



**Bwrdd Diogelu Annibynnol  
Cenedlaethol Cymru**

**National Independent  
Safeguarding Board Wales**



Ariennir gan  
**Lywodraeth Cymru**  
Funded by  
**Welsh Government**

# **Work Plan**

## **2026-27**



# Who's who at the National Independent Safeguarding Board

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Tony Young  
(Chair)



Lin Slater  
(Vice-Chair)



Artie Meakin



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Dave Street



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# Introduction

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## The National Board's duties and responsibilities

The National Board has three primary duties which have shaped our work plan. These are:

1. **To provide support and advice** to Safeguarding Boards with a view to ensuring that they are effective
2. **To report on the adequacy and effectiveness of arrangements** to safeguard children and adults in Wales
3. **To make recommendations** to the Welsh Ministers as to how those arrangements could be improved (S.132 (2)).

In addition, eight specific responsibilities of the National Board are set out in *Working Together to Safeguard People*, the *Part 7 Guidance on Safeguarding*. That is, the National Board:

1. **works alongside** Safeguarding Adults Boards and Safeguarding Children Boards to secure consistent improvements in safeguarding policy and practice throughout Wales (para 246)
2. will **engage with the chairs** of the Safeguarding boards, and relevant inspectorates...at least twice a year (para 258)
3. will **stay abreast of evidence and policy** approaches to safeguarding and protection in other parts of the UK and beyond to learn from those and to evaluate Wales' relative performance (para 261)
4. where a **theme of concern** is identified...the National Board could recommend to Welsh Ministers that the matter be escalated to Welsh Government for exploration or to the relevant inspectorate (para 263)
5. will use mechanisms to **regularly engage with a range of expert reference groups, practitioners and individuals** (para 264)
6. will **publish** its own **annual reports** including **any work it is planning**. It will also hold an annual engagement event or events (para 265)
7. has a specific duty under section 133 (2) (d) of the Act to "**consult with** those who may be affected by arrangements to safeguard adults and children in Wales." It will use that duty to enhance its understanding of and extend its experience of safeguarding and protection in Wales (para 266)
8. will **consider the learning from the 'user engagement' activities** of the Safeguarding Boards (para 266).

To support the National Independent Safeguarding Board in undertaking their duties and responsibilities, **a three-year strategic partnership was established with Manchester Metropolitan University (2024-2027)** to provide a research and development resource. This partnership continues to enhance the work of the National Board and support Regional Safeguarding Boards in shaping the future of safeguarding in Wales and includes a biannual thematic review of child and adult practice reviews.

### **Assessing Safeguarding Effectiveness**

As part of developing a coherent and consistent approach to gathering and analysing intelligence about all-Wales safeguarding effectiveness, the National Board identified **5 Key Questions**, that we believe that Regional Safeguarding Boards should address, on an ongoing and annual basis. These are as follows.

# A National Multi Agency Safeguarding Performance Framework: 5 Key Domains of Safeguarding Effectiveness

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## 1. Safeguarding Process

How is the board assured that arrangements are effective in **identifying** and **responding** to safeguarding concerns? What are the outcomes of regional safeguarding processes and interventions?

## 2. Multi-agency Activity and Data

How does the board assure itself that existing **protocols between agencies work effectively**, when individuals are identified as at risk from harm? What **data** is collected around this, how is it shared and what evidence has emerged in the period?

## 3. Thematic Hotspots

What **key thematic sources of harm** which require a safeguarding response locally are evidenced in Board data? What steps have been identified to respond to this thematic evidence?

## 4. Service User Feedback

What are the RSB's **objectives regarding collecting service user feedback** in relation to direct safeguarding activity? What do the metrics that capture this feedback tell the Board? How does the Board plan to respond to this evidence and over what timescale?

What is known about **the profile** of the safeguarding workforce? How is **recruitment and retention** affecting delivery of safeguarding duties? To what extent is **multi-agency training** provided to and taken up by the safeguarding workforce? What evidence is available to assure the Board that agencies understand and respond to the **well-being and support** of the safeguarding workforce?

## 5. Workforce Information

What is known about **the profile** of the safeguarding workforce?

- » How is **recruitment and retention** affecting delivery of safeguarding duties?
- » To what extent is **multi-agency training** provided to and taken up by the safeguarding workforce?
- » What evidence is available to assure the Board that agencies understand and respond to the **well-being and support** of the safeguarding workforce?

## The Work Plan 2026/27

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### **NISB Strategic Duty 1:**

To **provide support and advice** to Safeguarding Boards with a view to ensuring that they are effective.

**Specific responsibility 1: Works alongside** Safeguarding Adults Boards and Safeguarding Children Boards **to secure consistent improvements** in safeguarding policy and practice throughout Wales (para 246)

#### **Activities (How?)**

- » Board members attend and offer advice and support to Regional Safeguarding Board (RSB)
- » Engage and meet regularly with Safeguarding Board Chairpersons and Business Managers.
- » Include a review and summary of the work of the RSBs in its Annual Report.
- » Continue to facilitate the development of an All-Wales Multi-agency safeguarding performance framework in requesting that RSBs consider 5 key questions in their annual reports.
- » To Publish and disseminate findings of the Child Practice Review Thematic undertaken in Nov 25. (ManMet / NISB Partnership)
- » Monitor progress Request information on progress made against recommendations made in Child Practice Review 'Our Bravery Brought Justice' (Sep 25).
- » Commission an Adult Practice Review for publication in Q3 26/27 with a focus on voice/ lived experience and Transitions.
- » Work with Welsh Government and RSBs to develop, support and host seminars and webinars during safeguarding week.
- » Continue to contribute to National Safeguarding Week.
- » Host a national Annual Conference.

**Specific responsibility 2: Will engage with the chairs of the Safeguarding boards, ... at least twice a year (para 258)**

**Activities (How?)**

- » Members will ensure NISB is sighted on issues and emerging safeguarding themes affecting the RSBs through regular meetings with RSB chairs.
- » Members will, in addition, ensure two-way dialogue with organisations in Wales involved in safeguarding by Identifying organisations involved in the Welsh safeguarding landscape. Amongst others, this includes
  1. Older Peoples Commissioner (OPC)
  2. Children’s Commissioner for Wales (CCfW)
  3. Social Care Wales (SCW)
  4. Education Workforce Council (EWC)
  5. Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)
  6. Welsh Inspectorates
  7. Welsh Government

**Specific responsibility 8: Will consider the learning from the ‘user engagement’ activities of the Safeguarding Boards (para 266).**

**Activities (How?)**

- » NISB will ensure that the voice of service users is included in the development of the National Performance Framework (NPF) as one of the 5 key questions to be answered.
- » Consider themes emerging from the Single Unified Safeguarding Review process.
- » Promote the voice of young people in transitioning safeguarding services.

## **NISB Strategic Duty 2:**

**To report on the adequacy and effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard children and adults in Wales.**

**Specific responsibility 3: will stay abreast of evidence and policy approaches to safeguarding and protection (including) in other parts of the UK and beyond in order to learn from those and to evaluate Wales' relative performance (para 261)**

### **Activities (How?)**

- » Provide membership to the Ministerial Board responsible for ensuring the widespread learning identified through the Welsh Repository for Safeguarding Reviews.
- » Engage with the strategic oversight group of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review process. Additionally, the board will continue to participate in and, monitor the implementation of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review process in respect of its contribution to learning and impact on practice.
- » Participate in and support webinars and conferences across the 5 Nations.
- » Commission Thematic Review of Adult Practice Reviews and impact of previous reviews.
- » Provide independent view and advise on the impact and effectiveness on the ministerial action plan for the prevention of abuse of older people.
- » Provide an overview and monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations made to Welsh Government by Independent Inquiry on Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).

**Specific responsibility 4:** *Where a **theme of concern** is identified...the National Board could recommend to Welsh Ministers that the matter be escalated to Welsh Government for exploration or to the relevant inspectorate (para 263)*

### **Activities (How?)**

Emerging issues are identified to inform and influence the development of safeguarding systems and processes.

- » Participation in regular meetings with the Chairs of RSBs and WG.
- » Have effective dialogue with regulators and inspectorates of services to consider any safeguarding developments or improvements and provide an opportunity to identify themes of concern:
  - Care Inspectorate Wales
  - Health Inspectorate Wales
  - Wales Audit Office
  - Estyn
  - His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary
- » Liaison with the Welsh Commissioners for Older People and for Children on emerging safeguarding matters to have effective alliances.
- » Monitor progress in response to NISB recommendations made to Welsh Ministers.
- » Themes of concerns will be shared with RSBs and reported to Welsh Ministers and WG officials to ensure an all-Wales resolution.
- » Any emergent safeguarding concerns identified by the board will be raised through:
  - Monthly meetings with WG officials.
  - Result of evidence from research, reviews, or engagement with expert reference groups, including RSBs.
  - Written communication regarding themes of concern raised with NISB.
  - Formal dialogue with Deputy Minister twice a year.
  - Commission research into emergent areas of concerns identified by the National Board.

**Specific responsibility 5:** *Will use mechanisms to regularly **engage with a range of expert reference groups, practitioners and individuals** (para 264)*

**Activities (How?)**

The Board continues to invest significant time and effort in building ‘standing’ relationships with Welsh Inspectorates the Older Persons and Children’s Commissioners for Wales and meets regularly with bodies and agencies across Wales with particular expertise. Board representation is provided on a range of Boards, forums, project boards and special interest groups to support to support the exchange of knowledge and expertise.

**Specific responsibility 6:** *Will **publish its own annual reports** including **any work it is planning**. It will also hold an annual engagement event or events (para 265)*

**Activities (How?)**

- » Undertake a review of NISB’s communication strategy and Website
- » Support and promote national public campaigns aimed at preventing, identifying, and responding to harm from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- » Respond to relevant national consultations.
- » Produce a timely annual report and workplan.

**Specific responsibility 7:** *Has a specific duty under section 133 (2) (d) of the Act to “consult with those who may be affected by arrangements to safeguard adults and children in Wales.” It will use that duty to enhance its understanding of and extend its experience of safeguarding and protection in Wales (para 266)*

**Activities (How?)**

- » Monitor Welsh Government’s action plan in response to the recommendations made to the WG by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.
- » Review the implementation of the recommendations of the “Our Bravery Brought Justice” report and the outcome of the Welsh Governments response to that report.

## **NISB Strategic Duty 3:**

To **make recommendations** to the Welsh Ministers as to how those arrangements could be improved (S.132 (2)).

***Specific responsibility 4:** where a **theme of concern** is identified...the National Board could recommend to Welsh Ministers that the matter be escalated to Welsh Government for exploration (para 263)*

### **Activities (How?)**

- » In making formal recommendations to Minister in the Annual Report.
- » Previous recommendations will continue to be monitored on a twice-yearly basis via the formal meetings between NISB and the Deputy Minister for Social Services.
- » The National Board has submitted a directions paper to the Minister in 2024 /25. We will contribute and engage with the independent review of Safeguarding governance that has been commissioned by Welsh Government, and is currently in progress, awaiting completion Spring 2026.

# The National Independent Safeguarding Board (Wales) Regulations 2015

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The Welsh Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 133(1) and (2) of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014(1), make the following Regulations.

## **Title, Commencement and Application**

1. (1) The title of these Regulations is The National Independent Safeguarding Board (Wales) Regulations 2015.  
  
(2) These Regulations come into force on 1 October 2015.  
  
(3) These Regulations apply in relation to Wales.

## **Interpretation**

2. In these Regulations—  
  
“the Act” (“y Ddeddf”) means the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014;  
  
“Board member” (“aelod o’r Bwrdd”) means a member of the National Board;  
  
“National Board” (“Bwrdd Cenedlaethol”) means the National Independent Safeguarding Board;  
  
“Safeguarding Board” (“Bwrdd Diogelu”) means a safeguarding board established under section 134 of the Act.

## **Constitution**

3. (1) The National Board is to consist of up to six members appointed by the Welsh Ministers.  
  
(2) The Welsh Ministers must appoint one of the Board members as chair of the National Board.  
  
(3) The Welsh Ministers must determine the terms under which Board members will be appointed.  
  
(4) The Welsh Ministers may provide staff and other resources to assist the National Board to carry out its functions.

## **Proceedings at meetings**

4. (1) The National Board must elect one of its members as vice-chair.
- (2) The chair or the vice-chair is to preside at National Board meetings.
- (3) The National Board is to take decisions by a simple majority vote of the Board members present; the person presiding is to have a second or casting vote in the event of a tie.
- (4) The quorum for National Board meetings is 3 Board members, including the person presiding.
- (5) The National Board must keep minutes of its meetings and a register of Board members' interests.

## **Supplementary groups set up by the National Board**

5. (1) The National Board may set up supplementary groups to consider—
  - (a) specific matters,
  - (b) matters concerning only the safeguarding of children, or
  - (c) matters concerning only the safeguarding of adultsand report back to the National Board.
- (2) Such a group may consist of—
  - (a) Board members only,
  - (b) non-members and one or more Board members, or
  - (c) non-members only.

## **Meetings between members of the National Board and chairs of Safeguarding Boards**

6. One or more Board members must invite, and make arrangements to meet, the chairs of the Safeguarding Boards at least twice a year.

## **Consultation with people affected**

7. The National Board must arrange to meet, at least once a year, a group of persons representative of those who may be affected by arrangements to safeguard children and adults in Wales.

## Annual Report

8. (1) The National Board must make its annual report to the Welsh Ministers no later than 31 October each year, in respect of the year ending with the preceding 31 March.
- (2) The annual report must contain information about—
- (a) any support and advice provided by the National Board to Safeguarding Boards;
  - (b) any other work undertaken by the National Board, or by supplementary groups set up by the National Board, and the outcomes achieved;
  - (c) the adequacy and effectiveness of arrangements made by Safeguarding Boards to safeguard children and adults in Wales, including —
    - (i) lessons learnt from child practice reviews and adult practice reviews carried out by Safeguarding Boards and from other reviews and investigations;
    - (ii) examples where learning, information and resources have been shared between Safeguarding Boards within a Safeguarding Board area or between Safeguarding Boards across Wales;
    - (iii) examples of effective measures which Safeguarding Boards have taken to give affected children and adults the opportunity to participate in a Safeguarding Board’s work.
  - (d) any recommendations which the National Board wishes to make to the Welsh Ministers.
- (3) The National Board must make the annual report publicly available no later than 31 December in the year in which it was made.
- (4) In this regulation—
- (a) “child practice review” (“adolygiad ymarfer plant”) means a review carried out by a Safeguarding Board in accordance with regulation 4 of The Safeguarding Boards (Functions and Procedures) (Wales) Regulations 2015(2) which relates to a child; and
  - (b) “adult practice review” (“adolygiad ymarfer oedolion”) means a review carried out by a Safeguarding Board in accordance with regulation 4 of The Safeguarding Boards (Functions and Procedures) (Wales) Regulations 2015 which relates to an adult.

*Mark Drakeford*

Minister for Health and Social Services, one of the Welsh Ministers

4 June 2015

## **Explanatory note**

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations relate to the National Independent Safeguarding Board which was established under section 132 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

Regulation 3 provides that the National Board is to consist of up to 6 members appointed by the Welsh Ministers.

Regulation 4 provides for proceedings at National Board meetings.

Regulation 5 provides for the National Board to set up supplementary groups to consider certain matters.

Regulation 6 requires the National Board to arrange to meet the chairs of Safeguarding Boards at least twice every year.

Regulation 7 requires the National Board to hold annual consultation meetings.

Regulation 8 provides for the information to be included in the National Board's annual report and the times for making and publishing the report.

The Welsh Ministers' Code of Practice on the carrying out of Regulatory Impact Assessments was considered in relation to these Regulations. As a result, a regulatory impact assessment has been prepared as to the likely costs and benefits of complying with these Regulations. A copy can be obtained by contacting the Department for Health and Social Services, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ.





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