

45th Meeting of the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland

Wednesday 17th February 2021

3pm – 4 20pm Pexip Virtual Platform

P u b l i c M i n u t e s

R E C O R D O F A T T E N D A N C E

Name	Title & Organisation	Present	Apology
Ms Bernie McNally	Independent Chair Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland	✓	
Mr Neil Anderson	National Head of Service for Northern Ireland NSPCC		✓
Ms Deirdre Mahon	Director of Women & Children's Services, WHSCT		✓
Mr Tom Cassidy	Interim Director of Women & Children's Services, WHSCT deputising on behalf of Mr Mahon	✓	
Dr Martin Cunningham	GP representative of N.I. General Practice Committee	✓	
Mr Rodney Morton	Director of Nursing and Allied Health Professionals	✓	
Mr Declan McGeown	Chief Executive, YJA		✓
Paul McStravick	Director YJA (Interim) Deputising obo Mr Declan McGeown	✓	
D/Chief Superintendent Anthony McNally	Head of Public Protection Branch, PSNI	✓	
Ms Paddy Kelly	Director Children's Law Centre		✓
Ms Cheryl Lamont	Chief Executive, PBNI	✓	
Ms Pauline Leeson	Chief Executive Children in N. Ireland	✓	
Ms Una Turbitt	Director Interim Children and Young Peoples Services, EANI	✓	

Ms Marie Roulston	Director of Social Care and Children, HSCB	✓ Technical difficulties	
Mr Paul Morgan	Director of Children & Young People's Services SHSCT	✓	
Ms Emily Roberts	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Young People, PHA	✓	
Ms Lorna Ballard	Director NI, Action for Children		✓
Ms Maura Dargan	Director of Women, Children & Families Division/Executive Director of Social Work, NHSCT	✓ Technical difficulties	
Ms Michele Janes	Head of Barnardo's NI	✓	
Ms Barbara Campbell	Director of Social Work/Children's' Community services - SEHSCT		✓
Ms Carol Diffin	Director of Social Work/Children's Community Services, - BHSCT	✓	
Mr Paddy Mooney	Director, Include Youth		✓
Dr Peter Hamill	Church of Ireland Safeguarding		✓
Mr Peter Reynolds	Chief Executive -NIGALA	✓	
Mr David Burns	CEO Lisburn and Castlereagh Council Solace		✓
Dr Heather Reid	Public Health Specialist Director of Public Health Research Development		✓
Mr Andrew Thomson	Independent Chair of the CMR Panel	✓	
Ms Yvonne Adair	Independent Safeguarding Panel Chair Southern, South Eastern and Belfast Areas	✓	
Ms Mary Rafferty	Independent Safeguarding Panel Chair Western and Northern areas	✓	
Mr Simon Rogers	Non-Executive (Lay) Member	✓	
Mr Gerard Guckian	Non-Executive (Lay) Member	✓	
In Attendance			
Ms Teresa McAllister	Professional Officer		

Ms Caitriona Livingstone	Administration Support
Ms Helen McKenzie	Director of Operations SBNI
Ms Shauna Collinson	Interim Director of Childrens Services EA

Summary of Actions

Action No.	Action:	To be completed by:
1	The Chair will discuss with DoH the possibility of meeting with Mr Sean Holland to discuss the Peer Mentoring Report.	The Chair
2	The Chair and the new SBNI Professional Officer will meet with Ms Maura Dargan to discuss Information Sharing and how this piece of work may be progressed	The Chair
3	Board Members to forward any further comments regarding the Induction booklet to SBNI	Board Members
4	Programme for Government - Board members to share any submitted responses to this consultation with SBNI	Board Members

Summary of Board Approval

The minutes from 2nd December 2020 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting following one modification of the noting of Mr David Douglas as deputising for Mr Morgan in the body of the report .

Preliminaries: Apologies, Quorum, Conflict of Interest, Complaints

The Chair welcomed SBNI members to the meeting. Ms McNally noted apologies from Ms Deirdre Mahon, Ms Barbara Campbell, Dr Peter Hamill, Mr Declan McGeown, Ms Paddy Kelly, Mr Stephen Bergen, Mr David Burns, Ms Lorna Ballard and Mr Paddy Mooney. The Chair noted, Mr Tom Cassidy was deputising on behalf of Ms Deirdre Mahon and Mr Paul McStravick was deputising on behalf of Mr Declan McKeown.

Conflict of Interest

The Chair requested that members declare any Conflicts of Interest as and when they arise throughout the meeting.

Chairs Business

The Chair advised the recruitment for the 2nd Professional Officer (Band 8B) is currently underway and interviews will take place in early March 2021. She advised there had been a very positive response to the recruitment campaign from across the membership of the SBNI.

She also noted the appointment of Ms Alex McCoy as Business Support Officer to SBNI who will service a number of the sub-groups and committees

The Chair noted the following retirements; Ms Roulston, Mr Reynolds and Mr Anderson. The Chair thanked all three for their tremendous work over the years and commitment to the SBNI. She wished them well in their forthcoming retirements.

The Chair advised her tenure as Independent Chair of the SBNI has been extended for a further four years.

She also advised that the EITP ACE's project has been extended until June 2021 (an additional three months). Additional funding for one year has been applied for from TPP and a decision in respect of same is awaited

The Chair confirmed the SBNI website has gone live today and thanked the staff for their input in redesigning the site.

1 45/21P/ Previous Minutes

- 1.1 Members agreed the minutes from the last Board Meeting on December 2nd 2020 were factual and accurate with one modification to indicated Mr David Douglas was deputising for Mr Morgan – in the body of the report.
- 1.2 The minutes were subsequently approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

2.45/21P Matters Arising

- 2.1 No Matters Arising

3 45/21P Peer Mentoring Report (see paper BM45-02.21 P1)

- 3.1 The Chair gave an overview of the Peer Mentoring Report completed by the Centre of Effective Services (CES) on behalf of the SBNI. The report is with the DOH for review.
- 3.2 Mr Morgan queried the statistical information in the report and advised it may be dated but welcomed the report in terms of Peer Mentoring and working with parents.
- 3.3 The Chair will discuss with DoH the possibility of meeting with Sean Holland for further discussion around the report and the way forward

Action 1

The Chair will discuss with DoH the possibility of meeting with Mr Sean Holland to discuss the Peer Mentoring Report.

Action by: The Chair

4 45/21P Information Sharing Correspondence (see paper BM45-02.21P2)

- 4.1 The Chair commented work has been ongoing with the DOH regarding the development of Information Sharing Guidance. The DOH would like the SBNI to take the guidance and translate this into protocols within Child Protection Procedures.

- 4.2 The Chair commented the SBNI will look at this piece of work within the SBNI Policy & Procedures group. The SBNI has indicated to the DOH this work will be undertaken when the new Professional Officer is in post.
- 4.3 The Chair noted the receipt of recent correspondence received from the Education Authority and suggested a forum will be established to discuss Information Sharing. The Chair commented this will be addressed at the SBNI Policy & Procedures group.

Action 2

The Chair and the new SBNI Professional Officer will meet with Ms Maura Dargan to discuss Information Sharing and how this piece of work may be progressed

Action by: The Chair and Ms Maura Dargan

5 44/20P Finance Update (see paper BM45-02.21P3)

- 5.1 The Chair referred members to the aforementioned paper on finance and advised it is anticipated the Board will break even at the close of the financial year.

6 44/20P Safeguarding Induction Booklet (see paper BM45-02.21P4)

- 6.1 The Chair referred to the Safeguarding Panel Member Induction Booklet compiled by Ms. Yvonne Adair and Ms. Mary Rafferty. This booklet outlines the roles and responsibilities for both the Panel Chairs and members
- 6.2 Ms Adair commented new Panel Members have viewed and commented upon the booklet positively.

Action 3

Board Members to forward any further comments regarding the Induction booklet to SBNI.

Action By: Board Members

7 44/20P Programme for Government Consultation (see paper BM45-02.21P5)

7.1 The Chair asked agencies to share any responses with the SBNI. The consultation ends on 22nd March 2021.

7.2 The SBNI will share high level responses with Board Members.

Action 4

Board Members to share any submitted responses to this consultation with SBNI.

Action by: Board Members

8 45/21P Licensing and Registration of Clubs Amendment Bill (see paper BM45-02.21P6)

8.1 The Chair and Mr Thomson shall attend a meeting with the Department of Communities Committee with regards to amendments to Licensing Laws. The Chair and Mr Thomson will be giving evidence around Child Protection Safeguarding issues.

8.2 Mr Morton raised concerns about relaxation of the licensing laws around holiday times and accessibility for children.

8.3 Dr Cunningham also highlighted the risk associated with accessibility to children and parents and the impact this may have for children.

8.4 Ms Collinson expressed concern about extended opening hours and child employment legislation.

945/21P Online Safety Strategy (see paper BM45-02.21P7)

9.1 Ms McAllister outlined the purpose and functioning of the E-Safety forum, chaired by C/Inspector Gary McDonald from PSNI. The Online Strategy which had been developed by NCB (Commissioned by SBNI), was due to go to the assembly in 2016, however after the collapse of the Executive and NI Assembly, the DOH decided to refresh the Strategy in 2018 with a view to

placing it before the Executive in 2020. The SBNI engaged in an extensive consultation in 2019/2020 to achieve this purpose.

- 9.2 Ms McAllister commented the Strategy was approved by the NI Executive and was subsequently published on Internet Safety Day on 9/02/2021. Ms McAllister commented the strategy has been agreed but the Department of Finance has not yet approved the funding to support the 3 year Action Plan attendant upon the Strategy.
- 9.4 The SBNI has been given specific roles within the Action Plan to deliver, for example, an Online Safety Training Accreditation scheme. The SBNI has applied for funding for a Project Co-ordinator and Administration support to deliver this Strategy.
- 9.5 The Chair confirmed the SBNI will implement the project when the funding is confirmed.

AOB

The Chair announced to the Board the SBNI re-designed website would be live later this afternoon.

The Chair confirmed the SBNI is progressing with the review of CDOP. The Chair confirmed that Ms Eileen McEaney, former Director of Nursing in the Northern Trust will lead upon this piece of work within the SBNI. The SBNI is meeting with the DOH to finalise the Terms of Reference to move this work forward.

The Chair thanked everyone for their patience working with online meetings throughout the pandemic.

Mr Morton congratulated the Chair on her appointment for the next 4 years. Members indicated their agreement with Mr Morton's sentiments regarding the Chair's reappointment.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th April 2021.

The Chair closed the public section of the meeting at 4.20pm

Bernie McNally

Independent Chair SBNI