

---

**Date: 20 November 2024**

**Title: Plans for a Board meeting in Sheffield**

**Author: Alan Clamp**

**Responsible Director: Alan Clamp**

**Paper for Approval**

**Open paper**

---

## **1. Issue**

- 1.1 The Authority's remit covers all four countries of the UK. As part of its commitment to working effectively with the respective governments, and to provide opportunities for stakeholder engagement, the Authority holds Board meetings across the four nations of the UK on a revolving basis.
- 1.2 The Board has not held a meeting in England outside of London. This paper sets out the plans for holding a regional Board meeting in Sheffield in March 2025. Sheffield is suggested due to: its location in the north of England; it being the site of the office for Social Work England (SWE); the Board meeting date being in the middle of Social Work Week 2025. The meeting therefore represents an opportunity to further our understanding of social work and its regulation.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Board is asked to approve the draft plan set out in the paper.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 As part of its stakeholder engagement activities, the Board agreed to have a Board meeting every other year in Scotland, Cymru/Wales or Northern Ireland; with another event focused on each of those countries in the intervening year (which may be organised with the respective government or other key stakeholder).
- 3.2 In addition to the Board meeting, the visits to the devolved administrations involve stakeholder engagement activities.

- 3.3 The Board has expressed the wish to periodically extend this approach to different regions of England.

#### 4. Analysis

- 4.1 An indicative timetable for the Board meeting and associated stakeholder engagement in Sheffield in March 2025 is set out below.

Date and time	Activities
Tuesday 18 March (evening)	Board member arrival in Sheffield (by exception for those for whom travel on Wednesday morning would be impractical)
Wednesday 19 March: up to 1100	Board member arrival in Sheffield
Wednesday 19 March: 1100-1430	Board meetings (lunch 1245-1315)
Wednesday 19 March: 1500-1700	Stakeholder engagement with SWE (details to follow)
Wednesday 19 March: evening	Board dinner
Thursday 20 March: 0900-1200	Board workshop (TBC)

#### 5. Finance and Resource

- 5.1 Additional financial resources have been built into the 2024/25 budget to cover travel, accommodation and subsistence costs. Options will be explored for cost-effective venue hire.
- 5.2 Some additional staff and Board time will be involved in organising and facilitating the visit.

#### 6. Impact Assessment

- 6.1 It is hoped that this activity will broaden our stakeholder engagement. It should also raise the profile of our work and support the mitigation of risks where stakeholder engagement is a factor. In particular, it will enhance our knowledge and understanding of social work and the role of SWE.

#### 7. Timescale

- 7.1 Subject to approval, the detailed event plan will be shared with the Board in January 2025.

#### 8. Communications

- 8.1 The visit to Sheffield will provide opportunities for communications on the SWE meeting and public Board meeting.

**9. Internal Stakeholders**

9.1 All teams will be involved in planning and delivering the SWE meeting.

**10. External Stakeholders**

10.1 SWE and the wider stakeholder group.