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|  Belfast Health and Social Care Trust caring supporting improving together | | Paper Ref. Num. P193 2026 <i>Note:- To be completed by HQ meeting organiser</i> |
| Belfast Health & Social Care Trust Meeting Template Sheet (v11.25) | | |
| Purpose of paper | | For Oversight |
| If other purpose, please specify | | Please enter text here |
| Meeting TB Public | | |
| If other meeting, please specify | | Please enter text here |
| Presenter | | Maureen Edwards |
| Date of meeting | | 05.03 2026 |
| Title of paper (Maximum of 300 characters) Briefing Paper: MAH Inquiry and Related Workstreams Oversight Assurance Report | | |
| Background (Maximum of 1500 characters) Please refer to paper enclosed. | | |
| Date considered at Exec Team (If Applicable) | | n/a |
| Options for consideration (Maximum of 1500 characters) Please refer to paper enclosed. | | |
| Recommendations (Maximum of 1500 Characters) 1. Trust Board are asked to note the update report | | |
| Proposed Onward Consideration | | Remove from Agenda |
| If other | | |

Note:-

Any papers accompanying this template should not exceed 10 pages in length.

Please ensure when submitting papers that

- (1) **Orientation of paper is set so that the content of the paper can be read**
- (2) **Embedded documents should be [provided a separate attachments**
- (3) **Append any papers to this coversheet starting on the next page**

Insert/Copy/Paste any additional information from this point

MEETING ASSURANCE REPORT

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Reporting to: Committee / Group | Trust Board |
| Date of Meeting | 05.03.2026 |

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|---|--|
| Reporting from: Committee / Group | MAH Inquiry & Related Workstreams Oversight Group |
| Date of Meeting | 17.02.2026 |
| Chair | Jennifer Welsh (however on this occasion: chaired by Maureen Edwards) |
| Lead Officer / Author of this Report | Sara Templer |
| Meeting Administrator | Gabrielle Scott |

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to provide Trust board with assurance that the workstreams overseen by the MAH Inquiry and Related Workstreams Oversight Group are progressing and relevant risks and issues arising are being identified and managed.

Due to incomplete attendance (due to unavoidable diary commitment constraints), no formal decisions were taken and previous minutes were not signed off; it was agreed to return to these at the next meeting.

CONTEXT

The MAH Inquiry & Related Workstreams Oversight Group comprises key members of the Executive Team and the Directors with responsibility for each workstream.

It was established on 02.12.2025. It replaces the previous MAH Inquiry Oversight Group and seeks to consolidate the following relevant work streams:

- a) MAH Inquiry (receipt of report and recommendations)
- b) The Belfast Trust's involvement in the PSNI-led MAH 2017 CCTV Investigation (Operation Turnstone)
- c) The Belfast Trust's MAH 2017 CCTV investigations
- d) The resettlement of the remaining MAH inpatients
- e) The full decommissioning and closure of the MAH site
- f) The work to seek and secure clarification from the High Court in relation to the processing of complex Subject Access Requests where there is a question regarding capacity to consent
- g) DOH Oversight of Adult Safeguarding & Complaints at MAH

Agenda items covered at the meeting

[Bullet list agenda items]

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Declaration of Interests
3. Action Notes of previous meeting
4. Action Log / Matters Arising
5. Workstream Updates:
 - i. MAH Inquiry (Co-Director for Risk & Governance)
 - ii. Operation Turnstone (PSNI-led MAH 2017 CCTV Investigation) (Executive Director of Social Work)
 - iii. DOH Oversight of Adult Safeguarding & Complaints at MAH (as above)
 - iv. MAH 2017 CCTV HR Investigations – (Director of Human Resources)
 - v. MAH Resettlement (Director of Mental Health, Intellectual Disability, and Psychological Services)
 - vi. Decommissioning & Closure of MAH (as above)
 - vii. Complex Subject Access Requests (Co-Director for Risk & Governance)
6. Confirmation of information to be reported to Trust Board (05.03.2026)
7. Any Other Business
8. Next meeting: 10.03.2026 @ 12:00 – 13:30 via MS Teams

Documents reviewed and/or approved

[State if approval/ratification required from another Committee/Group]

There was a detailed discussion of each workstream update report listed at (5) (i)-(vii) in the agenda, and the relevant Director/Co-Director provided responses to all questions arising.

Notes:

- **Workstream (i) - MAH Inquiry** update was deferred to the end of the meeting; members were reminded that detailed discussion of this workstream requires all participants to be signatories to the MAHI Confidentiality Agreement; individuals who had not signed were asked to recuse themselves for that item. It is reported on to the Trust Board in a separate confidential paper.

Important items discussed requiring attention *(such as new assurances identified, progress with actions to close gaps in control or assurance, potential areas of non-compliance)*

[Identify as above and describe any actions and next steps agreed]

Workstream (ii) - Operation Turnstone (PSNI-led MAH 2017 CCTV Investigation)

- Belfast Trust Family Liaison Officers continue to support up to 26 families affected.
- As agreed, Belfast Trust staff are attending Magistrates' and Crown Court proceedings, as a gesture of acknowledgement of the impact on service users and families, and to ensure close monitoring of proceedings.



- Preparatory work is underway to invite direct engagement with affected service users and families, with an emphasis on listening.

Workstream (iii) - DOH Oversight of Adult Safeguarding & Complaints at MAH

- Weekly oversight meetings continue with the Department of Health, focusing on adult safeguarding and complaints linked to MAH.
- There has been a reduction in safeguarding referrals, attributed to a lower inpatient population; most referrals are screened as requiring alternative safeguarding responses rather than full investigations.
- Complaints are heavily concentrated around a small number of families.*
- The Department of Health indicated it is satisfied with current safeguarding processes and complaints handling, though the weekly oversight arrangement remains in place, with no timeline yet for stepping it down.

** Intellectual Disability Services are actively working to improve how they communicate with families in this context and develop a more outcomes-focused approach.*

This work will be joined up with the central Complaints Department; will include regular scheduled meetings with families to help address issues swiftly and effectively; recognises the emotional impact on all involved; acknowledges the resource impact on staff; and will involve engagement with the Ombudsman to ensure transparency and appropriateness of any new approach.

Workstream (iv) - MAH 2017 CCTV HR Investigations

- Apologies were received for the meeting from the Director of Human resources.
- It was noted that work is ongoing, is being closely monitored and managed. The Formal Disciplinary Investigation Case Status summary was noted, along with an update on PPS decisions.

Workstream (v) - MAH Resettlement

- It was noted that seven patients remain on site: three Belfast Trust patients, four from other Trusts.
- Significant challenges persist around placement availability and value for money.

Workstream (vi) - Decommissioning & Closure of MAH

- As patient numbers reduce, clarity is still needed on responsibility for the site post-closure.
- It was noted that the Trust should prepare to seek formal direction from the DOH, rather than leaving these issues unresolved until closure is imminent. Director of Mental Health, Intellectual Disability & Psychological Services will consider this and bring back to the next meeting.

Workstream (vii) - Complex Subject Access Requests

- The Belfast Trust application seeking direction as to how such cases should be properly handled remains open with the High Court, next listed for hearing on 24 March 2026. A holding update has been provided to individuals with open SAR applications.

Decisions made / approvals given

No decisions were made and no approvals given as the meeting was not quorate on this occasion

New risks identified, including controls and mitigating actions discussed

No new risks were identified at this meeting; the group considered previously identified risks and discussed the controls and mitigating actions in place.

Items referred / escalated to another Committee or Group

[Identify the name of the receiving forum and detail the recommendation made]

None identified.

Any other matters to highlight

None identified.

Recommendations

Trust Board is asked to note this update

/ ENDS