

## 47th Meeting of the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 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 Stephen Martin	CEO Youth Justice Agency		✓
Mr Paul McStravick	Director YJA (Interim) Deputising obo Mr Stephen Martin	✓	
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	✓	
Mr Hugh Hamill	Interim 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 Shauna Collinson	AD Education Authority Deputising obo	✓	

	Ms Una Turbitt		
Mr Brendan Whittle	Director of Social Care and Children, HSCB	✓	
Mr Paul Morgan	Director of Children & Young People's Services SHSCT	✓	
Ms Emily Roberts	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Young People, PHA		✓
Ms Shona Johnston	PHA Deputising obo Ms Emily 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	✓	
Mr Stephen Bergin	Director of Public Health and Medical Director		✓
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	✓	
Mr Lindsey Conway	Chair of Interfaith Committee, Secretary to the Council for Social Witness, Presbyterian Church	✓	
Ms Dawn Shaw	Chief Executive -NIGALA	✓	
Mr David Burns	CEO Lisburn and Castlereagh Council Solace		✓
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 Teresa McAllister	Professional Officer		
Ms Caitriona Livingstone	Administration Support		
Ms Helen McKenzie	Director of Operations SBNI		
Ms Joanna Brown	Professional Officer		
Ms Rebecca Moore	Trainee Paediatrician		
Ms Eileen McEneaney	Review Lead CDOP		
Ms Deirdre Coyle	Commissioning Lead HSCB		
Ms Christine Smart	Joint Head of Safeguarding Advice and Children's Champion (SACC)		
Superintendent Gordon McCalmont	Head of Sub-Branch Crime Prevention and Early Intervention PSNI		

**Summary of Actions**

<b>Action No.</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>To be completed by:</b>
1	NSPCC to share paper with members regarding appropriate language to be used when referring to 'reasonable chastisement'	Ms Muldoon
2	The SBNI Chair to write to the NI Justice Minister to advise of the Boards support for the use of positive parenting as opposed to the use of physical sanctions, in order to protect the rights of all children. (content will be shared with Board members in advance)	The Chair
3	SBNI to promote public messaging on Positive Parenting	The Chair

### Summary of Board Approval

The minutes from Board Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

The Story Framework Multi Agency Resource Tool for Practitioners working with children who experience Domestic Abuse was approved.

The Board approved SBNI to be recognised as a supporting partner of the Our Minds Our Future Charter

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

The Chair welcomed SBNI members to the meeting. Ms McNally noted apologies from Mr Stephen Martin, Mr Rodney Morton, Mr Stephen Bergin, Ms Una Turbitt, Ms Emily Roberts and Mr David Burns. The Chair noted, Mr Paul McStravick was deputising on behalf of Mr Stephen Martin, Ms Shona Johnston was deputising on behalf of Ms Emily Roberts and Ms Shauna Collinson was deputising on behalf of Ms Una Turbitt.

### **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 welcomed new Board Members to the meeting, Mr Brendan Whittle Director HSCB and Mr Hugh Hamill Interim CEO Probation NI.

### **1 47/21P Previous Minutes**

- 1.1 Members agreed the minutes from the last Board Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were factual and accurate.
- 1.2 The minutes were subsequently approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

### **2 47/21P Matters Arising**

- 2.1 Completed
- 2.2 Completed
- 2.3 Ongoing
- 2.4 Completed

### **3 47/21P CDOP Review Update**

- 3.1 The Chair welcomed Ms Eileen McEaney to the Board Meeting to present the work of the CDOP Review to date.
- 3.2 Ms McEaney presented on the CDOP Working Group – Presentation Attached.
- 3.3 Ms McEaney provided a background on the Project Structure, Work to Date, Emerging Issues and Product Delivery.
- 3.4 The Chair thanked Ms McEaney for the presentation and confirmed McEaney will report back to the Board with further updates.

### **4 47/21P Multi Agency Response to Covid 19 & associated early intervention and support (Please refer to PSNI Presentation)**

- 4.1 The Chair welcomed Superintendent Gordon McCalmont PSNI to the Board meeting to present Multi Agency Response to Covid 19 & associated early intervention and support.
- 4.2 Superintendent Gordon McCalmont included in his presentation information in respect of the Collectively Prevention Harm (CPH) group established in response to the first Covid-19 lockdown in 2020 and
  - Outcomes of the Crime Prevention Action Plans
  - Arrests and outcomes of new vulnerability actions
  - Examples of Benefits Realisation from CPH Group
  - Community Safety Response Group – Purpose
  - Interventions
  - ‘Connect’ – Youth work approach to violent reduction
- 4.3 The Chair thanked Superintendent Gordon McCalmont for the presentation.

**5 47/21P Home Office Safeguarding Unit (Please refer to Home Office Presentation)**

- 5.1 The Chair welcomed Ms Christine Smart to the Board meeting to present Child Safeguarding at the Home Office
- 5.2 Ms Christine Smart outlined that Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 places a duty on the Home Secretary to make arrangements for ensuring that all immigration, asylum, nationality, and customs functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the UK.
- 5.3 Ms Smart advised that the Safeguarding Advice and Children's Champion (SACC) Unit is responsible for promoting this duty across the migration, borders, and citizenship directorates.
- 5.4 Ms Deirdre Coyle gave an update on the recent consultation on the Immigration Plan issued by the Home Office.
- 5.5 Ms Coyle explained that the outcome of the consultation and next steps will be issued with regards to the Immigration Plan. The first concern is the care, protection and welfare of the children coming to Northern Ireland. Upon arrival to Northern Ireland within 48 hours there is a co-ordinated approach with Police and Legal representatives.
- 5.6 Ms Coyle referred to Section 21 of the Human Trafficking Legislation of Northern Ireland and referenced the dedicated Guardian Service for separated unaccompanied children
- 5.7 Ms Paddy Kelly commended the work undertaken to date by the HSCB.
- 5.8 The Chair thanked Ms Christine Smart for her presentation to the Board and suggested further collaboration with the SBNI in the future.

**6 47/21P Northern Ireland NGO Stakeholder Report to inform UN Committee on RC 'List of issues'**

- 6.1 The Chair updated the Board about a meeting held on 5th May 2021 with Ms Paddy Kelly and Ms Claire Kemp from the Children's Law Centre to discuss 7 priority areas within the 'List of Issues'.
- 6.2 The Board discussed this issue at length. Board members agreed for the need for a 'Positive Parenting' approach to be adopted and communicated. There were however issues noted from a number of members in respect of Arms Length Bodies being able to come to a particular position on proposed Government changes to legislation. As such it would be difficult to propose a unanimous view from the SBNI that the defence of 'Reasonable Chastisement' should be removed from law.

The Chair acknowledged the fine line required in relation to the SBNI response on this matter, particularly regarding the Arms Length Bodies of the Departments of Health (DoH) and Justice (DoJ) commenting on their policy agenda.

Ms Kelly stated that SBNI had taken a position on this matter twice in the past and that on this occasion she was not asking for the SBNI to lobby the Minister, rather for engagement in the form of social media highlighting why our children should enjoy equal protection under the law and to raise public understanding of this issue.

Mr Whittle suggested that the SBNI could articulate its perspective by public messaging on positive parenting as an alternative to the use of physical sanctions on children.

The Chair agreed to write to the Minister for Justice in relation to the removal of the defence of reasonable chastisement from the perspective of the importance of safeguarding and protecting the most vulnerable within clear and unambiguous boundaries.

Members agreed that this was a matter for agencies to repond individually on, in order to make their views known to the Justice Minister.

**Action 1**

NSPCC to share paper with members regarding appropriate language to be used when referring to 'reasonable chastisement'

**Action By:** Bronagh Muldoon

**Action 2**

The SBNI Chair to write to the NI Justice Minister to advise of the Boards support for the use of positive parenting as opposed to the use of physical sanctions, in order to protect the rights of all children. (Content will be shared with Board members in advance).

**Action By:** The Chair

**Action 3**

SBNI to promote public messaging on Positive Parenting.

**Action By:** The Chair

**7 47/21P Domestic Abuse – Story Framework (please refer to Board paper BM47-06.21P2)**

- 7.1 Ms Teresa McAllister presented on behalf of Mr David Douglas ‘**The Story Board Framework:** Listening to the voice of a child living with domestic violence and abuse’.
- 7.2 Ms McAllister advised that the Domestic Violence Sub-Group members had scoped out resources available to multi-agency professionals working with children who have experienced Domestic Abuse. This scoping exercise endeavoured to identify a consistent resource to recommend to member agencies. The group worked along with Ms Marie Louise Sloan, Head of Service SEHSCT and QI Fellow to adapt Story Framework using a Domestic Abuse Lens
- 7.3 Ms McAllister commended this resource to the Board. The Board approved this useful tool for practitioners to use when working with children who experience Domestic Abuse.

**8 47/21P CMR Evaluation Report (please refer to Board paper BM47-06.21P3)**

- 8.1 Mr Thomson outlined the content of the CMR Evaluation Report. The aim of the review was to:-
- Identify common themes and trends across review reports commissioned by the SBNI.
  - Highlight the key learning points from reviews which have assisted in the development of systems and processes to improve child protection and safeguarding in Northern Ireland since the formation of the SBNI.
  - Examine the key changes to the review process since 2012 and comment on the effectiveness of these changes.
  - Consider the effectiveness of the process for dissemination of learning from CMRs across the safeguarding system.

It was stressed this was NOT an academic piece of research but an overview of CMR's at a point in time

- 8.2 The CMR Evaluation report was positively received by Board Members. Ms Campbell suggested initiating a 'Learning Collaborative' to consider the report. Ms Janes supported this idea and suggested training for the authors of Individual Agency Reviews (IAR's) to be included in this suggestion.
- 8.3 The Chair advised some minor amendments will be made to the report before the final version is submitted to the Department of Health and issued to Board members.

### **9 47/21P Our Minds Our Future Charter**

- 9.1 Ms McKenzie drew the Boards attention to the 'Our Minds Our Future Charter' a Youth-Led Charter for Mental Health Services in Northern Ireland and sought endorsement from the Board in respect of this Charter.
- 9.2 Individual agencies agreed this was a very positive piece of work.

### **10 47/21P Board Meetings 2022**

- 10.1 The Chair highlighted the Board Meetings scheduled for 2022 to members and,
- 10.2 She drew the Boards attention to the planned Board Development day scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021. She hoped the Board could meet face to face on this occasion but would comply with any Covid Regulations in place at that time.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday September 15th 2021.

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

**Bernie McNally**

**Independent Chair SBNI**