



Bwrdd Diogelu Annibynnol
Cenedlaethol Cymru

National Independent
Safeguarding Board Wales

National Independent Safeguarding Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: 13th August 2025 **Time:** 09.30am Teams meeting

Attendees:

- Tony Young (NISB Chair)
- Lin Slater (NISB Vice Chair)
- Carys James (NISB Board Member)
- Artie Meakin (NISB Board Member)
- Des Mannion (NISB Board Member)
- Nicola Evans (Deputy Director, Education, Welsh Government)
- Taryn Stephens (Deputy Chief Social Care Officer, Welsh Government)
- Emma Logan (NISB Secretariat)

Agenda Items and Detailed Summary:

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Meeting commenced with a welcome from the Chair and apologies noted.

2. Conflicts of Interest:

The chair asked members to declare conflicts of interest, none were declared.

3. Minutes & Actions of Previous Meeting:

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, approved with minor amendments, and designated as suitable for publication.

4. 10.30: Nicola Evans - Education Update

The meeting featured a comprehensive update on educational safeguarding, focusing on current structures, data collection challenges, and the promotion of cross-agency collaboration. Members recognised the importance of joint initiatives to enhance

safeguarding measures within educational settings and discussed the need for improved oversight of home-educated children, particularly in light of resource constraints and pending legislative developments. The group agreed to clarify data collection practices and pursue up-to-date datasets, emphasising ongoing cooperation with government and research partners to address gaps in safeguarding, especially regarding education and home schooling.

5.11.15 Taryn Stephens, WG

NISB Secretariat recommended switching transcription off for Taryn's discussion because the topic involved sensitive information related to the North Wales developments indicating a need for confidentiality.

6.All Wales Integrated Referral Pilot

The Board considered the proposed All Wales Integrated Referral Pilot, which is currently under review by the RSB. It was noted that appropriate funding sources are being explored, with the RSB actively investigating several potential funding mechanisms. Given the project's significance, the Board expressed strong support for providing funding and agreed to consider options for contributing to its implementation.

7.Thematic Review CPR Update

The Thematic Review has been formally approved and accepted by ManMet. An update regarding the commencement of this work will be provided in due course.

8.Budget Update

The board discussed escalating website management costs and stressed the importance of strategic planning to maintain financial discipline. They explored potential approaches to streamline website updates and bolster cybersecurity, with consideration given to contract deadlines and the need to synchronise digital communications strategies with existing resources. The group also addressed concerns about phishing and scam emails, underlining the necessity for strong data security measures and thorough induction processes for new members. It was agreed that cybersecurity proposals and their budgetary impacts would be reviewed in greater detail during the upcoming budget discussions.

9.Comms Strategy Update

The board reviewed ongoing progress on the communications strategy, incorporating updates from previous commissioning activities, outcomes from the development day, and website management considerations. Rising website management costs were discussed, underscoring the need for strategic planning and resource alignment. To support external communications and reporting, the board agreed to document recent

achievements for inclusion in the annual report and to prepare a brief for external communications support.

10.Regional Board Updates – RSB / Stakeholder Updates – EWS, CIW, HIW, WVCS, Estyn, WAO, CCfW, OPC, PVP, Anti-Slavery, 4 Nations Planning Group.

The Board received updates regarding collaborative efforts with external partners, focusing on developments in adoption services and safeguarding action plans. Key challenges were identified in relation to DBS checks, regional resource capacity, and the consistency of information sharing. Progress on early permanency initiatives and outcomes from recent inspections were also discussed.

11.AOB

NISB Website

The board plans to coordinate cybersecurity and OneNote training, align website and communications initiatives with resources, and review cybersecurity proposals during the upcoming budget discussions in response to concerns about data security and phishing attempts.