

Patient and Client Council Adult Protection Engagement Platform

1st October 2026

**Your Voice,
Our Journey**

✉ info@pcc-ni.net

🌐 www.pcc-ni.net

What is an Engagement Platform:

“An Engagement Platform is a collaborative space that brings together individuals with shared experiences or interests in specific areas of health and social care. These platforms enable participants to share their lived experiences, contribute their perspectives, and engage directly with decision-makers. They serve as a mechanism for ensuring that services under review, development, or reform are informed by those with lived experience”

Sandra McCarry HSC Leadership centre



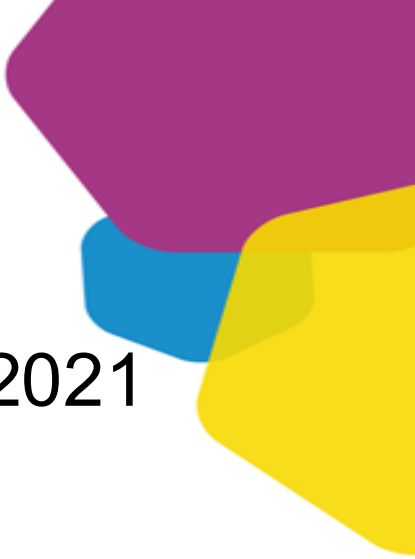
Rationale for establishing the platform:

- The Adult Protection Engagement Platform was established in August 2022
- Northern Ireland doesn't have Adult Protection Legislation in place
- The platform was formed as a result of the Dunmurry Manor Care Home "Home Truths" report
- The discovery of CCTV at Muckamore Abbey care home was a further catalyst for legislative change



Membership:

- Recruitment and Induction took place in July and August 2021
- Over 30 individuals expressed an interest in becoming a platform member.
- Platform members consisted of staff from health trusts, community and voluntary sector and people with lived experience
- The lived experience voice was key to ensuring legislation is fit for purpose.



Key stakeholders

- Platform members, particular emphasis on the importance of Lived Experience voice
- The Adult Safeguarding Bill team at the Department of Health
- The Interim Adult Protection Board at SPPG (strategic planning and performance group)



Timeline

- Platform members have been meeting regularly with Department of Health since 2021
- They have also had ongoing meetings with the Interim Adult Protection Board (IAPB)
- They have had opportunities to engage and be part of IAPB subgroups; training&development, serious case and joint protocol with PSNI (Police service of Northern Ireland)
- The Engagement Platform was cited as an integral part of shaping the Legislation when the Department of Health met the Health Committee in June 2025
- Two engagement platform members shared their lived experience of Muckamore Abbey hospital with the Health Committee in January 2026

Platform Impact

- Platform members were instrumental in changing terminology within the Bill.
- Platform members shared their thoughts on the renaming of serious case reviews to adult protection learning reviews
- They felt omitting the word “Serious “ would diminish the gravitas of the review and potentially lose the seriousness that contributes to effective learning
- Ensuring that where there is suspected abuse of a loved one that Next of Kin is informed immediately

Platform impact

- Lived experience voice felt strongly that CCTV should be made mandatory in the new Adult Protection Bill
- While the Department of Health recognised it's importance in uncovering abuse in Muckamore Abbey Hospital they were unable to include it in the Bill due to Article 8 of the ECHR but they acknowledged it's importance
- PCC as a body corporate opted out of becoming a member of the Adult Protection Board to remain financially, structurally and psychologically independent

Sustainability

In terms of future success and sustainability, while the platform may stand down in wake of the Bill being enacted. The legacy of this platform will shape the path of future engagement. It has been unique in that members have had a seat at the decision-making table and they have used their lived experience to ensure families in the future do not have to endure what they have gone through.



Thank you

Your Voice,
Our Journey

✉ info@pcc-ni.net www.pcc-ni.net