



Bwrdd Diogelu Annibynnol
Cenedlaethol Cymru

National Independent
Safeguarding Board Wales

National Independent Safeguarding Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

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

Attendees:

- Tony Young (NISB Chair)
- Lin Slater (NISB Vice Chair)
- Artie Meakin (NISB Board Member)
- Dave Street (NISB Board Member)
- John Williams (NISB Board Member)
- Des Mannion (NISB Board Member)
- 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 Taryn Stephens, WG - Discussion with Deputy Chief Social Care Officer, Welsh Government

Taryn Stephens shared updates on Welsh Government safeguarding initiatives. She announced the upcoming release of the National Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse, featuring a three-year action plan and four main

objectives: whole-system working, better data, public awareness, and consistent training. Implementation will be managed by a strategic board with advisory forums for victims. The grooming gangs inquiry is ongoing, with terms still being developed and multi-agency input expected. The safeguarding governance review's final report awaits ministerial approval, which could be delayed by elections. Interviews for the NISB Chair are set, with results due in April 2026. Welsh Government is investing in improved safeguarding data and collaborating with NISB to avoid duplication. The Board's budget needs ministerial sign-off, and there are current staffing pressures in leadership roles until external recruitment is completed.

5 NISB & ManMet CPR Report

The Board noted the delay of the NISB-commissioned Child Practice Review (CPR) thematic report, now expected to be finalised by the end of March. A draft communication will go to regional Safeguarding Board Chairs and Business Managers outlining the reason for the delay and next steps.

Board members stressed the need for all members to review and formally approve the final report before publication, even if a quick turnaround is needed for year-end payment requirements. Once signed off, the report will be published and translated.

The Board also plans to hold a roundtable with stakeholders after publication to discuss findings and recommendations, following previous review practices.

6 NISB Annual Report

The Board reviewed the NISB Annual Report, highlighting its value in outlining activities, impact, and recommendations. Members stressed that the report should align with the workplan, track key themes, and be supported by strong evidence and analysis, especially regarding safeguarding data and outcomes despite ongoing data challenges. The report must clearly show progress and areas needing further attention. Finalisation, member review, and timely sign-off were agreed as crucial for transparency and accountability, with translation and publication to follow approval.

7 NISB Annual Workplan

The Board reviewed the draft NISB Workplan, noting prior member feedback and broad consensus on direction, pending minor refinements.

It was decided to maintain two versions of the workplan: a public document outlining priorities and commitments, and a detailed internal tool for tracking actions, deadlines, responsibilities, and progress.

The Secretariat introduced an internal tracker covering meetings, recruitment, induction, budget, reporting, commissioned work, and events, which members welcomed for oversight and prioritisation.

Final amendments addressing partnership clarity and future reviews will be made, after which the workplan will be published and regularly updated as a living document.

8 NISB Member Induction Document

The Board reviewed a draft Induction Document for new members, welcoming it as an overdue and useful resource. They stressed the need for clarity, practicality, and minimal updates, agreeing to remove member photos and limit individual references.

Members recommended reducing content about Welsh Government to reflect the Board's independent advisory role, and replacing the structural diagram with a broader governance overview. Changeable details should be kept in appendices for easier updates. The annual review process was appropriately referenced; it should be framed as supportive rather than evaluative.

The Secretariat will revise the draft accordingly. Further refinement may follow the Safeguarding Governance Review.

9 NISB Partnership Relationships Matrix

The Board reviewed the NISB Partnership Relationships Matrix to clarify strategic relationships and agreed it needed updates to reflect changes in membership, roles, and engagement. Lead members for external relationships were confirmed, and amendments made where responsibilities shifted or engagement ended. Some inactive relationships will be removed or monitored to keep the matrix realistic and focused on adding value to the Board's statutory priorities.

Members stressed the need for flexibility, with regular reviews to align with capacity and emerging priorities. The upcoming appointment of a new Chair is seen as a chance to refresh key strategic relationships. The Secretariat will update and circulate the revised matrix. The Board agreed the matrix should be a living document, ensuring transparency and effective engagement beyond fixed allocations.

10 NISB Comms Strategy & Website Update

The Board was updated on the NISB communications strategy and website. Website management will soon transfer to a new provider; recent delays were due to internal financial processes but are resolving, with outstanding invoices and licences expected to be settled before the year's end. A brief website outage underscored the

need for stronger oversight and regular monitoring under the new system. The Secretariat continues to face access and licensing issues and aims to implement a more dependable, user-friendly solution.

Welsh Government has secured extra funding for website costs this year, enabling improvements without affecting future budgets. Work on the communications strategy continues, including stakeholder engagement. Some timing setbacks have occurred, but further progress is anticipated, with a full update planned for a future Board meeting.

11 Budget

The Board received an update on the NISB budget, which remains pending ministerial approval. Taryn Stephens shared that Welsh Government is considering alternative resource use, but no commitments have been made. Members stressed the importance of the core budget and welcomed potential flexibility. Additional funding was secured this year for website improvements, protecting future budgets. The Secretariat emphasized finalizing commissioned reports within the financial year to meet payment and year-end requirements. The Board agreed to monitor the budget status until confirmation is received.

12 Recruitment

The Board received a recruitment update: Carys has been appointed and will formally join on 1 June 2026, with the option to attend an earlier meeting as an observer. Interviews for NISB Chair are about to take place; advice will go to the Minister, and pending approval, results are expected by early April 2026.

13 Adults Safeguarding Round Table Event 9th March 2026

The Board confirmed the Adults Safeguarding Round Table Event on 9 March 2026 took place, aligning with its focus on adult safeguarding and system-wide learning. Members noted the event encouraged multi-agency engagement, with outcomes to inform future Board decisions and practice. It was agreed any key findings from the roundtable should be reported at a future meeting to support ongoing oversight and prioritisation.

14 Code of Practice on Quality Assurance and Performance Management, Escalating Concerns and Closure of Regulated Services 2026

The Board reviewed the publication of the revised Code of Practice and its development context. Members considered past work and ongoing concerns about

escalating arrangements in regulated services, especially regarding persistent poor practice. While the revised Code clarifies commissioner and provider responsibilities, questions remain about its effectiveness in addressing repeated safeguarding issues and enabling decisive intervention. Challenges include accountability, inspection capacity, and timely closure of unsafe services. Some regional Boards have implemented local solutions. The Board agreed to monitor the impact of the revised Code on outcomes for adults in regulated settings and may revisit this complex issue in future work.

15 Regional Board Updates – RSB

The Board received brief updates on engagement with regional Safeguarding Boards. It was noted that recent attendance at a regional Board meeting had taken place, with no significant issues requiring escalation to the NISB at this stage.

Members reflected on the importance of maintaining ongoing visibility and engagement with regional Boards, while recognising that matters arising locally are generally being managed through established regional governance arrangements. No additional concerns or actions were raised for consideration by the Board.

16 Stakeholder Updates – EWS, CIW, HIW, WVCS, Estyn, WAO, CCfW, OPC, PVP, Anti-Slavery, 4 Nations Planning Group

The Board noted updates in relation to engagement with key stakeholders, including inspectorates, professional bodies and national partners. No substantive issues requiring escalation to the Board were reported at this stage.

It was acknowledged that stakeholder engagement continues to be maintained through existing arrangements and representation across relevant forums. The Board agreed that any significant matters arising from stakeholder engagement would be brought back for consideration at a future meeting as appropriate.

Meeting ended 1.12pm