



Bwrdd Diogelu Annibynnol
Cenedlaethol Cymru

National Independent
Safeguarding Board Wales

National Independent Safeguarding Board Meeting NISB

Meeting Minutes

Date: 11th February 2026 **Time:** 09.30am Teams meeting

Attendees:

- Tony Young (NISB Chair)
 - Lin Slater (NISB Vice Chair)
 - Desmond Mannion (Board Member)
 - Artie Meakin (Board Member)
 - Dave Street (Board Member)
 - John Williams (Board Member)
 - Emma Logan (NISB Secretariat)
 - Taryn Stephens (Welsh Government)
 - Zarah Newman (Welsh Government)
 - Jan Pickles (External)
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1. Welcome and Apologies

The meeting opened with a warm welcome extended to all attendees from the Vice-Chair. It was also confirmed that the Chair would be joining the meeting at a later stage due to prior commitments.

2. Conflict of Interest Declarations

None were declared.

Members were reminded of the requirement to complete and return the annual conflict of interest forms. It was made clear that all sections of the form must be signed, including those where the member is declaring no conflicts. This ensures that all declarations are comprehensive and formally acknowledged by each member.

During the discussion, several key points were raised:

- The Board identified the need for clearer guidance regarding both actual and perceived conflicts of interest, to ensure that all potential situations are appropriately recognised and managed.

- The significance of maintaining transparency in all activities was emphasised, alongside the need for appropriate mitigation actions where any conflict of interest is identified.
- It was agreed that the Board will continue to maintain a formal annual register of interests, in addition to the existing process for ad hoc declarations as new circumstances arise.

3. Minutes & Actions of Previous Meeting

The Board confirmed that the minutes of the preceding meeting had been accurately reflected. Members undertook a review of the action points, with updates provided where relevant and available.

4. NISB Board Appointments Update

The Board received an update regarding current and forthcoming appointments. Interviews for new members are scheduled, with the intention of establishing a refreshed Board in time for the new financial year. Succession planning for the Chair and Vice Chair roles was discussed, and it was agreed that new appointees may attend meetings as observers prior to their formal commencement.

5. NISB Annual Report – Update

The annual report has been finalised and is ready for dissemination. The Board expressed concern about delays in publication.

6. NISB Workplan

Members discussed the Board's workplan and agreed that the draft would be further developed and circulated for comment and feedback.

7. Development Day – Update and Next Steps

Feedback from the recent Development Day was reflected in the revised workplan. The Board agreed that outputs from the Development Day provide a robust foundation for future planning. Some amendments to the document were made during the meeting. The document will remain as a live reference and will inform engagement with external partners.

8. NISB & Man Met Data Round Table – 24 February

An update was provided on preparations for the upcoming data roundtable. Invitations have been issued to Regional Safeguarding Boards and analysts. However, following an update from the WG Safeguarding and Advocacy Department that noted the recent development of Wales data sets, NISB agreed to cancel the round table event to allow for proper consideration of this information.

9. Welsh Government Education Update

The scheduled attendance of a WG officer to provide an update on the safeguarding work of the education department was unable to take place due to availability. The Board agreed to reschedule this item for a future meeting.

10. Website Update & Communications Strategy

Progress was reported on the migration of the NISB website to a new provider and also on the ongoing development of the Communications Strategy. The migration is scheduled for completion by the end of March, with budget provision confirmed for hosting and maintenance. Training will be provided to

facilitate in-house content management, and editorial controls and governance arrangements are to be developed. It was decided that Website and Communications will become a standing agenda item.

11. Welsh Government Strengthening Safeguarding Governance Review

The meeting was attended by Jan Pickles and Zara Newman to provide an update on the progress of the Governance Review. Key emerging themes included inconsistency across regions, duplication of effort, and reporting burden. There is an opportunity to shift focus from compliance reporting to strategic planning. The concept of a national intelligence hub to support learning—including good practice, near misses, and thematic insights—was discussed.

12. Welsh Government Update

A general update was provided, covering ongoing policy developments and alignment with Board priorities. Including:

- Operation Beaconport: the UK review of closed investigations into group based child sexual abuse and exploitation. The methodology for reviewing cases in Wales is awaited.
- All Wales Integrated Referral. 4 Welsh pilot sites have been identified and 2 have begun a pilot.
- The CSA Action plan has been updated and a 3-year delivery plan will be published in March
- The National Action Plan for the Prevention of Abuse of Older People is currently being updated for 2026.
- WG newly revised safeguarding data dashboard was noted. A new Carers dashboard is under development.

13. Thematic Review – CPR Update

An update was given on the CPR thematic review, with a draft report expected imminently. The Board discussed the limited visibility of lived experience within reviews and identified opportunities to strengthen learning and dissemination.

14. Budget Update

The Board reviewed the current budget position. Website migration and communications activities are funded within the existing budget. Ongoing monitoring is required, and translation and publication costs were noted.

15. Anti-Slavery Forum

An update was provided on engagement with the Anti-Slavery Forum and related safeguarding activities. The significant breadth of work of this group was noted. NISB to receive presentation at the next Board.

16. Social Care Wales

The Board received an update on collaboration and engagement with Social Care Wales, including work on transitional safeguarding and practice development.

17. North Wales Development Day – 6 March 2026

Arrangements for the North Wales Development Day were noted, with discussion regarding Board representation and session objectives.

18. WhatsApp

The Board discussed administration of the WhatsApp group to ensure effective communication and continuity during membership changes.

19. Cardiff University Research Project

The Board was informed about a research proposal concerned with 'risk and autonomy' -seeking consent in adult social care. As relevant to Board priorities John Williams has accepted an invitation to sit on the Project Board to represent NISB.

20. Regional Safeguarding Board Updates

Regional updates were noted, highlighting variations in practice, ongoing pressures on boards, and examples of innovation and challenge.

21. Stakeholder Updates

Updates were shared from key stakeholders, including Education, Care Inspectorate Wales, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales, voluntary sector partners, inspectorates and commissioners, and UK-wide safeguarding collaboration groups.

22. Any Other Business

The meeting concluded at 16:40.