



	Tick One ✓
For discussion	
For approval	
For noting	✓

**Date of Trust Board Meeting:** 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
**Meeting:** 30.03.22  
**Public or Confidential Meeting:** Public  
**Agenda item:** 7.7 Review into the Operation of Care & Supervision Units in the NI Prison Service

**1. Introduction**

**0** The Minister of Justice requested a Review into the Operation of Care & Supervision Units in the NI Prison Service. The Criminal Justice Inspectorate for Northern Ireland agreed to carry it out in the knowledge that it would be different from an unannounced prison inspection, that it required a partnership approach with the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority and Education and Training Inspectorate and that it required the Inspection Team to carry out fieldwork in each prison during the COVID-19 pandemic (the pandemic).  
 This purpose of this Paper is to advise Trust Board regarding matters that pertain to the provision of Prison Healthcare contained in the Review Report.

**2. Background information**

**0** The Review noted that some prisoners have severe mental disorders and needs that make them particularly challenging for staff to care for and it is questionable if prison is the most appropriate place for them to be.

The review team acknowledged the committed Prison Officers and health care staff in Care and Supervision Units who face complex challenges every day and stated that Care and Supervision Unit staff needs the skills, energy and motivation to identify individual needs and take care of those most vulnerable, challenging and disengaged prisoners in the best way they can. Staff are hindered by the limitations of the present facilities.

The Review comments on the lack of available acute in-patient facilities for people to transfer to and noted that this issue has been evidenced for some time.

**3. Brief summary of key points contained in the paper/s**

**0 Review Recommendations**

The review team made one strategic recommendation and two operational recommendations relevant to Prison Healthcare.

The Trust has commenced work to ensure implementation of these recommendations within requested timeframes. All of these recommendations overlap with recommendations from the RQIA Review of Vulnerable People in Prison which was completed concurrently.

**STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATION 2**

The Northern Ireland Prison Service in partnership with the South Eastern Health and Social

Care Trust, the Health and Social Care Board and the Department of Health, should urgently review current arrangements to ensure that prisoners suffering from severe mental disorders (including personality disorders, dementia and intellectual disabilities) have equal access to care and treatment in a secure inpatient mental health or learning disability hospital.

The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust should engage with the commissioners to ensure that future planning for Mental Health provision across Northern Ireland incorporates the needs of the prisoner population, to include agreed pathways for timely access to appropriate hospital beds for those clinically requiring this when experiencing a mental health crisis in a prison setting. The implementation of this recommendation including any actions arising should be overseen by relevant policy leads in the Departments of Health and Justice for consideration by Ministers.

#### **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATION 1**

The Northern Ireland Prison Service and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust should ensure that mental health teams along with primary health care are involved in the assessment of all prisoners physical and mental health following their placement in CSU. This should be implemented within six months of the publication of this report.

#### **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATION 9**

The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust should ensure that mental health care documentation records the assessed need of the patient and meets professional standards within three months of the publication of this report.

#### **4. Recommendation/s for the Trust Board (please state if the paper/s is for information/noting or for approval by Board members)**

Paper is for noting

**Lead Director: Margaret O’Kane**  
**Designation: Director Adult Services & Prison Healthcare**  
**Date 18.03.22**