



Bwrdd Diogelu Annibynnol
Cenedlaethol Cymru

National Independent
Safeguarding Board Wales

National Independent Safeguarding Board Meeting NISB

Meeting Minutes

Date: 8th January 2025 **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)

1. Welcome and Apologies: The meeting commenced with greetings and confirmation of attendance.

2. Conflict of Interest Declarations: The Board discussed the annual and ongoing process for declaring conflicts of interest. Members were reminded of their responsibilities, and it was agreed to formalize the protocol and share it with the Welsh Government.

3. Minutes & Actions of Previous Meeting: The minutes from the previous meeting were recirculated and a request was made to notify the secretariat of approval as a true record. Actions from the previous meeting were discussed and acknowledged.

4. Publication Status of Annual Report

The Secretariat confirmed that a response/advice had been received from the Welsh Government Representative and that additional supporting information would be shared with Board members.

The Board agreed the Annual Report should remain unchanged unless factual inaccuracies are identified

5. Update – NISB Comms Strategy & Website Revision

The Secretariat reported that work had commenced with the external provider on website revision activity, including engagement with key partner organisations to support liaison and content input. A progress catch-up meeting with stakeholders was scheduled for the same afternoon.

The Board discussed budget implications and noted the importance of ensuring any uncommitted funds are redirected effectively, including potential use toward a future website tender and longer-term website development requirements

6. Progress on Statistical Data Review - Man Met

The Board received an update on a substantial external review of Welsh Government child protection statistics, including:

- challenges in locating and navigating published data due to platform changes and dispersed publication locations;
- the need for improved presentation (e.g., rates per population/percentages rather than raw numbers); and
- the value of viewing data as a coherent “suite” to enable meaningful understanding and inquiry.

The Board discussed significant variation between local authorities and noted the importance of:

- avoiding “league table” interpretations.
- ensuring data is framed with narrative context; and
- supporting safe, constructive learning conversations rather than punitive comparison.

The Chair proposed that, once the draft review is finalised and shared, the Board should hold a dedicated session to draw conclusions and agree an approach for constructive engagement with Welsh Government.

7. Update on Section 5 Procedure Review

The Board received an update on the national procedures work relating to Section 5 (positions of trust/allegations management), including that the revised procedures have been reviewed in detail and are expected to be finalised and published by March.

The Board noted the value of accompanying “practice pointers” and supporting documents to improve usability for practitioners, acknowledging that comprehensive guidance can become lengthy and less accessible without practical signposting.

The Board also discussed governance and accountability issues highlighted through recent national learning, including the importance of clarity regarding decision-making, escalation, oversight, and record-keeping expectations.

8. Education Review of School Governing Bodies

The Board noted a forthcoming national review of the roles and responsibilities of school governing bodies in Wales, including the establishment of a broad reference group. The Board agreed that NISB representation would be beneficial, subject to confirmation of terms of reference and meeting arrangements.

9. Adult Protection Medicals

The Board noted an invitation to a round-table discussion focused on the future of adult protection medical examinations in Wales, drawing on learning from developments elsewhere and wider safeguarding work. The Board agreed that NISB representation would be appropriate.

10. Review of Work Programme and 26/27 Planning

The Board discussed the requirement to publish an annual work plan and the need to avoid late publication by ensuring drafting and prioritisation are completed in good time.

It was agreed that a consolidated “long list” of possible priorities should be prepared, alongside the current work programme, to support structured discussion at the forthcoming development session. The Chair requested members return any additions promptly to enable collation.

Meeting Close