

## 51<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland

Wednesday 13 April 2022

3.15pm – 4.30pm – 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**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title &amp; Organisation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Apology</b>
Ms Bernie McNally	Independent Chair Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland	✓	
Ms Deirdre Mahon	Director of Women & Children's Services, WHSCT		✓
Dr Naoimh Whyte	GP representative of N.I. General Practice Committee	✓	
Mr Rodney Morton	Director of Nursing and Allied Health Professionals, PHA		✓
Ms Bronagh Muldoon	NSPCC Head of Services NI	✓	
Mr Paul McStravick	Director YJA	✓	
D/Chief Superintendent Anthony McNally	Head of Public Protection Branch, PSNI		✓
D/Superintendent Gary Reid	Public Protection Branch, PSNI	✓	
Ms Paddy Kelly	Director, Children's Law Centre		✓
Ms Amanda Stewart	CEO, Probation Board NI	✓	
Ms Pauline Leeson	Chief Executive Children in N. Ireland	✓	
Ms Una Turbitt	Director (Interim) Children and Young Peoples Services, EANI		✓
Ms Elaine Craig	Interim Assistant Director for Pupil Wellbeing and Protection, EANI,	✓	
Mr Brendan Whittle	Director of Social Care and Children, HSCB		✓
Ms Barbara Campbell	Director of Children Services SEHSCT	✓	
Mr Colm McCafferty	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	✓	
Ms Michele Janes	Director of Barnardo's NI	✓	
Dr Stephen Bergin	Director of Public Health and Medical Director, PHA		✓
Mr Maurice Meehan	Head of Health & Social Wellbeing Improvement, PHA, deputising obo Dr Stephen Bergin	✓	
Ms Carol Diffin	Director of Social Work/Children Community Services, - BHSCT	✓	
Mr Paddy Mooney	Director, Include Youth	✓	
Dr Jacqui Montgomery-Devlin	Head of Safeguarding, Council for Social Witness, Presbyterian Church in Ireland representing the SBNI Interfaith sub group	✓	
Ms Dawn Shaw	Chief Executive Officer, NIGALA	✓	
Ms Heather Moore	CEO, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	✓	
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	✓	
<b>In Attendance</b>			
Ms Alex McCoy	Board Secretary SBNI		
Ms Helen McKenzie	Director of Operations SBNI		
Ms Teresa McAllister	Professional Officer		

Ms Joanna Brown	Professional Officer
Ms Eileen McEaney	Chair of CDOP Working Group
Ms Melanie Minshull	Business Support Officer, SBNI

**Summary of Actions**

<b>Action No.</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>To be completed by:</b>
1	Engagement with SPPG regarding a Paediatrician representative on the Board to be progressed.	SBNI Central Support Team
2	The start time of Board Development Day will be amended on the Agenda to reflect a 9.30am start.	SBNI Central Support Team
3	All Members will send any comments or amendments on the Draft Board Development Day Agenda to Ms McCoy via email <a href="mailto:Alex.McCoy@hscni.net">Alex.McCoy@hscni.net</a> by 30 April 2022	All Members
4	The Joint Department of Health and Justice Information letter will be disseminated by members throughout their organisations, ensuring compliance with sharing of information for the purpose of Child Protection.	All Members
5	The Closure of HSCB agenda item to be carried forward as an agenda item to June 2022 meeting when Mr Brendan Whittle will present.	Mr Brendan Whittle

### Summary of Board Approval

The minutes from the Board Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

The Child Death Overview Panel Review was approved

The Declaration of Assurance Year End Statement was approved

The Risk Register was approved

### **Preliminaries: Apologies, Quorum, Conflict of Interest, Complaints**

The Chair welcomed SBNI members to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Detective Chief Superintendent Anthony McNally, Ms Paddy Kelly, Mr Brendan Whittle, Ms Yvonne Adair and Ms Mary Rafferty. The Chair noted that Detective Superintendent Gary Reid is deputising on behalf of D/Chief Superintendent Anthony McNally and Ms Elaine Craig is deputising on behalf of Ms Una Turbitt. The Chair further acknowledged that Ms Deirdre Mahon and Mr Rodney Morton had to leave the SBNI Board Meeting early and sent their apologies for the Public Section.

### **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 that there have been changes with regards to the administrative team within SBNI and there have been several administrative staff recruited within the past few weeks. In addition, recruitment is underway for Business Support Officers for SBNI. The Chair also noted that Ms Orla Murtagh has been successfully appointed to the Trauma Informed Practice Implementation Manager role. This is a seconded role for Ms Murtagh. Furthermore, recruitment is underway for the Online Safety Coordinator role. This role was advertised as a one year post with the possibility of extension and interviews are due to be held on Thursday 14 April 2022.

### **1 51/22P Previous Minutes**

1.1 Members agreed the minutes from the last Board meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were a factual and accurate representation of the meeting.

### **2 51/22P Matters Arising**

2.1 Completed

2.2 Completed

2.3 Completed

**3 51/22P Child Death Overview Panel Review (Please refer to Paper BM51-04.22P1)**

- 3.1 The Chair welcomed Ms Eileen McEaney to present on the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Review.
- 3.2 Ms McEaney provided a presentation for Board Members where she gave an overview in respect of the 'Report for the Review of the Child Death Overview Panel in Northern Ireland'. Ms McEaney detailed several recommendations in this report and noted that the legislation in relation to a CDOP has been ongoing since 2011 but has not been commenced.
- 3.3 On discussion, the Chair confirmed that the function of a Child Death Review Process is a Public Health function relating to Public Health improvement. She commented that it is very clear from Ms McEaney's Report that when the CDOP process was first envisaged in NI it was considered a follow over from NHS England which placed CDOP in Safeguarding Boards. However, in light of the Wood Report this has now been amended with CDOP moving to Public Health.
- 3.4 Ms Roberts commented on a very comprehensive presentation and report. From a Public Health point of view, Ms Roberts commented that she and Mr Rodney Morton are in agreement with the recommendations. She added however that the Report recommendations would need to be tabled at both the PHA 'AMT' and 'SMT' Meetings for further approval. The Chair agreed with this stipulation and noted that it is important to consider that the Report will need to go through further due process if approved by the SBNI Board. The Chair noted the work that the PHA has been undertaking in relation to a SUDIC Protocol and Ms Roberts agreed that the implementation of a SUDIC Protocol is a clear recommendation within this Report.
- 3.5 Mr Rogers enquired as to the Child Death Review situation in the Republic of Ireland. On discussion, Ms McEaney noted that there is no parallel process of formal Child Death Review in the Republic of Ireland. There are different approaches but there is no singular overview of all child deaths. On

discussion of same, Mr Rogers commented that although the RoI is not specifically referenced as a jurisdiction he suggests that there should be a sentence to note the situation in the RoI.

- 3.6 Mr Rogers also raised a query with regards to funding for a Child Death Overview Process. Ms McEneaney agreed that this is a very important point. She advised that as part of her recommendations she outlines that there will need to be a Steering Group and an Operational Group in order to take this process to the next stage. The costs provided in the Report are indicative and it is accepted that there may need to be other funding considered. However, Ms McEneaney alerted members that within the Neonatal Network, Maternity Collaborative and Child Health Partnership there are funding sources and there could be an opportunity to look across all of these existing funding sources. The Chair acknowledged that a few sentences should be inserted into the Child Death Overview Report to elaborate on funding considerations and this should note the fact that a fully-fledged business case will need to be developed which considers all costs.
- 3.7 Mr Rogers enquired as to how the Child Death Review Process will fit into pre-existing processes, such as those carried out by SBNI including CMRs, SAls and M&Ms etc. Ms McEneaney explained that within the Report there is a diagram which clearly sets out the existing processes. She noted that these existing processes will remain and within the information system QES, there is opportunity with regards to information sharing where information is fed from these processes into the Child Death Overview Process. The Child Death Review Process will provide an overview only of these existing processes and will not duplicate. The Chair commented that she feels that the SBNI should possibly dedicate time a meeting annually to consider the annual Child Death Overview Report and any issues that are raised within this. However, she is in agreement with the recommendation that this process cannot be SBNI led and is a clinical matter.
- 3.8 Mr Meehan enquired as to whether the CMO has had sight of the recommendations. He is conscious that it will incumbent on the DoH to enact



these recommendations and wonders if they are likely to be receptive on a short term basis. Ms McEneaney advised that Mr Andrew Dawson who is a Director within the CMOs Team has been a member of the CDOP Working Group. Mr Dawson has used the Working Group to update the CMO and the Medical Directors of the 5 Trusts; particularly in relation to the progress against the implementation of the O'Hara Recommendations. It was noted that the CDOP will contribute to this ongoing piece of work. Ms McEneaney assured Mr Meehan that the CMO is sighted on the work and is interested, although it is accepted that the implementation of a CDOP will be a Departmental discussion.

3.9 The Chair advised on the next steps of this process. As a result of the aforementioned comments and discussions, amendments will be made to the CDOP Report accordingly. This will then be sent to the Childcare Policy Branch within the DoH. If the DOH accepts the report and it's recommendations the SBNI will have no further role. The Chair agreed to keep Members updated on the progress of the report going forward. It is hoped that this will be the catalyst for change as it is evident that all agencies and clinicians are extremely encouraging of a Child Death Review Process being implemented.

3.10 The Board approved the Report.

#### **4 51/22P Declaration of Assurance Year End Statement (Please refer to Paper BM51-04.22P2)**

4.1 The Declaration of Assurance Year End Statement was approved.

#### **5 51/22 Risk Register (Please refer to paper BM51-04.22P3A, BM51-04.22P3B and BM51-04.22P3C)**

5.1 Mr Guckian noted the lack of Paediatrician representation on the Board. The Chair highlighted that the SBNI are currently progressing correspondence to the SPPG regarding Paediatrician representation. She noted that there are doctors who are interested becoming the Paediatrician representative, but the issue arises in backfilling their post to enable them to attend.

**Action 1**

**Engagement with SPPG, regarding a Paediatrician representative on the Board to be progressed.**

5.2 The Board approved the Risk Register.

**6 51/22 Finance Year End Report (Please refer to paper BM51-04.22P4A and BM51-04.22P4B)**

6.1 The Chair noted that due to the lack of an Executive budget, the SBNI are working on the basis of a rollover budget in terms of what was allocated last year with some additions such as for the appointment of an Online Safety Coordinator.

6.2 There were no further comments on the Finance Year End Report.

**7 51/22P Board Development Day 2022 (Please refer to Paper BM51-04.22P5)**

7.1 Ms McKenzie advised that the venue for Board Development Day has been confirmed as Lagan Valley Island. The start time of the Board Development Day is to be amended to 9.30am as this has been noted incorrectly in the Draft Agenda circulated (BM51-04.22P5)

**Action 2**

**The start time of Board Development Day will be amended on the Agenda to reflect a 9.30am start**

7.2 Ms McKenzie reminded Members that the closing date for the SBNI Strategic Plan Consultation Responses 2022-2026 is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm. She thanked those members who have already participated and encouraged those who have not to submit their views. The Strategic Plan Consultation can be accessed at <https://sp2022consultation.safeguardingni.org>

- 7.3 Members raised no further comments on the Draft Agenda for Board Development Day. The Chair requested that any comments or amendments are sent to Ms Alex McCoy by the end of April.

**Action 3**

**All Members will send any comments or amendments on the Draft Board Development Day Agenda to Ms McCoy via email [Alex.McCoy@hscni.net](mailto:Alex.McCoy@hscni.net) by 30 April 2022.**

**8 51/22P Launch of New SBNI App (Please refer to Paper BM51-04.22P6)**

- 8.1 Ms Brown gave a demonstration of the SBNI App and displayed for Members how this can be used. She noted that this App is managed by INEQUE and is updated daily. The App can be downloaded from the App Store on iPhone and the Google Play Store on Android devices. All Members were encouraged to download the SBNI App.
- 8.2 Ms Brown commented that it is important to note that the current firewalls in Trusts may not allow the SBNI App to be downloaded onto work mobile devices. However, Ms Brown is in discussions with IT about this. She recommended that in the interim it can be downloaded on personal mobiles.
- 8.3 Ms Dargan noted that the issue of organisational firewalls has been repeatedly raised in the Policy and Procedures Committee as notifications from the Tri.x system may not be received by staff. On discussion, the Chair assured that if a Policy and Procedure is amended staff will be made aware through communication via the SBNI Board for onward circulation by the members for onward dissemination to staff. Ms Dargan highlighted that any significant changes to procedures will come through the Policy and Procedures Committee before being approved by the SBNI Board and disseminated through Member agencies.

**9 51/22P Operation Encompass (Please refer to Paper BM51-04.22P7A and BM51-04.22P7B)**

- 9.1 Ms Muldoon advised that there has been an Operation Encompass pilot carried out since September 2021 in the Downpatrick area and this has been very successful. Ms Muldoon further commented that it is important to note that up until April 2022 there was no legislation in place and so notifications to schools through Operation Encompass was based on consent being provided by parents. Legislation is now in place.
- 9.2 Ms Muldoon noted that there have been 50 schools involved in the pilot of Operation Encompass and approximately 254 children have been involved in domestic violence incidents during the pilot period. From these children, around 118 parents have given consent for details to be shared with schools.
- 9.3 Ms Muldoon further added that there are plans afoot to roll the pilot out incrementally to all of Northern Ireland and a total of approximately 1100 schools. On discussion of same, Ms Craig added that Operation Encompass is a partnership between the PSNI and EA. She highlighted that there is a plan in place and the last Trust area to come on board with implementation will be Belfast. Ms Craig also advised that the rollout of Operation Encompass regionally is a significant piece of work as schools policies will need to be amended and parents will need to be informed of the Programme. Ms Craig noted that she is very impressed with the enthusiasm for Operation Encompass throughout schools and emphasised that it is a very positive news story. It was also advised that there will be an evaluation of Operation Encompass carried out and Ms Muldoon will keep Board Members updated with regards to this.

**10 51/22P DoJ/DoH Letter on Information Sharing for Member Agencies (Please refer to Paper BM51-04.22P8A and BM51-04.22P8B)**

- 10.1 The Chair highlighted that this letter is in relation to a recommendation from the Leonard report and reminded members that Information Sharing is extremely important. She stressed that where legally possible, agencies should share information and there should be no impediments to this,

particularly between statutory bodies. The Chair re-emphasised that where there are any barriers to this we should continue to try to address and resolve the barriers.

#### **Action 4**

**The Joint Department of Health and Justice Information letter will be disseminated by members throughout their organisations, ensuring compliance with sharing of information for the purpose of Child Protection.**

#### **11 51/22P Regional Facilities for Children and Young People (Please refer to Paper BM51-04.22P9A and BM51-04.22P9B)**

11.1 The Chair advised that there had been a proposal that the Regional Secure Unit and the Regional Young Offenders Unit were to amalgamate into one unit. This had gone out for Public Consultation. The outcome was that the proposal is now not proceeding .

11.2 Ms Campbell further advised that from the Public Consultation, 58% of people outlined their support for maintaining separate facilities but with the addition of a Joint Partnership Board with a view to harmonising and sharing approaches across the facilities. The Regional Campus Development Group are continuing to focus on this and will be developing partnership arrangements with DoJ in terms of sharing both learning and development and potentially sharing staff in the future but the facilities will remain separate and children will not mix.

#### **12 51/22P Update on the Closure of HSCB (Please refer to Paper BM51-04.22P10A, BM51-04.22P10B and BM51-04.22P10C)**

12.1 As Mr Whittle was unable to attend this meeting of the SBNI, it was agreed that this item of the Agenda will be deferred to the next meeting of the SBNI Board in June.

**Action 5**

**The Closure of HSCB to be carried forward as an agenda item to June 2022 meeting when Mr Whittle will present.**

**13 51/22 AOB**

13.1 There was no other business discussed.

13.2 The next SBNI Board meeting is on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

13.3 The Chair closed the Public section of the meeting at 4.30pm and thanked Members for their attendance.

**Bernie McNally**

**Independent Chair SBNI**