%	871	8%	17%

The Learning Disability Programme of Care accounted for approximately 25% of referrals and care and protection activity, but 35% of Joint Protocol activity.

Referral Data:

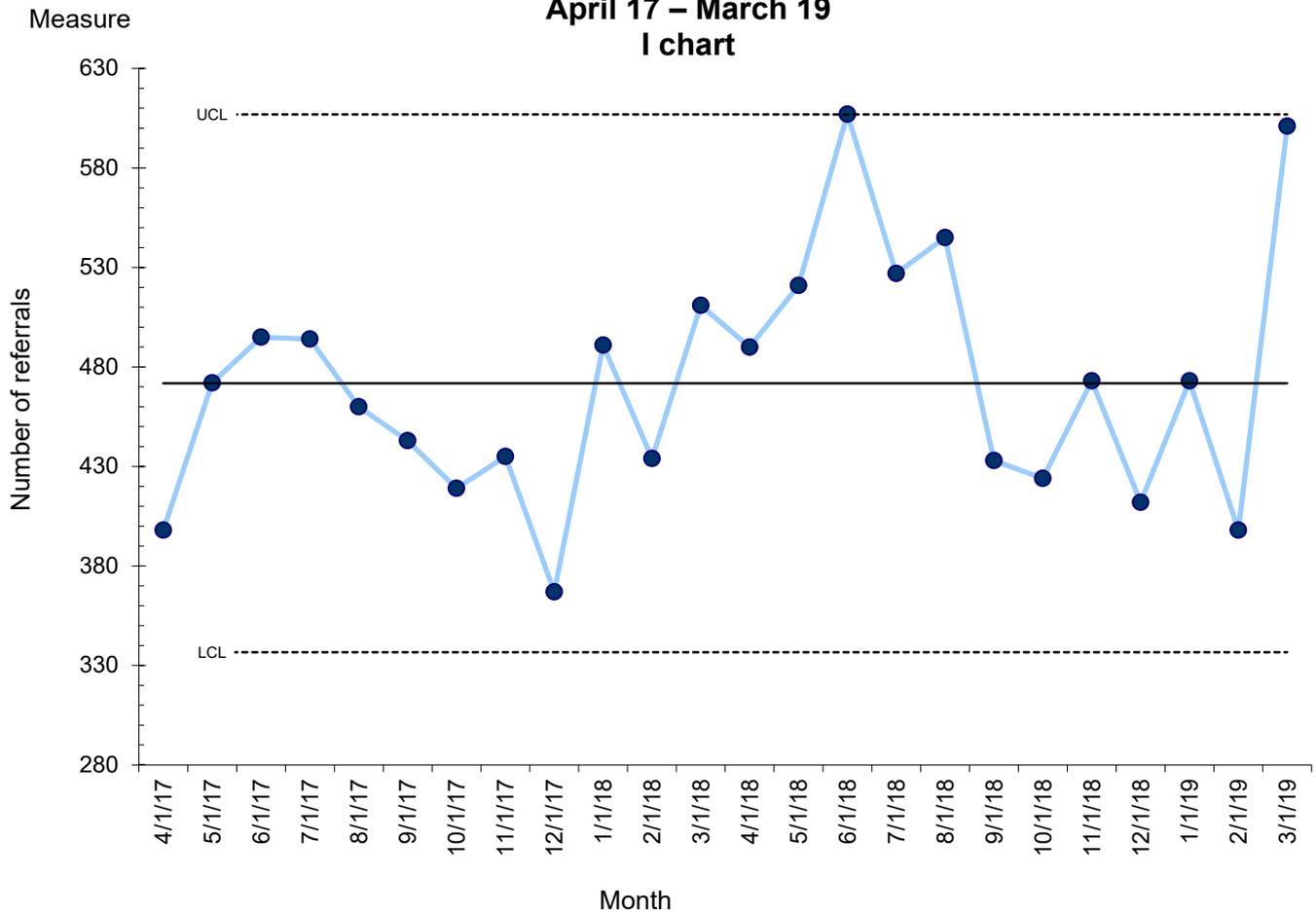
Across the region, adult protection referrals represent 7.89 per 1,000 of the population over 18 years of age; 3.57 per 1,000 of the relevant population for investigations and 3.61 per 1,000 of the population for care and protection plans. However, activity in Belfast Trust is consistently outside the regional “norm”.

Analysis of referral data from April 2017 to March 2019 indicates that adult safeguarding is operating as a stable system ie there is a consistency in how the system is operating across the region. While there are fluctuations on a monthly basis, these appear to be within acceptable limits. While there were peaks of referral activity in June 2018 and March 2019, these did not move outside acceptable variances.

Number of Referrals (Region & All POCs)

April 17 – March 19

I chart



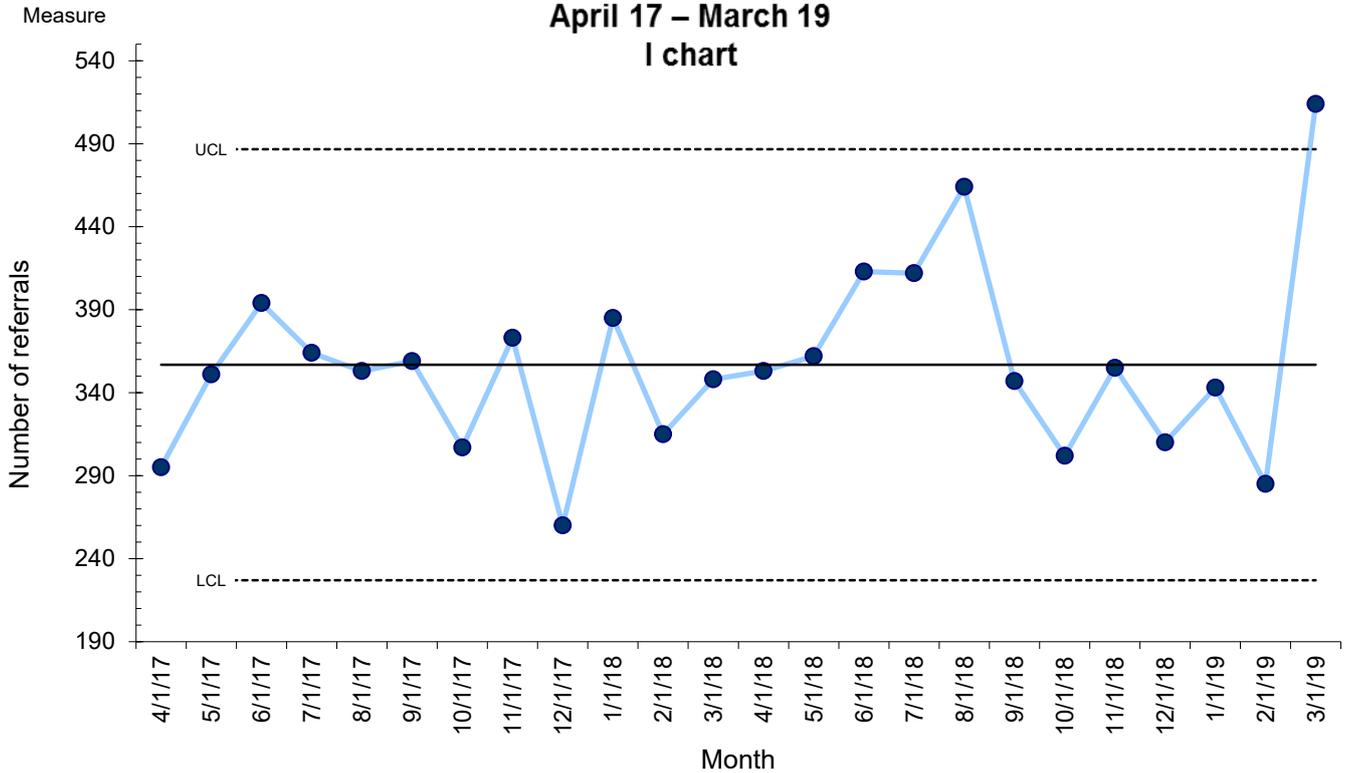
If activity in relation to adult learning disability is excluded, the picture changes somewhat, with a peak of activity outside acceptable variation in March 2019.

NB Adult Learning Disability has been excluded from the next chart as recent activity is reflective of extraordinary circumstances relating to a single on-going investigation and distorts underlying data

Number of Referrals - Region (excl. ALD)

April 17 – March 19

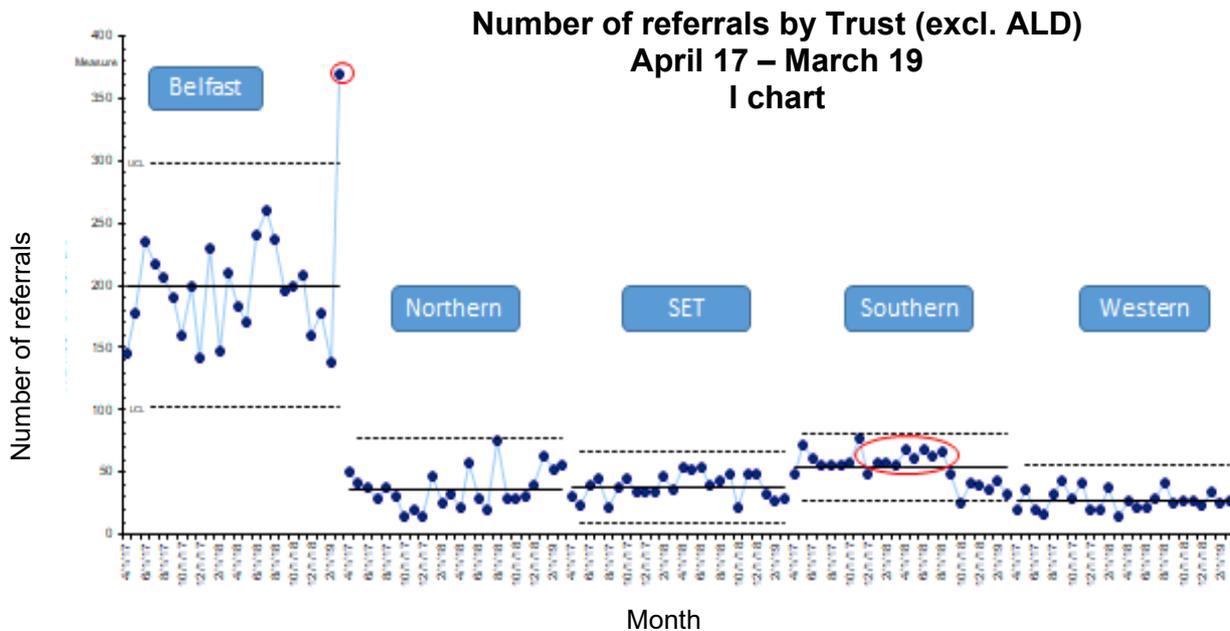
I chart



This will be closely monitored in 2019-20 to determine whether this is a statistical anomaly or an emerging trend.

However, when the data on referrals is broken down by HSC Trust, a slightly different picture emerges.

The average number of referrals per month in Belfast is 200, with a significant peak in March 2019, even when adjusted for adult learning disability activity. The average in the Northern Trust was 36.6, in the South Eastern the average monthly referral rate was 38.6 and in the Western the average was 27.5 These Trusts are operating within a stable system. The monthly average in the Southern Trust was 54.2, with the Trust experiencing a shift in activity between January and August 2018 which now appears to have stabilised.

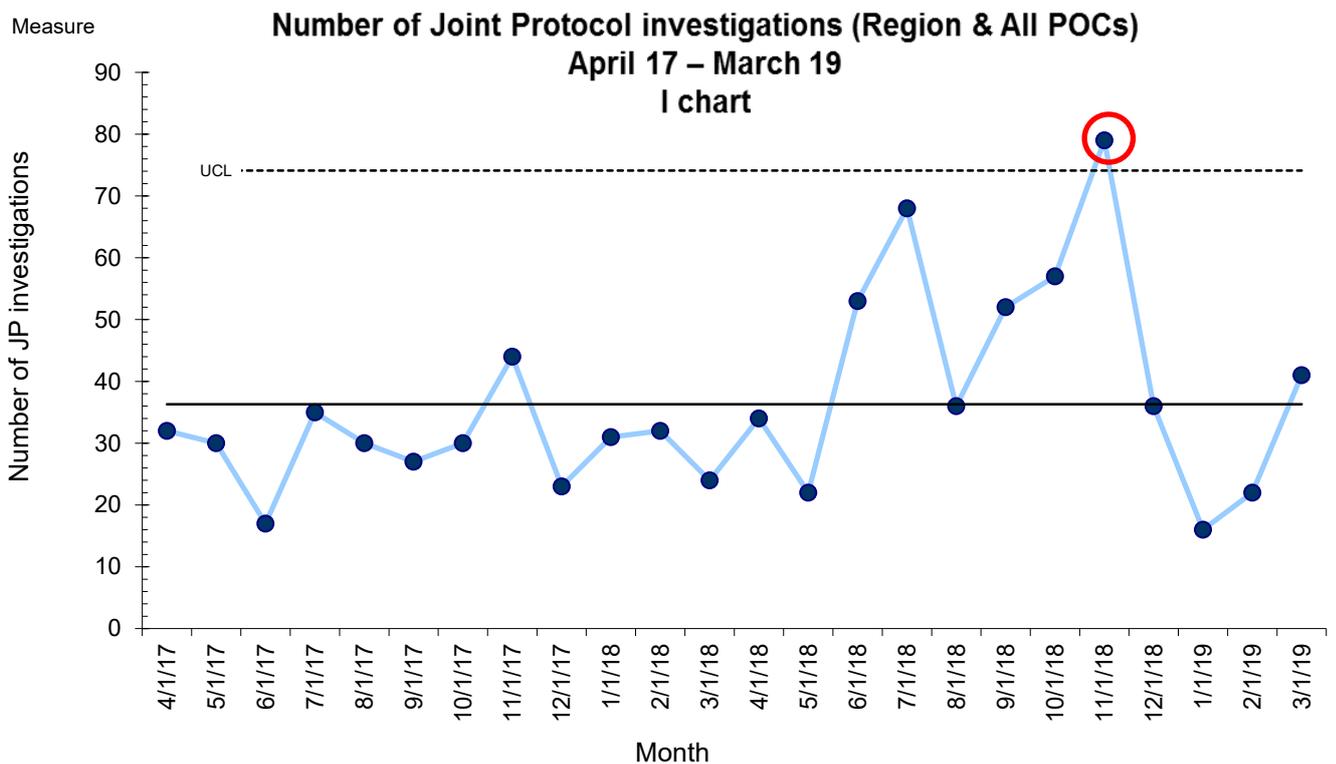


Further work is required with Belfast Trust to understand why activity is so different from the rest of the region and to identify any actions the Trust may need to take to address this situation.

The Southern Trust appears to have experienced a period of sustained pressure within the service in the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2018-19 followed by a dip in activity and NIASP will work with the Trust to understand both the source of this pressure and how it was managed.

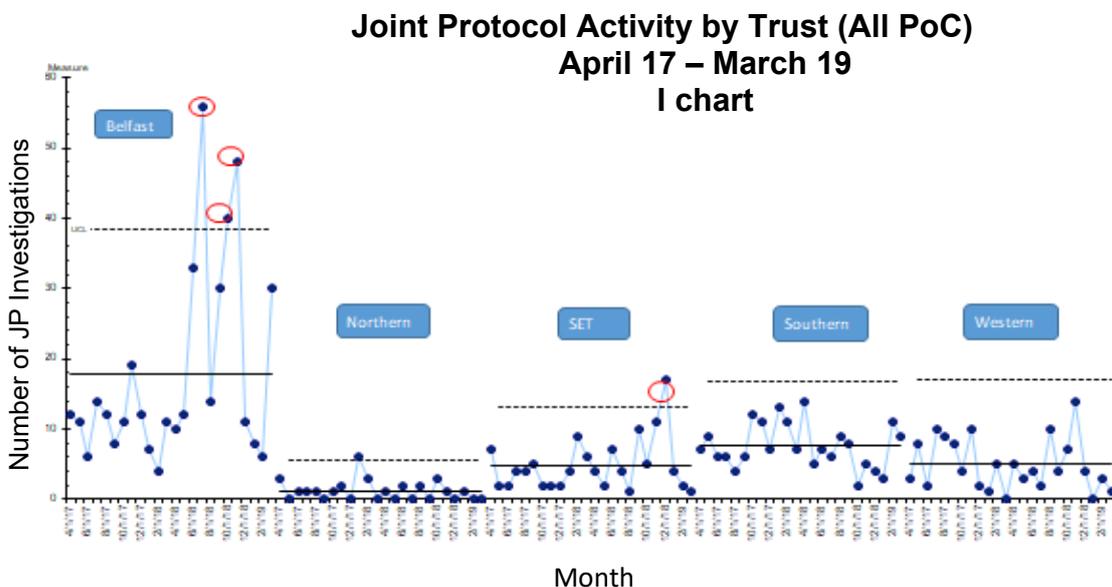
Joint Protocol Investigations:

Investigations carried out in partnership between the PSNI and the HSC Trusts are among the most complex and resource intensive cases within adult protection. Overall, data from April 2017 to March 2019 suggests that Joint Protocol activity is operating within a relatively stable system, with a peak occurring in the 3rd quarter of 2018-19. This is attributable to the number of new referrals generated following disclosures within care homes and other institutional care settings.



When Joint Protocol activity is analysed on a Trust by Trust basis, again a slightly different picture emerges.

Activity is greatest in the Belfast Trust, with three significant peaks of activity occurring in July, October and November 2018. South Eastern Trust experienced a significant peak in activity in December 2018, suggesting that all these peaks can be attributed to large scale investigations.

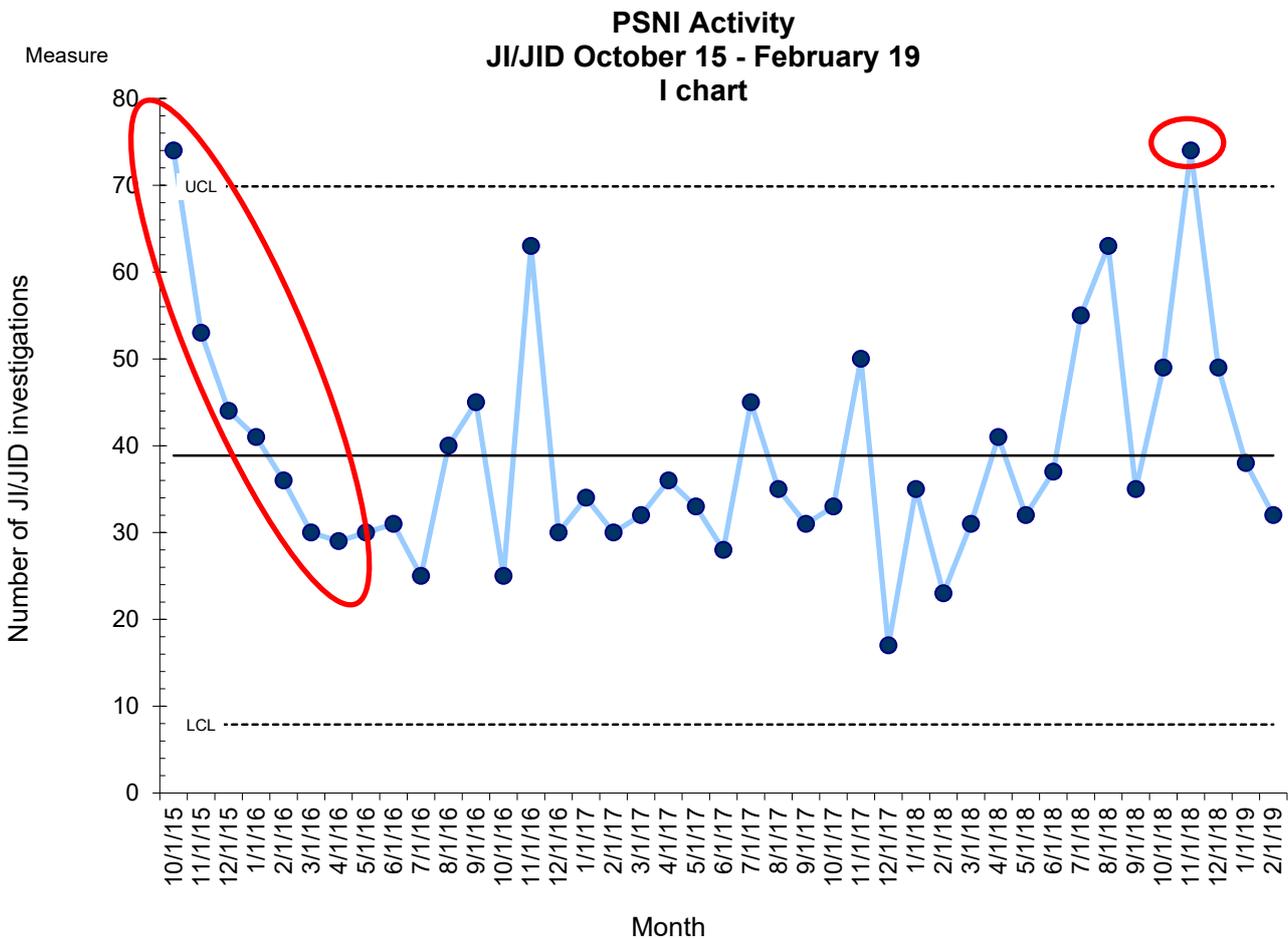


Southern, Western and Northern Trust experienced some variation in numbers of Joint Protocol cases throughout the reporting period, but these are within acceptable limits and would indicate that these systems are operating in a stable manner.

PSNI Activity:

This year for the first time NIASP is able to include data from the PSNI, both in relation to Joint Investigations conducted jointly by the Public Protection Branch and HSC Trusts (JI) and Joint Investigation District (JID), where the investigations are conducted jointly by the local District Police and the HSC Trusts. The data is now available from October 2015 to February 2019

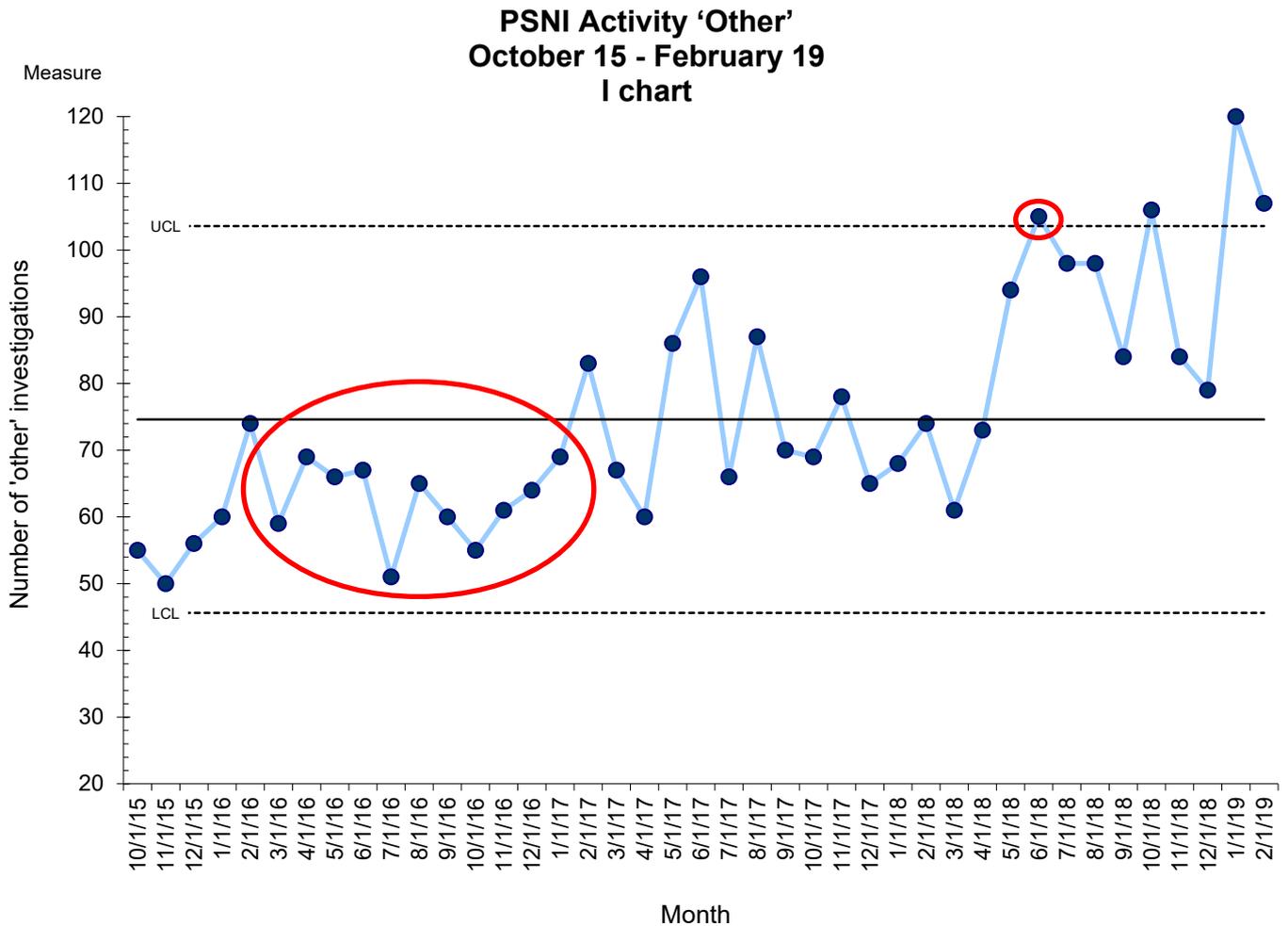
Overall, PSNI figures note an average of 38.9 cases per month, with a noticeable downward trend between October 2015 and April 2016. This is believed to be representative of the system “bedding down” as a result of adult protection referrals moving to the Central Referral Unit and staff needing to become familiar with the associated procedures.



PSNI have also noted a peak in November 2018. This is believed to capture referrals directly arising from investigations within Muckamore Abbey Hospital. Initially, the HSC Trust made referrals to the PSNI as they emerged which may explain the steady increase in numbers from April/May 2018. However, in August 2018 the PSNI seized CCTV footage in order to

view it, which might also explain the drop of formal referrals at September 2018 pending systematic review of the footage. Subsequently, in November 2018, PSNI began capturing a number of incidents and it is anticipated there will be a further rise or spike in activity through the rest of 2019-20.

PSNI are also involved in non-Joint Protocol cases ie where the PSNI are the single investigating agency.



Again, there is a shift noted between March 2016 and January 2017. This is likely to reflect a period of early mis-reporting and, viewed in the light of the corresponding spike in JI/JID reports of the same period, might explain the unsteady or variable figures.

The PSNI data also shows 4 spikes in activity in June and October 2018 and January and February 2019. It is likely that these represent cases arising from investigations in Muckamore Abbey Hospital. These spikes may also be reflective of increased activity following other large scale investigations.



WORKPLAN 2019-20

THEME / OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	BY	Completion Date
<p>RAISE AWARENESS OF ADULT SAFEGUARDING</p> <p>Continue to develop a regional programme of awareness raising and prevention activities to complement local prevention plans.</p> <p>Ensure relevant Adult Safeguarding information is easily available to staff, people who use services, their family carers and members of the public.</p>	Pilot 6 monthly briefing note for Partners highlighting developments in Adult Safeguarding.	Prevention Work stream	March 2020
	Promote regional awareness of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15 th June	NIASP	June 2019
<p>GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE</p>	Review use of ASC Annual Position Report Template and make recommendations for any necessary improvements by April 2019 for implementation in 2019-20 reporting period.	Prevention Work stream	March 2020

THEME / OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	BY	Completion Date
Support NIASP partner organisations to comply with the relevant requirements set out in <i>Adult Safeguarding: Prevention and Protection in Partnership (July 2015)</i>	Conduct regional audit of referral activity to Adult Safeguarding Gateway Teams	HSCB	March 2020
	Monitor and Review Adult Safeguarding activity data following implementation of revised Data 4 format	NIASP	March 2020
	Meet 4 times per year providing a multi-agency forum to co-ordinate the implementation of <i>Adult Safeguarding: Prevention and Protection in Partnership (July 2015)</i>	NIASP	March 2020
	Develop an Adult Safeguarding Strategic Plan for the next 5 years.	NIASP	September 2019
	Provide advice and guidance to other statutory agencies to include ASC requirements in their contract; regulation; or quality improvement frameworks.	HSCB	March 2020
TRAINING AND SHARED LEARNING	Organise an annual learning event focusing on adult at risk of harm and alternative safeguarding responses	Prevention Work stream	March 2020

THEME / OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	BY	Completion Date
Ensure that practitioners have access to relevant training and opportunities to learn from practice	Cascade peer education / self-protection programmes such as “Keeping Yourself Safe” or equivalent training for Adults at Risk of harm across services and settings.	Prevention Work stream	March 2020
	Adapt and implement Department of Health & Social Care Safeguarding Adults Protocol: Pressure Ulcers and the interface with a Safeguarding Enquiry (Jan 2018) for the Northern Ireland context.	Protection Work stream	December 2019
	Review and update Adult Safeguarding Training Strategy and Training Framework 2016 to reflect emerging needs.	NIASP	March 2020
	Facilitate Operation Repeat prevention training to Statutory and Independent Sector domiciliary care workers.	LASPs	March 2020

THEME / OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	BY	Completion Date
	Provide a network for taking forward regional learning from reviews and enquiries.	NIASP	December 2019
	Make the SAaRIH web site available to NIASP Partners for 2018/19	HSCB	June 2019
	Ensure learning from major Reviews or Investigations eg “A Way to Go” and “Home Truths” is identified, shared and implemented by all partner organisations	NIASP	March 2020
REFINE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES NIASP will ensure that the Manual of Operational Policies and Procedures is kept up-to-date and reflects developing practice in adult safeguarding.	Review the regional adult safeguarding procedures (2016)	Protection Work stream	December 2019
	Review and refine HSC / PSNI Joint Protocol arrangements (2016).	Protection Work stream	September 2019

THEME / OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	BY	Completion Date
	NIASP will continue to keep its structures and operational procedures and Handbook under review	NIASP	March 2020
FINANCIAL SAFETY Develop initial guidance for staff in responding to issues of financial abuse	Develop information booklet suitable for prevention and alternative safeguarding responses.	Prevention Work stream	March 2020
	Continue to circulate Scamwise and Trading Standards information and updates through networks.	NIASP	March 2020
	Support regulated Independent Sector service providers Improve their financial governance arrangements.	NIASP	March 2020
STREAMLINE INTERFACES Clarify the interface between adult safeguarding and other public safety strategies such as the Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy	Represent Adult Safeguarding at Interdepartmental Domestic and Sexual Violence strategy group and identify and raise interface issues	Prevention Work stream	March 2020
	Represent Adult Safeguarding at interdepartmental Modern Slavery strategy group and identify and raise interface issues	Protection Work stream NIASP HSCB	March 2020

THEME / OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	BY	Completion Date
<p>CO-PRODUCTION</p> <p>NIASP will ensure that the experience of service users is sought at all stages of the safeguarding process</p>	<p>Develop an action plan to implement learning from the 10,000 Voices project</p>	<p>Prevention Work stream Protection Work stream NIASP</p>	<p>December 2019</p>
<p>STANDARDS</p> <p>Ensure existing standards reflect good governance in Adult Safeguarding practice</p>	<p>Implement standards associated with the NI Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery Strategy 2016/17 where these intersect with Adult Safeguarding</p>	<p>Prevention Work stream</p>	<p>March 2020</p>
	<p>On completion of the review of Joint Protocol arrangements, develop standards for Joint Protocol Investigations</p>	<p>NIASP</p>	<p>March 2021</p>



APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Action for Elder Abuse
Action Mental Health
Age NI
Association for Real Change
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
Business Services Organisation
Faith Sector - Presbyterian Church in Ireland
HSCB (Integrated Care)
HSCB (Social Care and Children)
Independent Healthcare Providers
Northern Health & Social Care Trust
Northern Ireland Association of Social Workers
Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Police Service of Northern Ireland
Public Health Agency (Allied Health Professionals)
Public Health Agency (Nursing)
Red Cross
Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority
Royal College of Nursing
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust
Southern Health & Social Care Trust
Volunteer Now
Western Health & Social Care Trust
Women's Aid