

46th Meeting of the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland

Wednesday 28th April 2021

3pm – 4 10pm Zoom 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 Tom Cassidy	Interim Director of Women & Children's Services, WHSCT	✓	
Dr Martin Cunningham	GP representative of N.I. General Practice Committee		✓
Mr Rodney Morton	Director of Nursing and Allied Health Professionals	✓	
Ms Bronagh Muldoon	NSPCC Head of Services NI	✓	
Mr Declan McGeown	Chief Executive, YJA		✓
Mr Paul McStravick	Director YJA (Interim) Deputising obo Mr Declan McGeown	✓	
D/Chief Superintendent Anthony McNally	Head of Public Protection Branch, PSNI	✓	
Superintendent Gary Reid	Public Protection Branch PSNI	✓	
Ms Paddy Kelly	Director Children's Law Centre		✓
Ms Cheryl Lamont	Chief Executive, PBNI	✓ (Difficulties with IT connection)	
Ms Pauline Leeson	Chief Executive Children in N. Ireland		✓

Ms Una Turbitt	Director Interim Children and Young Peoples Services, EANI	✓	
Mr Brendan Whittle	Director of Social Care and Children, HSCB		✓
Mr Martin Quinn	Assistant Director of Social Care Children HSCB (Deputising obo Mr Whittle)	✓	
Mr Paul Morgan	Director of Children & Young People's Services SHSCT	✓	
Ms Emily Roberts	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Young People, PHA		✓
Ms Deirdre Webb	Assistant director for Public Health Nursing for Children and Young People (Deputising obo Ms Roberts)	✓	
Ms Lorna Ballard	Director NI, Action for Children		✓
Ms Maura Dargan	Director of Women, Children & Families Division/Executive Director of Social Work, NHSCT	✓	
Ms Michele Janes	Head of Barnardo's NI		✓
Ms Pamela Kirk	Assistant Director Barnardo's NI, (Deputising on behalf of Ms Janes)	✓	
Ms Barbara Campbell	Director of Social Work/Children's Community Services - SEHSCT		✓
Ms Linda McConnell	Assistant Director Social Work/ Children's Community Services - SEHSCT	✓	
Ms Carol Diffin	Director of Social Work/Children's Community Services, - BHSCCT	✓	
Mr Paddy Mooney	Director, Include Youth		✓
Mr Lindsey Conway	Chair of Interfaith Committee, Head of Safeguarding Presbyterian Church and Social Witness Ireland	✓	
Ms Dawn Shaw	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		

Summary of Actions

Action No.	Action:	To be completed by:
1	C/S McNally to brief the June Board on the work of the Collectively Preventing Harm Group.	C/S McNally
2	Ms McKenzie to share Mr Colm Walsh's published paper with the Board.	Ms McKenzie
3	Board Members to share individual responses to the PSNI Consultation on Bite and Spit Guards with SBNI who will disseminate these to Member Agencies.	Board Members
4	Ms Eileen McEaney to attend the June Board Meeting to up-date members on the work of the CDOP Review.	The Chair

Summary of Board Approval

The minutes from Board Meeting on February 17 th 2021 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
The Business Plan was approved.
The End of Year Statement of Assurance was approved
The Risk Register was approved.
The Terms of Reference for the CDOP Review were approved

Preliminaries: Apologies, Quorum, Conflict of Interest, Complaints

The Chair welcomed SBNI members to the meeting. Ms McNally noted apologies from Mr Brendan Whittle, Ms Barbara Campbell, Dr Martin Cunningham, Ms Emily Roberts, Ms Michele Janes, Mr Declan McGeown, Ms Paddy Kelly, Mr Stephen Bergen, Ms Lorna Ballard, Ms Pauline Leeson and Mr Paddy Mooney. The Chair noted, Mr Paul McStravick was deputising on behalf of Mr Declan McKeown, Mr Martin Quinn was deputising on behalf of Mr Brendan Whittle, Ms Pamela Kirk was deputising on behalf of Ms Michelle Janes and Ms Linda McConnell was deputising on behalf of Ms Barbara Campbell. .

The Chair noted Ms Lamont experienced IT connection issues and attendance was intermittent as a consequence

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 noted the recruitment of the 2nd Professional Officer (Band 8B) was undertaken and interviews were held in early March 2021. The Chair advised Ms Joanna Brown formerly from the EITP Trauma Informed Practice Project was successfully in obtaining this secondment. Ms Brown has a Nursing background and shall take up post in early May 2021.

The Chair noted the following retirement- Ms Lamont. The Chair thanked Ms Lamont for her tremendous work over the years and commitment to the SBNI and additionally for her support to Ms McNally in her current role. She wished her well in her forthcoming retirement and new ventures. The Chair advised Mr Hugh Hamill has assumed the CEO role on an Interim basis pending recruitment to this position.

The Chair welcomed the following new Board members, Mr Brendan Whittle Director HSCN, Ms Dawn Shaw CEO NIGALA, Mr Tom Cassidy Interim Director Women and Childrens Services WHSCT, Ms Bronagh Muldoon NSPCC Head of Services NI and Mr Lindsay Conway Chair of Interfaith Committee, Head of Safeguarding Presbyterian Church and Social Witness Ireland

The Chair advised the Members Agreement shall be sent in due course to the new members for signature and individual meetings with Chair will be set up for Ms Muldoon, Mr Hamill, Mr Conway and Mr Cassidy.

1 45/21P Previous Minutes

- 1.1 Members agreed the minutes from the last Board Meeting on February 17th 2021 were factual and accurate.
- 1.2 The minutes were subsequently approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

2 46/21P Matters Arising

- 2.1 Information Sharing - Ms McNally advised she had met with Ms Dargan and there was on-going communication with the DoH to refine the issues for SBNI to consider in respect of the Draft Information Sharing Guidance for Social Services Staff. She highlighted there are many complexities associated with the outworking's of the Guidance. The Chair agreed to keep the Board informed of developments in this regard. Ms Turbitt indicated EA would be keen to be involved in this work. The Chair indicated this would be appropriate when the areas of work for SBNI were refined and identified more explicitly.

3 46/21P Business Plan (Please refer to Board paper BM46-04.21P1)

- 3.1 The Chair brought the Business Plan to the attention of the Board. She advised this is the last Business Plan within the current 4 year Strategic Plan She commended this plan for approval. Approval of the Plan was agreed by the Board.

- 3.2 The Chair advised a Development Day would be convened in October 2021 to enable all Committees and Panels to report on the work they had undertaken in current Strategic Plan cycle with a view to assisting the Board to determine the priorities for the next 4 year Strategic Plan. This will begin the process for developing the new plan which is due go out to public consultation in early 2022.

4 46/21P Trauma Informed Practice Update

- 4.1 Mr Rogers advised some funding had been secured from the Tackling Paramilitary Work stream in DOJ to allow some aspects of the EITP work to continue for a further year. The funding which has been secured will enable 2 Implementation Officers to remain in post. .The TIP Steering group shall continue to oversee the governance arrangements associated with the continuation of the project. Ms McKenzie indicated it is hoped to embed Trauma Informed Practice across the work of the SBNI and move away from TIP being an actual 'project' – enabling it to become mainstream integrated work. . She advised TIP pilots continue across the region. Ms McKenzie advised the work stream remained very active having facilitated / participated in 141 meetings in the last year. The Independent Evaluation of the work to date is currently awaited.
- 4.2 Mr Morgan highlighted that he chairs the NI Strategic Reference Group for TIP. Ms McKenzie is a member of this group. The group have set objectives with a view to get Northern Ireland to a place whereby it is Trauma Informed and is recognised as such.

5 46/21P Children & Young People Affected by Recent Disturbances (Please refer to Board paper BM46-04.21P2)

- 5.1 The Chair invited members to up-date the Board on the work undertaken individually and collaboratively in respect of the recent civil disturbances where young people were central to the unrest.

- 5.2 C/S McNally advised the PSNI assessment is that the young people have been coerced by older adults into getting involved in the recent disorder. A number of Intervention Programmes have been put in place to divert the young people with some success. C/S McNally advised the unrest has been focussed in particular geographical areas. He advised the Police do not wish to arrest the young people involved in these disturbances and would wish to deal with any issues in a restorative manner.
- 5.3 Ms McConnell advised some of the disturbances have occurred within SEHSCT area. The Trust have worked with EA, the Council and PSNI to endeavour to divert the young people away from the disorder. The Council, for example, also opened a local Leisure Centre to provide an alternative venue and activities for the young people
- 5.4 Mr Conway advised the current situation is very much history repeating itself from when he was operational in the Youth Justice Service many years ago. He advised Leaders in the Faith Sector were also active in terms of endeavouring to divert the young people away from the unrest.
- 5.5 Mr Morgan indicated the discussion today is extremely timely and it is important to learn from the recent week's experiences as the summer months may be unpredictable and difficult
- 5.6 Ms Turbitt indicated the EA Youth Service has been extremely active in recent weeks it has formed strong links and relationships with PSNI and Social Services. She Advised the Education Minister had taken the decision to open youth clubs as a diversionary measure – despite this being contraindicated within the current Covid regulations
- 5.7 Mr Burns indicated Councillors were active in discouraging the meeting of the groups of young people involved in the disturbances. Council facilities had also been opened for use as diversionary mechanisms
- 5.8 Ms McKenzie advised SBNI have been involved in a “Collectively Preventing Harm” weekly meeting since the beginning of the Covid pandemic. C/S McNally agreed to up-date the next Board meeting on the overall work of this group. Ms McKenzie advised Mr Colm Walsh QUB has published a paper

considering the involvement of Young People and paramilitarism. She agreed to share this paper with the Board

Action 1

C/S McNally to brief the June Board on the work of the Collectively Preventing Harm Group.

Action by: C/S McNally

Action 2

Ms McKenzie to share Mr Colm Walsh's published paper with the Board.

Action by: Ms McKenzie

5.9 Ms Kirk indicated Barnardo's have been active in engaging with parents and young people with whom they are working, to discourage involvement in the recent unrest.

5.10 Ms Muldoon queried if SBNI is intending to undertake any media in respect of this issues. Ms McNally advised she believed that the Northern Ireland Children's Commissioner has engaged in a media briefing on the issues and this feels was appropriate and sufficient at this time. This may change as the summer progresses however and the SBNI may be required to advise on how the partners are collectively working in this area.

6 46/21P Declaration of Assurance Year End Statement (Please refer to Board paper BM46-04.21P3)

6.1 Mr. Guckian referred to the above paper which had been considered by the Governance Committee.

6.2 The Assurance statement was approved by the Board

7 46/21P Risk Register (Please refer to Board Paper BM46-04.21P4)

Mr Guckian referred members to the aforementioned paper. He advised the Risk Register is reviewed on a regular basis and directed members to the Risks highlighted which had been amended following assessment and approved by the Governance committee. .

7.2 The Board approved the Risk Register.

8 46/21P Finance Year End Report (Please refer to Board paper BM46-04.21P5)

8.1 The Chair referred members to the Finance paper. Ms McKenzie advised slightly more had been spent in year on CMR's than SBNI had been allocated. She advised that the SBNI had been able to purchase both the 'Invictus' and 'In the Net' theatrical performances which have been made available (via audio) to all schools across NI. Ms McKenzie indicated budget for the forthcoming year will be reduced given the anticipated spends identified within the report.

9 46/21P PSNI Public Consultation on Bite & Spit Guard (Please refer to Board paper BM46-04.21P6)

9.1 The Chair drew member's attention to the PSNI Consultation in respect of the Use of Bite and Spit Guards. .The closing date for the consultation is May 21st 2021. The Chair acknowledged this is an area which Board members may have divergent views upon; therefore SBNI as a collective shall not be submitting a response to this Consultation. She however requested members share their individual responses with SBNI Central Support Team who shall share them with members.

Action 3

Board Members to share individual responses to the PSNI Consultation on Bite and Spit Guards with SBNI who will disseminate these to Member Agencies.

Action by: Board Members

10 46/21P Child Death Overview Panel Terms of Reference (Please refer to Board Paper BM46-04.21P7)

- 10.1 The Chair advised the Terms of Reference in respect of the aforementioned review have now been developed and the work on the review is being undertaken by Ms Eileen McEaney. She advised the review shall be completed within the current Business Year and the review report and recommendations shall be brought to the Board prior to submission to the DoH.
- 10.2 The Chair advised Ms McEaney shall be invited to the June Board to provide an up-date on her work to date.
- 10.3 The Terms of Reference were approved by the Board.

Action 4

Ms McEaney to attend the June Board Meeting to update members on the work of the CDOP Review.

Action by: The Chair

11 46/21P SBNI Communications Strategy 2021 – 2024 (Please refer to Board paper BM46-04.21P8)

- 11.1 Ms McKenzie referred members to the Communications Strategy.
- 11.2 The Strategy was approved subject to a number of small amendments highlighted by Ms McConnell, Mr Rogers and Mr Guckian (Pages 6 and 7).

12 46/21P PFG/SBNI Consultation Response Mental Health Strategy SBNI Consultation Response /SEND Programme Responses (Please refer to Board paper BM46-04.21P9)

- 12.1 Ms McNally highlighted the SBNI response to the Mental Health Strategy and the SEND Programme.

13 46/21P Board Development Day 13th October 2021

13.1 Ms McNally advised the SBNI Development Day on October 13th 2021 shall consider the work of all Committees and Panels within the current Strategic Plan cycle. This up-date should enable Board Members to agree priorities for the forthcoming four year Strategic Plan.

14 46/21P SBNI Newsletter (Please refer to Board paper BM46-04.21P10).

14.1 Members expressed positivity in respect of the collated overview of the work undertaken over the past year

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th June 2021.

The Chair closed the public section of the meeting at 4.10pm

Bernie McNally

Independent Chair SBNI