



# **The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI)**

## **The SBNI Strategic Plan 2026-2030**

### **Regulatory Impact and Rural Proofing Screening Assessments**

## **Regulatory Impact Screening Assessment – The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030**

### **Introduction**

This regulatory impact screening assessment has been conducted for the purposes of determining whether the SBNI Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030 is likely to have a direct or indirect impact on businesses or on the community and voluntary sector in terms of imposing costs or savings on these organisations.

The overall aim of the SBNI Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030 is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Northern Ireland and to protect them from abuse and neglect.

The SBNI is a 21 member agency partnership, supported by a small central support team. The SBNI membership comprises of all the statutory and key voluntary agencies that operate the safeguarding and child protection system in Northern Ireland. It is drawn from all the Health and Social Care Trusts, the Public Health Agency, the Strategic Planning and Performance Group, the Children's Court Guardian Agency for Northern Ireland, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Education Authority, District Councils, the Youth Justice Agency, Lay Members, and independent and voluntary representation from the NSPCC, Barnardo's Northern Ireland, Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland, and Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC), and Children in Northern Ireland. These make up the key agencies that protect children and young people from risk and harm as much as possible and where this is not possible, help to stop that harm and protect them from more harm. We also work with partner organisations across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors to realise this vision.

The strategic plan sets out the direction for the SBNI over the next four years, taking into account the views of children and young people, their parents and carers, as well as our member and partner agencies, the Department of Health (as the sponsor department for the SBNI) and the wider public.

The plan is predicated on a number of principles. It will:

- be compliant with the NI Executive Programme for Government outcomes
- ensure Personal and Public Involvement
- take into account the views of children and young people
- recognise the important role played by parents/carers in safeguarding children and young people and promoting their welfare.

The core principles of the plan are that the SBNI will:

- work in partnership with other agencies, service users and communities to ensure children and young people are living in safety and with stability
- provide leadership and set direction for the safeguarding system across Northern Ireland
- respond in a timely manner to new and emerging concerns
- drive improvements in the current child protection system
- continue to build the capacity of the SBNI to ensure the Board is providing effective, evidence-based leadership responses to the safeguarding challenges now and in the years ahead.

The values of the SBNI are:

- We strive to protect children and young people, particularly those who are marginalised.
- We listen to children and young people, their wishes, experiences and place them at the heart of what we do
- We work in partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people
- We develop, empower, respect and value those who work with us as we strive for excellence in what we do
- We are open, honest, transparent and compassionate in our dealings with children and young people, our members, partners and staff and we respect diversity and promote equality in all that we do.
- We all embrace the strategic priorities of the SBNI and strive to protect children and young people.

	Screening Questions	Response to Screening Questions	Full Appraisal Required	Justification / Key Issues and Groups to Focus On
	Is the policy or amendment to the policy likely to have a direct or indirect impact on businesses	Yes	No	<p>The SBNI Strategic Plan 2026 – 2030 sets the corporate direction, strategic intentions and priorities upon which annual business and workplans will be based to ensure the SBNI continues to meet its statutory functions and objective of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The strategic plan is essential in scoping the priorities and parameters by which all our 21 member bodies will commit to for their operational safeguarding responsibilities</p> <p>This responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Northern Ireland is everyone's business. However, those with child protection responsibilities will have a bigger cost but have a clear function to carry out these responsibilities.</p> <p>However the impact on costs is necessary to ensure that children and young people are safeguarded and protected.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the strategy will have any negligible impact on other businesses in terms of imposing costs or</p>

				savings.
	Is the policy or amendment to the policy likely to have a direct or indirect impact on community and voluntary sector	Yes	No	<p>The SBNI Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030 will have an impact on those member bodies from the community and voluntary sector that make up the SBNI, in the same manner as it will affect the statutory sector members' operational functions.</p> <p>However, this in part forms their commitment to being a member of the SBNI. The collaborative and partnership working that underpins the workings and functions of the SBNI means those impacts are agreed and shared amongst all member agencies in the collaboration within Board, committees and sub-groups.</p> <p>The strategy will have no impact on other voluntary and community sector in terms of imposing costs or savings.</p>
	<b>Conclusion</b>		<b>No</b>	A full Regulatory Impact Assessment is not required.

## Introduction

The following statement provides an initial analysis of rural issues in relation to the impact the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030. It demonstrates that rural dimensions have been considered in the development of this policy.

## Rural Proofing Statement – Review, Update and Pre-Consultation Phase

Policy Stage	Impact Statement
<b>Design</b>	<p>The overall objectives of the SBNI Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030 is to protect and safeguard children and young people from risk and harm by setting the SBNI strategic and operational direction and priorities over the next four years.</p> <p>At this stage of the development of the strategic plan, no potential rural or local impacts which differ from the regional impact have been identified.</p> <p>It is not expected that the implementation of the SBNI Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030 will present specific rural impacts.</p>
<b>Evidence</b>	<p>At this stage there is no evidence that the SBNI Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030 will present differential rural impacts. Development of the strategy has considered the key safeguarding issues that affect the region as a whole,</p>
<b>Consulting</b>	<p>No rural issues have been identified to date. The SBNI Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030 is being consulted on regionally.</p>
<b>Monitoring and Outcomes</b>	<p>The SBNI Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030 will be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis by the SBNI Board.</p> <p>Each individual Agency will monitor compliance by staff in respect of their contributions to the achievement of the priorities outlined in the plan.</p> <p>Also the SBNI Safeguarding Panels will have a role in monitoring.</p>