

## **National Independent Safeguarding Board Meeting**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** 8 July 2026 **Time:** 10am **Location:** Teams meeting

#### **Attendees:**

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

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed members. Apologies were noted from Desmond Mannion (Board Member), and members were advised that a Welsh Government representative would join later for the governance update.

#### **2. Conflict of Interest Declarations**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

#### **3. Minutes and actions from previous meetings**

The Board reviewed the action log, noting that some items would be covered later in the meeting. The May minutes were agreed for publication, and the June business meeting notes require review and circulation.

#### **4. Communications strategy and website**

The Secretariat confirmed that the communications strategy workshop is provisionally scheduled to take place in Cardiff on 22 July, using the previously agreed format.

The website review identified significant technical issues. A revised preview will be updated to include clearer information about NISB, minutes, reports and regional safeguarding board links, with Welsh language content added before publication. A simpler long-term website platform may be needed to support easier maintenance and reduce reliance on third-party updates. A quote has been requested for set-up and ongoing maintenance.

#### **5. Presentation from the Ann Craft Trust, NSPCC Sport and Sport Wales**

Representatives outlined work to strengthen safeguarding across sport in Wales, including safeguarding culture, reporting, prevention, adult safeguarding, public awareness, and risks linked to unaffiliated clubs and informal activities.

Members noted that sport can create safeguarding risks but can also provide trusted relationships, safe spaces and opportunities for disclosure. Clear responsibilities,

stronger links with regional safeguarding boards and improved public awareness were emphasised.

The Board also supported work to improve consistency in safeguarding data, thresholds and data capture through wider safe sport initiatives.

## **6. CPR thematic update**

The Board agreed that the CPR thematic report should avoid excessive formal recommendations and instead present clear, practical learning points or practice development opportunities for regional safeguarding boards.

Members noted that any evidence of implementation or reflection should be proportionate and avoid creating additional burden.

## **7. Future thematic work and annual reports**

The Board considered future thematic work and noted that available APR information was not yet sufficient to confirm whether an APR thematic review would be appropriate this year.

Members supported focused work on annual reports and plans to make them shorter, more meaningful and better able to demonstrate impact, priorities and statutory requirements.

This will be explored as a practical piece of work for the current financial year. Wider adult safeguarding issues, including thresholds and front-door decision-making, remain important but require a clearer research question and broader scope.

## **8. Budget update**

The Board noted the overall budget position, including spend to date and the forecast position for the remainder of the year.

The forecast includes member claims, the Manchester Metropolitan University partnership, licences, APR/CPR-related work, Safeguarding Week costs, translation, development days, publication support and provisional website redevelopment costs. Some estimates may reduce once confirmed.

## **9. Board member claims process**

The Board discussed the revised claims process, which will improve time recording and provide an auditable record of Board activity, including meetings, preparation, travel and related work.

The revised process will start in August, with the form, guidance and a short demonstration session to clarify how it links to calendar records and what should be recorded.

## **10. Safeguarding Week Conference**

Plans for the Safeguarding Week Conference are well advanced. The adult safeguarding event is expected to cover the safeguarding landscape, lived experience, legal developments, medical examinations, inspection, older people's issues, and contributions from the Minister, Welsh Government and the Board.

Members noted the need for contingency arrangements if speakers are unable to attend at short notice.

## **11. Annual report format and timeline**

The annual report must be submitted to the Minister by 31 October and published by 31 December, allowing time for translation and publication. Members agreed it should be developed throughout the year.

The format will follow statutory requirements, use question-led headings and embed the five questions framework. A shared OneDrive template will capture engagement, thematic work, emerging issues, impact and outcomes, focusing on significance and learning rather than meeting activity.

## **12. Procedures Board and national practice guidance**

The Board discussed how to help practitioners identify current national procedures, practice guidance and safeguarding resources, while avoiding duplication across Wales.

The refreshed NISB website could provide a central signposting point, improving visibility and reducing the risk of multiple versions of similar guidance.

## **13. Stakeholder engagement and work plan priorities**

The Board agreed to link the stakeholder matrix to the workplan, so engagement is purposeful, priority-led and clearly owned.

Emerging 2026–2027 priorities include the national safeguarding data set, safeguarding effectiveness reporting, annual reports and plans, national practice guidance, the governance review, the national conference and wider safeguarding developments.

The Board noted emerging risks, including national reports and inquiries, sentencing reform, workforce and regional safeguarding board capacity pressures, and wider public sector pressures affecting safeguarding delivery.

## **15. Regional safeguarding board updates**

Members shared regional safeguarding board updates. West Glamorgan reported positive engagement and useful work on the All Wales Integrated Referral Form and MAST, while noting capacity pressures and reliance on experienced staff.

Other updates covered the All Wales Integrated Referral Form, health board engagement, children in custody, delays for children released under investigation, health visitor workforce pressures, transitional safeguarding, MAST, inspectorate engagement, child practice review learning, domestic abuse and ensuring children's experiences remain visible.

## **16. Welsh Government Official Update**

### **Governance review update**

Welsh Government updated the Board on the governance review. The report remains with Ministers for clearance and may then be shared with a limited stakeholder group under strict confidentiality, pending publication and next steps. The Board discussed the need for dedicated consideration of the recommendations, implications for NISB and regional safeguarding boards, and transitional arrangements. A short initial session and fuller summer session were proposed. The report is expected to recognise commitment across the safeguarding system while identifying fragmentation, structural issues, capacity pressures and the need for stronger thematic analysis. It contains eight recommendations, some requiring longer-term or legislative change.

**Ministerial meeting and Welsh Government policy links**

The forthcoming Ministerial meeting was confirmed as introductory, with the Minister expected to outline her priorities and invite the Board to explain NISB's role and work programme.

The Board also noted the need to strengthen links with Welsh Government policy leads so safeguarding-related work engages NISB at the right point.

**UK inquiry into grooming gangs and Operation Beaufort**

The Board noted updated terms of reference for the UK inquiry into grooming gangs and Operation Beaufort criteria for identifying local areas of focus. Three areas have been identified so far, none in Wales, with Welsh Government engaged and some regional data work underway.

**19. CPR thematic learning points**

The Board supported replacing formal recommendations with "key learning points and opportunities for development" to reduce the risk of creating an additional formal action burden for regional safeguarding boards.

Members also agreed that wording on regional use of APR and CPR recommendations, children's voices in practice learning, and national CPR data through the Wales Safeguarding Repository and SUSR context should be clarified.

**20. Any other business and close**

No further substantive business was raised. The Chair thanked members for their contributions and closed the meeting.