

NI Adult Safeguarding Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (BHSCT)

1- Full suite of adult protection documentation currently in operation in your organisation- All APP forms and policy and procedures?

Please see attachment 1 BHSCT Adult Safeguarding Trust Policy. The Trust continues to work in accordance with the Regional Adult Safeguarding Policies and Procedures, attachment 2.

Please see attached the suite of forms being used on Epic since April 2025. There was regional agreement in relation to the amendments of the forms. The Interim Adult Protection Board were informed, in partnership with the Chief Social Worker.

2- The NI Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures were implemented in September 2016. The procedures included the suite of adult protection documentation to be used. These are APP forms 1-9. Confirm the official date that your organisation started using the APP forms in full?

BHSCT Adult Safeguarding teams implemented the APP1-9 suite of forms from 29 June 2022 when this documentation went live on the IT system PARIS. Prior to this, BHSCT used the ASP forms.

The APP7 form however was implemented in 2018 within the Adult Protection Gateway Team.

Since Encompass go live in June 2024 the APP suite of forms has been further revised in April 2025- as attached.

3- How many APP1 referral forms completed in 2020-2025?

Name of Division	Adult Community and Older People's Service (ACOPS)	Mental Health	Learning Disability
Number of APP1s	10,860	10,334	2,997
	*From April 2020		

4- How many APP1 referral forms at question 3 were screened into Adult Safeguarding investigation?

Name of Division	ACOPS	Mental Health	Learning Disability
Numbers	1,538	1,115	709

5- For all the Adult Safeguarding investigations that took place at Question 4, how many of the allegations were substantiated?

BHSCT does not hold this information in a reportable or centrally recorded format. The dataset submitted monthly to the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) does not include an outcome field indicating whether an allegation was substantiated.

In addition, this information is not recorded on the revised APP6 form implemented in April 2025. Accordingly, under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act, the Trust does not hold the information requested.

6- Does the Adult Safeguarding investigation report have a section that details if the allegation was substantiated or not substantiated?

BHSCT does not hold this information in the format requested. The APP6 Adult Protection Investigation Report, implemented in April 2025, does not contain a section indicating whether an allegation was substantiated or not.

Therefore, under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act, BHSCT does not hold recorded information that answers this question.

7 - Page 61 of the NI Adult Safeguarding Procedures states that adult at need of protection and their family where appropriate should receive a copy of the draft APP7 investigation report and the protection plan before the stage 4 case conference. How does this work in practice?

Since Encompass went live, the APP7 has been replaced by the APP6 Adult Protection Investigation Report. In line with the *Adult Safeguarding: Prevention and Protection in Partnership* policy, all safeguarding activity is guided by a rights-based, person-centred and proportionate approach, requiring practitioners to consider the adult's wishes, safety, capacity and individual circumstances when sharing information.

The *Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures* reinforce that information sharing must be proportionate and focused on safety. This means that the extent of information shared, and the manner in which it is shared, must be tailored to the risks present and the circumstances of the individual adult.

In practice, this means that while adults and families may receive safeguarding information before a Stage 4 case conference, the format and level of detail may

vary depending on individual circumstances. Where providing the full APP6 report could place the adult at risk, or where the adult does not wish to receive a full written document, the information may instead be shared in a proportionate and appropriate manner that aligns with their safety and circumstances. There may also be cases where sharing the full report could affect the safety or confidentiality of others, and the approach is adjusted accordingly.

Separately, where an adult cannot provide informed consent for the release of their records, BHSCT has sought legal direction. A temporary pause on the release of these records remains in place until the legal position is clarified, in accordance with the rights-based and protective principles of the regional safeguarding policy

8- How many APP1 have been submitted from 2020 to 2025 where the selected category of abuse was institutional abuse?

Name of Division	ACOPS	Mental Health	Learning Disability
Numbers	139	47	50

Attachments:

- 36157 NI Adult Safeguarding BHSCT adult-safeguarding-policy new attachment 1
- 36157 NI Adult Safeguarding Policy BHSCT procedures Dec 2025 attachment 2
- 36157 NI Adult Safeguarding BHSCT APP Suite of Forms attachment 3