

 Belfast Health and Social Care Trust caring supporting improving together		Paper Ref. Num. 2026.07.23_TBP_AgendaItem7.1_P227-MAHI <i>Note:- To be completed by HQ meeting organiser</i>
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust Meeting Template Sheet (v050526)		
Title of paper (Maximum of 300 characters) Briefing Paper: MAH Inquiry and Related Workstreams Oversight Assurance Report		
Purpose of paper		For Oversight
If other purpose please specify		
Meeting TB Public		
If other meeting please specify		
Rationale for confidential consideration (if applicable)		
Presenter	Peter Sloan	
Date of meeting	23 July 2026	
Background (Maximum of 1500 characters) Briefing Paper: MAH Inquiry and Related Workstreams Oversight Assurance Report (arising from meeting 16.06.2026)		
Date considered at Exec Team (If Applicable)		n/a
Options for consideration (Maximum of 1500 characters) n/a		
Recommendations (Maximum of 1500 Characters) 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

Note: this will be the last time this report format will be used; from next month, the template for reporting will be updated to align to the revised Integrated Governance & Assurance Framework templates available on The Loop.

Reporting to: Committee / Group	Trust Board
Date of Meeting	23.07.2026

Reporting from: Committee / Group	MAH Inquiry & Related Workstreams Oversight Group
Date of Meeting	16.06.2026 - Note 1: this meeting was stood down due to diary pressures in lead-up to publication of MAH Inquiry Report on 18.06.2026 - Note 2: this assurance report is informed by desktop review of the workstream reports duly submitted to ensure continued assurance reporting
Chair	Jennifer Welsh
Lead Officer / Author of this Report	Sara Templar
Meeting Administrator	Gerald Murray

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. 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, replacing 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 (Op. 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]

n/a

This meeting was stood down due to diary pressures in lead-up to publication of MAH Inquiry Report on 18.06.2026.

This assurance report is informed by desktop review of the workstream reports duly submitted to ensure continued assurance reporting.

Documents reviewed and/or approved

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

16.06.2026 – documents not reviewed by full Oversight Group as meeting was stood down in preparation of MAHI Report. Information provided in the reports received for the June meeting has been updated where possible as of the time of preparation of this report (15.07.2026).

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 (i) - MAH Inquiry (as at 15.07.2026)

- On 27.05.2026 the MAH Inquiry confirmed that it would publish its final report on 18.06.2026.
- Over the next 4 weeks the Belfast Trust took steps to prepare for receipt of the report, including seeking agreement with the MAH Inquiry as to how many members of staff could be accommodated at the launch event at the MAH Inquiry premises, and making arrangements for a Belfast Trust press briefing at the Royal Victoria Hospital in the hours following the launch.
- On 18.06.2026, the following key Trust representatives attended the launch: Chief Executive, Chair, Medical Director, Executive Director of Nursing, Director of Mental Health Intellectual Disabilities and Psychological Services, Head of Communications, and Co-Director for Risk and Governance. Directorate of Legal Services staff and Counsel were also in attendance.
- That afternoon, the Trust delivered a press briefing, including statements from the Chair and Chief Executive, and time for questions and answers from the press.
- Work is underway to read and understand the detail of the report, and to establish a workplan for next steps that are required.
- By its nature, this workplan will likely cross directorate boundaries, requiring the involvement and leadership of multiple divisions across the Trust.
- It will also need to take into account developments in the wider context, including the summit convened by the Health Minister on 30.06.2026, the Trust's ongoing work to update and strengthen the Integrated Governance and Assurance Framework, and ongoing work in Intellectual Disability Services.
- As an immediate action, the Trust is taking steps to begin to reach out to patients and families, to invite them to meetings to receive a personal apology from the Belfast Trust Chief Executive and Chair.

Workstream (ii) - Operation Turnstone (PSNI-led MAH 2017 CCTV Investigation) (as at 16.06.2026)

- Belfast Trust Family Liaison Social Workers (FLSWs or 'FLOs') continue to support families affected.
- As of 15 June 2026, the team have directly met with 17 families and 2 patients to provide an update on the internal HR investigations. There are 4 meetings still due to take place and 4 families indicated that they did not wish to meet at this point in time.
- The meetings have been well received and generally the families have been thankful for an update from the Trust. The families have valued the face to face communication and have consistently communicated about the significant positive impact of the Family Liaison Social Workers. It is clear that the FLSW support is invaluable to families and it is essential that the Trust continues to provide this ongoing support.
- During the meetings the families have consistently communicated some frustrations with the 2017 processes, namely; the absence of communication from the Trust in relation to the process, the families' perception that management have not been held accountable for 2017 MAH abuse, concerns about the length of the disciplinary processes and staff remaining on full pay during precautionary suspension and the current limitations of the disciplinary processes in being able to invoke earlier dismissal procedures; and that their loved one continues to display signs of trauma as a result of the abuse in 2017.
- There are currently 18 patients affected by criminal proceedings, relating to 44 staff cases.
- There have been no further Court outcomes since the last meeting in May 2026.
- There are further preliminary/review hearings set for June and July 2026
- A member of Trust family liaison staff continues to support families during the Court processes. This work is intensive. A communication pathway has been drafted to ensure information from Court outcomes is communicated to key trust staff and this has been working effectively to date

Workstream (iii) - DOH Oversight of Adult Safeguarding & Complaints at MAH (as at 11.06.2026)

- These meetings were stood down 1.6.2026
- A final discussion between BHSC and OSS to take place regarding learning and any outstanding concerns
- The Chief Social Worker is providing a briefing to the Minister in respect of the oversight meetings

Workstream (iv) - MAH 2017 CCTV HR Investigations (as at 09.06.2026)

- Significant work ongoing which is being closely monitored and managed by the team. 5 disciplinary investigations have concluded since last report.

Workstream (v) - MAH Resettlement (as at 15.07.2026)

- There is 1 patient remaining in MAH
- This matter is currently the subject of Judicial Review

Workstream (vi) - Decommissioning & Closure of MAH (as at 15.07.2026)

- Regarding inpatient services: 1 ward remains open. Security presence has been increased (24 hr from November 2025). Burglar alarms and external CCTV is in place for the whole site.

- Following closure of the inpatient service, the site will be managed by the Strategic Planning Directorate, with buildings being maintained in line with processes used for all vacant properties.
- The Health Estates Asset Realisation Team (Department of Health) are considering future use of the site.

Workstream (vii) - Complex Subject Access Requests (as at 15.07.2026)

- The Belfast Trust application has been heard in the High Court most recently on 15.06.2026.
- We now await the Judge's decision which, when received, will provide a clear path forward for the processing of SARs where a person lacks capacity to consent or withhold consent to share their personal records with a third party applicant.
- This will also allow the Trust to consistently manage those requests stalled in the system and any further requests for records arising from the publication of the MAHI Report

Decisions made / approvals given

N/A

New risks identified, including controls and mitigating actions discussed

None identified – however, the work to develop a comprehensive workplan arising from the publication of the MAH Inquiry Report will likely surface specific risks and issues that will require close monitoring and management.

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