

National Independent Safeguarding Board Meeting NISB

Meeting Minutes

Date: 12th August 2026 **Time:** 09.30am Teams meeting

Attendees:

- Dave Street (NISB Chair)
- Lin Slater (NISB Vice Chair)
- Desmond Mannion (Board Member)
- Artie Meakin (Board Member)
- Carys James (Board Member)
- John Williams (Board Member)
- Emma Logan (NISB Secretariat)

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Conflict of Interest Declarations

Members were invited to declare any conflicts of interest.

One member advised the Board of ongoing work relating to one inquiry, but no conflicts in this meeting or at present in any board work. It was agreed that this would be noted and the member would withdraw from any future discussions where a conflict may arise.

No further declarations were made.

3. Minutes & Actions of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved for publication.

Actions from the previous meeting were reviewed. The majority had been completed or were reflected within current agenda items.

The Board agreed that future records of discussions with external presenters should clearly show:

- The purpose of attendance.
- Any outcomes or actions arising.
- How the Board intends to use information received.

This was agreed to improve transparency and demonstrate impact.

4. CPR Thematic Report

An update was provided on the Child Practice Review (CPR) Thematic Report.

Key points included:

- Recommendations had been replaced with learning points following previous Board discussions.
- Welsh and English versions had been completed and submitted for final design work.
- A roundtable event has been scheduled for **22 September 2026**.
- Regional Safeguarding Boards will be invited to present examples of challenges and good practice relating to communication with children and young people.
- Members discussed how learning from the thematic review can support broader work on voice, engagement and participation.

The Board noted that reports from several Regional Safeguarding Boards are beginning to demonstrate alignment with the Board's agreed five key questions.

5. Strengthening Governance in Safeguarding Review

The Chair and Vice Chair provided feedback from meetings with Welsh Government officials regarding the Governance Review.

6. Safeguarding Data Capture

Members received an update on discussions with Welsh Government relating to safeguarding data and intelligence gathering.

The Board agreed:

- A joint data workshop with Welsh Government should take place later in the year.
- Timing should reflect any developments arising from the Governance Review and proposals for a central intelligence function.
- Additional research and comparative work being undertaken across the four nations was noted.

Members discussed concerns around:

- Referral rates.
- Information quality.
- Interpretation of data.
- The importance of not drawing simplistic conclusions from headline figures.

The Board agreed that further engagement with academic experts and researchers would be beneficial.

7. Annual Reports

Regional annual reports are beginning to be submitted.

Discussion focused on:

- Simplifying annual reporting requirements.
- Improving consistency between reports.
- Ensuring annual reports demonstrate effectiveness rather than merely compliance.

An update was provided on work being undertaken to review annual reports and identify opportunities for improvement.

Members also discussed a draft mechanism for capturing Board member activity throughout the year to support future reporting.

A revised simplified template will be produced and piloted.

8. Progress of the Inquiry into Grooming Gangs

The Board noted recent inquiry developments.

Discussion highlighted recurring themes around:

- Voice.
- Listening to children and young people.
- Communication failures.
- Missed opportunities to hear and respond to concerns.

Members agreed the findings aligned closely with learning identified through other safeguarding reviews and thematic work.

9. National Public Inquiries: Southport and Nottingham

Members discussed emerging learning from both inquiries.

Themes identified included:

- Information sharing.
- Risk assessment.
- Multi-agency decision making.
- Mental health considerations.
- Professional curiosity.

The Board agreed there appeared to be common lessons across different reviews and inquiries and that Welsh Government should be asked whether any specific work is underway to consider implications for Wales.

10. Stakeholder Feedback and Review of Key Stakeholders

Stakeholder Updates

Updates were provided from various stakeholder meetings.

Stakeholder Review

The Board undertook a detailed review of stakeholder engagement arrangements.

It was agreed that:

- Existing stakeholder and meeting lists had become overly complex.
- Stakeholders and operational meetings should be separated into distinct categories.
- A smaller and more focused stakeholder list would be maintained.
- Future engagement should be proportionate and clearly linked to Board priorities.

Members also agreed that future discussions are required regarding:

- Engagement with criminal justice partners.
- Engagement with the voluntary sector.
- Wider strategic relationships.

11. Regional Safeguarding Board Updates

No significant updates were reported due to the timing of Board meetings across regions.

Members noted that updates are expected at the next NISB meeting.

AOB

Older People's Commissioner

The Chair sought views ahead of a forthcoming meeting with the Older People's Commissioner.

Discussion included:

- Older people's safeguarding.
- Dementia and voice.
- Hospital corridor care.
- Fragility of social care services.
- Workforce pressures.
- Human rights considerations.
- Self-neglect.
- Domestic abuse affecting older people.

Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Conference

An invitation had been received for NISB input at a forthcoming safeguarding conference.

Members agreed support would be provided in developing the presentation content and attendance.

Future Partnership Arrangements

Members noted that consideration will need to be given to future arrangements and procurement activity.

A dedicated discussion will be scheduled.