

National Independent Safeguarding Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: 9th July 2025 **Time:** 09.30am -14.00pm ; Teams Meeting.

Attendees:

- Tony Young (NISB Chair)
- Lin Slater (NISB Vice Chair)
- Carys James (Board Member)
- Emma Logan (NISB Secretariat)
- Desmond Mannion (Board Member)
- Artie Meakin (Board Member)

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Guest Speakers:

Jodi Evans from the Ann Craft Trust and Graham Smith from the NSPCC.

Jodi Evans outlined her role at the Ann Craft Trust and its focus on safeguarding adults in sports, while Graham Smith discussed NSPCC's partnership with the Trust. The Ann Craft Trust, a charity dedicated to protecting adults in sport, promotes prevention and early intervention before statutory measures are needed. The presentation stressed that safeguarding applies to all adults, not just those considered vulnerable.

Sports organisations were urged to adopt proactive policies, with support from the Ann Craft Trust through training and policy development across various disciplines. Key challenges include uneven resourcing and the availability of expertise within individual organisations.

Future plans involve developing stronger partnerships with statutory agencies and the creation of an adult safeguarding framework for sports. The session concluded by emphasising collaboration and trust-building to advance safeguarding efforts in the sector.

3. Safeguarding Week Planning:

Planning for Safeguarding Week is well underway, with a particular focus on transitional safeguarding with speakers confirmed. Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) will present insights from their inspection programme. Additionally, findings from the Child Practice

Review (CPR) thematic will be included, pending its timely completion. Consideration is being given to hosting the event using Man Met's facilities, as was done previously, while Microsoft Live Event is being explored as an alternative platform. Ministerial involvement is anticipated, with a video-recorded message requested to open the event. NISB Secretariat also seeking confirmation for hosting. The event is scheduled to take place on the Wednesday, 12th November 2025 of Safeguarding Week.

4. Budget Update:

A budget update was provided, outlining projected expenditures through to March, which included the vacant board position, the Annual Thematic Review, and the funding allocation for the ManMet partnership. The board discussed options for utilising unallocated funding to support Safeguarding Week and other board initiatives.

The need to invest in IT equipment and cybersecurity training for members was also identified. To enhance administrative processes and security, an upgrade to a business premium IT plan with advanced cyber attack protection was proposed, alongside the adoption of secure file sharing practices. There was recognition of potential compatibility concerns with existing systems which may necessitate additional support or equipment. The next steps include identifying appropriate IT security products and arranging cybersecurity training for board members, with the possibility of scheduling these sessions in the coming months.

5. Recruitment and Ministerial Meeting:

The interviews for the vacant board position are scheduled to take place on Friday, July 11th. It was highlighted that the final appointment will be subject to ministerial approval, which may extend the timeline for confirmation following the interviews.

6. Annual Thematic Review

During the meeting, the team discussed arrangements for the upcoming CPR thematic review, specifically focusing on the procurement process and the selection of reviewers. With the procurement window set to close at noon the following day. The group agreed on the importance of promptly assembling a scoring panel. The conversation clarified that, traditionally, two people have managed the review scoring, and volunteers were sought to fulfil this role. It was agreed that submissions and scoring matrices would be circulated for evaluation, with a brief meeting scheduled to finalise decisions. The logistics for managing the review were delegated efficiently, ensuring all necessary steps would be completed in a timely manner.

7. Summary of Stakeholder and Regional Safeguarding Board Meetings Attended:

North Wales continues to experience challenges with capacity for subcommittee work. The board recognised the necessity for revitalisation and emphasised a more integrated approach to data collection and analysis within the region.

In Cardiff and Vale, access to data is strong, supporting effective analysis and informed decision-making. Efforts are underway to develop a complaints protocol related to Section 5, of the safeguarding procedures.

Within Gwent, a recent performance fieldwork session highlighted the impact of budgetary pressures, resulting in a reduction of data team capacity. The board emphasised the need to enhance data analysis capabilities in order to better support safeguarding initiatives.

For Mid Wales and West, an upcoming face-to-face meeting was announced, signalling a shift from hybrid formats to in-person engagement to enhance collaboration.

In recent stakeholder meetings, engagement with Social Care Wales focused on transitional safeguarding . The importance of raising awareness and aligning training frameworks was a key topic of discussion.

At a recent regional safeguarding partnership meeting, the focus was on safeguarding in health and the implementation of Group C training. Feedback suggested that the current training was considered basic, prompting recommendations to introduce more advanced content.

Representatives from the board participated in a meeting with the Youth Services sector to address concerns about the reach of training and the level of engagement with safeguarding boards. The session proved productive, highlighting the importance of better integration and increased support for non-regulated sectors.

8. Chris Frey-Davies' Presentation:

The safeguarding dashboard, developed for Neath Port Talbot and Swansea, was presented to illustrate a range of metrics related to safeguarding referrals, preventative services, and professional concerns. This dashboard enables users to disaggregate data by local authority and offers insights into referral sources, safeguarding investigations, and child protection statistics.

Key data insights revealed discrepancies in safeguarding referrals between the two authorities, sparking discussions regarding data interpretation and threshold criteria. The dashboard also underscored the involvement of various agencies in making referrals, with education and health sectors standing out as major contributors.

Professional concerns, particularly those related to Section 5, were discussed, highlighting notable differences in referral sources between children and adults. The

board expressed interest in commissioning research on Section 5 data to gain a deeper understanding of referral patterns and implications. Input will be provided to ensure the research specification addresses relevant questions and gaps.

Additionally, the dashboard features metrics on care and support assessments, as well as the number of children receiving ongoing support, emphasising the importance of focusing on this often-underreported area. Data regarding children looked after, including those placed by external local authorities, was also shared, drawing attention to the impact on local services.

The five questions framework has been integrated into the annual plan and development activities, supporting partners in evaluating safeguarding processes and outcomes. In recognition of these efforts, a presentation on both the dashboard and the five questions framework will be included at the annual event in November.

The meeting included a detailed presentation of data on professional concerns under Section 5 for children, highlighting notable differences in referral sources between Neath Port Talbot and Swansea. In Swansea, a significant proportion of referrals originates from health sources, particularly hospitals, while in Neath Port Talbot, referrals are distributed more evenly among various agencies.

A need was identified to commission research on Section 5 data to deepen understanding of referral patterns and their implications. Input will be provided for the research specification to ensure it addresses the relevant questions and any existing gaps.

It was noted that while most local authorities are likely to possess Section 5 data, the consistency of data capture and reporting may vary. Clarification is being sought from the Welsh Government regarding whether Section 5 data is collected at a national level.

The Procedures Group is currently engaged in revising Section 5 guidelines, aiming to ensure alignment with upcoming research and data collection initiatives.

Key actions include providing input for the research specification and following up with the Welsh Government to confirm national data collection practices for Section 5.

Next Meeting Scheduled for August 13th, 2025.