



SBNI Business Plan April 2022 – March 2023

Background

The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how relevant partners will co-operate and work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Northern Ireland, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

We use the term safeguarding¹ in its widest sense to encompass the full range of both child protection and prevention activities. Safeguarding children and young people is the process of preventing the impairment of children and young people's health and development, ensuring they grow up safely and securely and are provided with effective care, all of which collectively enable them to attain greater success in adulthood. Safeguarding also extends to protecting children and young people from abuse or neglect, when it occurs, including the promotion and protection of children and young people's rights.

The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) was established by the Safeguarding Board Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the Act). The principal functions stipulated in the Act are:

- To co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children;
- To develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people;
- To promote an awareness of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people;
- To keep under review the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body represented on the Board to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people;
- To undertake case management reviews;

¹ Definition of safeguarding can be found at Cooperating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland, Version 2 August 2017 p.g.12

- To provide advice in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people;
- To promote communications between the Board and children and young people;
- To make arrangements for consultation and discussion in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

Further detail of the membership, functions and procedures are provided for in the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (Membership, Procedure, Functions and Committee) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (the SBNI Regulations as amended). [The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland \(Membership, Procedure, Functions and Committee\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#).

The SBNI is chaired by an independent person appointed by the Health Minister through the public appointments process, who is independent of the member bodies. The membership of the SBNI is made up of representatives from all the Health and Social Care Trusts, the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (DoH), the Public Health Agency, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Education Authority, District Councils, the Youth Justice Agency; the British Medical Association and the Northern Ireland Guardian ad Litem Service. There is also representation from the voluntary sector from Action for Children, Barnardo's NI, Children in Northern Ireland, the Children's Law Centre, Include Youth and the NSPCC. There is also representation from the Faith Sector, two lay members and three Panel Chairs on the SBNI Board. Each of the 21 member bodies is represented on the SBNI by a senior member of staff. Their common purpose is to help safeguard and promote the welfare and rights of children and young people in Northern Ireland and help protect them from all forms of risk and harm.

The SBNI Independent Chair and the SBNI members are responsible for providing strategic leadership and direction to the child protection and safeguarding system across Northern Ireland and for ensuring the effective performance and discharge of its statutory objective, duties and functions as set out in the Act.

Introduction

Our business plan sets out the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland's priorities and key deliverables for the year 2022-2023.

Our business plan has three sections:

- The Role of the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI)
- The SBNI mission, vision and values for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Northern Ireland
- The SBNI outcomes and priorities for 2022-2023

The SBNI will monitor progress against its objectives and the effective running of the partnership body at each of its Governance Committee meetings and then at each of its Board meetings. The Board meetings are held in public and the minutes are published.

The Role of the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland

The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) was set up under the Safeguarding Board Act (NI) 2011 and is the statutory body responsible for coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of its 21 member bodies for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in NI.

The SBNI is a partnership body consisting of the key statutory and voluntary agencies that operate and resource the safeguarding and child protection system in Northern Ireland. Senior representatives from these organisations are members of the Board of the SBNI. The Board is supported in its aims and priorities by a small SBNI Central Support Team. For more details about the SBNI see: www.safeguardingni.org

Our Mission

Our mission is to safeguard and promote the welfare and rights of children and young people by working together in partnership to prevent and protect them from risk and harm.

Our Vision

Our vision is that all children and young people are seen, their voices are heard and that they are protected, respected, supported and have appropriate opportunities to grow up in safety, thrive and fulfil their potential.

Our Values

We listen to children and young people and respond to them about their wishes, feelings and experiences and place them at the heart of what we do.

We work in partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare and rights of children and young people.

We develop, respect and value those who work with us as we strive for excellence in what we do.

We are open, honest and transparent in our work with children and young people our members, partners and staff.

We respect diversity and promote equality and inclusion in all that we do.

We ensure that all of our work and relationships are undertaken from an awareness of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and a trauma informed perspective.

The SBNI has a key role in contributing to the overarching Programme for Government Draft Outcome – “Our children and young people have the best start in life” and specifically to the relevant Outcomes in the Children and Young People’s Strategy:

- Children and young people are physically and mentally healthy
- Children and young people live in safety and with stability
- Children and young people live in a society which respects their rights.

Our Business Objectives

The Business Objectives of the SBNI for 2022 – 2023 are divided into 4 parts in accordance with the strategic priorities and aims set out in the SBNI Strategic Plan for the years 2022 – 2026:

- 1) To provide leadership and set direction in the safeguarding, protection and welfare of children and young people
- 2) To hear and respond to the voices of children and young people affected by domestic violence² and abuse.
- 3) To support children and young people in exercising their rights to enjoy the benefits of the online world free from harm, fear and abuse
- 4) To hear and respond to the voices of children and young people affected by mental health issues.

² Definition of DVA as per the Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy ‘Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland - A Seven Year Strategy, March 2017’.

Strategic Priority 1: To provide leadership and set direction in the safeguarding and protection of children and young people.

Objective 1.1: To ensure that the Case Management Review, Safeguarding and Child Death Overview Panels meet their statutory functions.

| Actions: What we are going to do | How much did we do? | How well did we do it? | Action Owner |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>The Safeguarding Panels will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engage with children and young people, parents and staff to ensure their views are heard and responded to in relation to the child protection/safeguarding system bring forward new and emerging issues to the Board support the delivery of awareness raising and learning events in relation to the Strategic Priorities in conjunction with the SBNI non-statutory committees; monitor the completion of CMR Recommendation Action Plans by member bodies and feed this into the SBNI Assurance activity | <p>Number of engagement activities with children, young people, parents and carers</p> <p>Number of new and emerging issues identified</p> <p>Number of events led by the Safeguarding Panels</p> <p>Number of reports provided to the Governance Committee</p> | <p>% of events led by a qualified youth participation officer and feedback received from CYP</p> <p>% of events / forums/ meetings held which elicited new and emerging issues</p> <p>% of member of agencies who participated.</p> <p>Analysis of evaluation responses from 'events'.</p> <p>Analysis of Recommendations per RAG status</p> | <p>Safeguarding Panel Chairs</p> <p>Safeguarding Panel Chairs</p> <p>Safeguarding Panel Chairs</p> <p>Safeguarding Panel Chairs</p> <p>Safeguarding Panel Chairs</p> |

Objective 1.1 continued: To ensure that the Case Management Review, Safeguarding and Child Death Overview Panels meet their statutory functions.

| Actions: What we are going to do | How much did we do? | How well did we do it? | Action Owner |
|--|--|--|------------------------|
| Undertake CMRs as per the SBNI legislation and guidance and disseminate the associated learning across all sectors | Number of Dissemination events held Number of CMRs undertaken | Analysis of evaluation responses from CMR dissemination 'events'. % of SBNI member agencies who attended the dissemination events % of CMRs completed within timescale | CMR Panel Chair |
| Produce a review of the CDOP in Northern Ireland | Report produced and provided to DoH | Report accepted by SBNI Board | SBNI Independent Chair |
| Work with the DoH to establish a Child Death Overview Panel in Northern Ireland for the purpose of learning and identifying modifiable factors that may prevent future child death | Awaiting Direction from DoH | Awaiting Direction from DoH | SBNI Independent Chair |

Objective 1.2: To ensure that the non-statutory committees fulfil their delivery obligations within their terms of reference.

| Actions: What we are going to do | How much did we do? | How well did we do it? | Action Owner |
|--|--|--|------------------------|
| All Committees will meet regularly and provide assurance reports to the Board | Number of assurance reports provided | % of work plan deliverables achieved | All Committee Chairs |
| Attend bi-annual assurance and accountability meetings with the Department of Health | Number of meetings attended | | SBNI Independent Chair |
| Application of an effective system for governance across all of the SBNI's activities; to include | | - | Governance Committee |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce an Annual Report for 2021/22 | Annual Report completed | Annual Report accepted by the DoH | Director of Operations |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce an Annual Business Plan for 22-23, oversee the Business Plan Objectives, their progress and manage associated Risk | Business Plan produced & Number of Business Operations Meetings held | % of Business Plan activity achieved | Director of Operations |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actioning annual Equality and Disability plans | Number of plans submitted to ECNI | % of actions achieved | Director of Operations |
| Develop a 5 Year Equality and Disability Action Plan 2023 – 2028 | Action Plan Developed | Action Plan Approved Equality Commission | Director of Operations |
| Manage SBNI Finances 2022-2023 | Number of SPPG / PHA finance meetings | % of budget spend to profile | Director of Operations |

Objective 1.2 continued: To ensure that the non-statutory committees fulfil their delivery obligations within their terms of reference

| Actions: What we are going to do | How much did we do? | How well did we do it? | Action Owner |
|---|---|---|--|
| Review and Conduct biennial review of MoUs | Reviews undertaken | % of reviews undertaken to timescale | Director of Operations |
| Promote effective collaboration of stakeholders in ensuring children involved in the Faith sector are protected and safeguarded | Number of Faith based organisations attending the Interfaith Committee | % of Agencies who have availed of the e Learning training. | Interfaith Committee |
| Review and analyse a range of child protection data to inform the child protection system and underpinning process | Number of Data review meetings undertaken & Key data sets identified | % of required Child Protection Sub Group members who participated | Child Protection Committee |
| Establish a Trauma Informed Practice Committee to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support member and partner agencies on how to embed a sustainable transformation model of trauma informed practice and build on existing knowledge of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma Informed Practice | Committee established Enable cross sectoral collaborative working and coordination to generate trauma informed systemic approaches for those impacted by childhood adversity through the application of the TIP Transformation Model | - % of member agencies trained to apply the TIP Transformation Model | TIP Implementation Managers TIP Committee |

Objective 1.2 continued: To ensure that the non-statutory committees fulfil their delivery obligations within their terms of reference

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|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <p>Improve process and practice in respect of Child Sexual Exploitation, across SBNI member and partner agencies by implementing the actions arising from the 14 recommendations in the CSE (Leonard) Evaluation Report and the cross cutting recommendations from the CSE CJINI Inspection</p> | <p>Number of Recommendations completed</p> | <p>% of recommendations achieved on time</p> | <p>CSE Committee</p> |
| <p>Review , update and disseminate the Regional Core Child Protection Policies and Procedures (P&P)</p> | <p>Number of policies and procedures updated or developed</p> | <p>% of Member Agencies that provide assurance that they have disseminated and implemented revised / new policies or procedures</p> | <p>Policy and Procedure Committee</p> |

Objective 1.3: To participate in relevant child safeguarding and child protection fora

| Actions: What we are going to do | How much did we do? | How well did we do it? | Action Owner |
|--|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Participate in relevant Departmental, research and professional fora in order to aid and improve understanding of child safeguarding and child protection issues in Northern Ireland | Number and type of fora attended | Examples of learning translated into practice | Professional Officers |

Strategic Priority 2: To hear and respond to the voices of children and young people affected by domestic violence³ and abuse.

Objective 2.1: Work with government departments and their agencies to prevent domestic violence and abuse (DVA) from occurring.

| Actions: What we are going to do | How much did we do? | How well did we do it? | Action Owner |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Participate in the regional Stakeholder Assurance Group (SAG), the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) and the Strategic Delivery Board (SDB) to ensure that the voice of children and young people is represented. | Number of DVA Committee meetings convened | % of member agencies attending DVA Committee | Domestic Violence & Abuse Committee |
| Participate in informing new and revised Executive Strategies to ensure the voice of children and young people is represented. | Number of Strategy Groups participation | Inclusion of the voice of children and young people in final Strategy | Domestic Violence & Abuse Committee |

Objective 2.2: To work with member and partner agencies engaged in the DVA arena to raise awareness among parents/carers and professionals of the impact of DVA on children and young people.

| Actions: What we are going to do | How much did we do? | How well did we do it? | Action Owner |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Continue to progress key strategic recommendations within the Equally Safeguarded Report endorsed by SBNI and Regional Domestic and Sexual Violence Stakeholders Assurance Group (SAG) to address gaps and develop service provision | Number of recommendations actioned | % of recommendations achieved on time | Domestic Violence & Abuse Sub-Group |

³ Definition of DVA as per the Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy ‘Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland - A Seven Year Strategy, March 2017’.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| for children and young people affected by domestic violence and abuse | | | |
| Objective 2.3: To work with member and partner agencies to provide training resources and expertise in how to improve the recognition, assessment, and responses to children, young people and families experiencing domestic violence and abuse | | | |
| <p>Actions: What we are going to do</p> <p>SBNI to develop and finalise a standardised training and development framework that recognises different levels of training required at varying points of support intervention, to assist agencies working with children and young people affected by domestic violence and abuse, for approval and adoption by the Stakeholders Assurance Group (SAG)</p> | <p>How much did we do?</p> <p>Framework completed</p> | <p>How well did we do it?</p> <p>% of member and partner agencies who have implemented the Framework</p> | <p>Action Owner</p> <p>Domestic Violence & Abuse Committee</p> |

Strategic Priority 3: To support children and young people in exercising their rights to enjoy the benefits of the online world free from harm, fear and abuse.

Objective 3.1: To work with government departments and their agencies to develop an online infrastructure and associated standards to prevent children and young people from experiencing harm and abuse online.

| Actions: What we are going to do | How much did we do? | How well did we do it? | Action Owner |
|---|--|---|--|
| Implement a coordinated approach to Online Safety in Northern Ireland as per the NI Executive’s 5 -Year Online Safety Strategy and 3-Year Action Plan to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of website / Ongoing content management • Establishment of a social media presence to raise awareness of the repository and information • Promotion of the use of good practice audit tools across NI, such as the ‘360 degree safe’ online safety self-assessment tool for schools and further education colleges, or the Online Compass tool for child and youth services as a self-assessment tool | Number of Year 1 Actions completed Number of promotion events / activities held | % of member agencies who participated in completion of the actions % of schools who participated | Online Safety Committee Online Safety Committee |

Objective 3.2: To work with member and partner agencies to educate children and young people, their parents and carers and those who work with them to navigate the online world safely and confidently and support them to stay safe and well online.

| Actions: What we are going to do | How much did we do? | How well did we do it? | Action Owner |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| <p>Develop a core set of online safety messages for children and young people, parents and carers, in conjunction with key stakeholders; to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist messages for vulnerable groups • Age appropriate and accessible publications to disseminate core messages | <p>Set of core and specialist messages completed</p> | <p>Analysis of user access and satisfaction survey</p> | <p>Online Safety Committee</p> |
| <p>Development of a 'reporting pathways' resource for children and young people, parents/carers and those who work with them to reinforce messaging on where to contact if help is needed</p> | <p>Resource completed</p> | <p>Analysis of user access and satisfaction survey</p> | <p>Online Safety Committee</p> |

Objective 3.3: To ensure the views of children and young people inform and influence online policy and practice development.

| Actions: What we are going to do | How much did we do? | How well did we do it? | Action Owner |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <p>Co design a pilot survey for children and young people to be carried out to gather information on usage, social and emotional impact, skills, concerns and other key areas of online safety.</p> | <p>Survey developed and conducted</p> | <p>% of activity undertaken by a trained Youth Participation Officer</p> | <p>Online Safety Committee</p> |

Strategic Priority 4: To provide a voice for children and young people affected by mental health issues

Objective 4.1: To work with government departments and agencies to help reduce the incidence of children and young people affected by mental health issues

| Actions: What we are going to do | How much did we do? | How well did we do it? | Action Owner |
|--|---|--|-------------------------|
| Support implementation of the Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan Children and Young Peoples Emotional Health and Well-being Services Framework and Children’s Emotional Health and Well-being Framework in Education | Number of actions undertaken | % of member agencies engaged in supporting these actions | Mental Health Committee |
| Support the dissemination of learning from CMRs regarding the impact of poor mental health on children and young people | Number of dissemination events undertaken | % of member agencies who acknowledged learning from the events | Mental Health Committee |

Objective 4.2: To work with member and partner agencies to raise awareness among parents, carers and professionals of the impact of poor mental health and any associated stigma, on children and young people.

| Actions: What we are going to do | How much did we do? | How well did we do it? | Action Owner |
|---|---|--|-------------------------|
| We will co design with children and young people awareness raising material / events to highlight the impact of poor mental health on children and young people and how to remove any associated stigma | Number of events/supports provided to support raising awareness | % of audiences recognise the impact of ACEs on mental health | Mental Health Committee |

Objective 4.3: To work with member and partner agencies to promote awareness for children and young people, their parents and carers in how to recognise, respond and seek help in relation to mental health.

| Actions: What we are going to do | How much did we do? | How well did we do it? | Action Owner |
|--|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Development of a 'reporting pathways' resource for children and young people, parents/carers and those who work with them to reinforce messaging on where to contact if help is needed | Resource completed | Analysis of user access and satisfaction survey | Mental Health Committee |

Outcome 4.4: To work with partners to promote training in how to improve the recognition, assessment, and responses to children, young people and families experiencing the impact of mental health issues.

| Actions: What we are going to do | How much did we do? | How well did we do it? | Action Owner |
|---|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| We will ascertain gaps in current provision for training and support for practitioners working with children and their families | Complete Gap analysis | % of member and partner agencies who contributed to the analysis | Mental Health Committee |

| <u>SBNI Financial Profile 2022 – 2023</u> | |
|---|-------------------------|
| SBNI Running Costs (K9SB01) (excluding salaries) | £90,000 |
| Case Management Review Allocation (SPPG [DoH]) | £75,636 |
| Safeguarding Panels Allocation | £15,000 |
| Committee Budget | £49,634 |
| SBNI Business Plan (excluding salaries) | (TOTAL) £230,270 |
| | |
| SBNI Business Plan (excluding salaries) | £230,270 |
| Salaries | £504,549 |
| Full Year DoH & SPPG (CMR) budget allocation 2022 – 2023 | (TOTAL) £734,819 |
| | |
| Activity to be funded external to SBNI Allocation in addition to DoH Budget allocation | |
| Trauma Informed Practice provision funded by the Executive Programme on Paramilitarism and Organised Crime - allocation confirmed | £169,686 |
| Online Safety Coordinator | £69,543 |
| Administrator | £14,908 |
| Funding provision - cross departmental allocation for both posts confirmed | |
| Total | £254,137 |
| Total Budget Allocation Required to deliver SBNI Business Plan 2022 - 2023 | £988,956 |