

ECEY50011- Safeguarding: practice, legislation and the multi-disciplinary team

I have not used AI within this portfolio.

Contents.

- 1) Individual Script.
- 2) Group References.

Individual Script

Good afternoon, my name is Katie Taylor, and I will be the independent chair for today's initial child protection conference (ICPC). As the chair of this initial child protection conference can I first start by saying thank you for being able to attend I understand how busy your schedules are, but I want to emphasize that your contributions and participation is key to ensuring the child's safety.

My role during today's ICPC will be to lead the discussion and ensure that all in attendance have their voice heard in a fair manner while being able to distinguish the difference between fact and opinion. Under Section 3 part 2 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, I will combine the perspectives off all professionals in line with regional safeguarding board protocols and ensure throughout I have a child centred approach.

I would like to remind all professionals here today that as part of our role to safeguard children and their families we manage personal sensitive information. It is our duty to ensure that we are fostering good practice in-line with GDPR and the Data Protection Act (2018). Only information that is relevant and necessary to safeguard the children and family will be shared. This information will only be shared with others outside this meeting on a need-to-know bases. Finally, can I remind all professionals that the information that is shared today will be accurate and factual (Information Commissioners Office, no date).

Social Care Wales (2025) state that protecting and promoting children's welfare is everyone's responsibility and as professionals we are obligated to ensure that children are safeguarded from abuse and harm. This ICPC will be a time for us as professionals to work together following The Munro Review (2011) to ensure that the best decisions are made with the welfare of the children is at the centre of all decisions. 17.27 of The Laming Report (2003) highlights the importance of clear communication, this ICPC allows the opportunity for a multi-agency approach to share relevant information that affects the welfare of the children. Under the guidance of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) we have a duty as professionals to work together to share relevant information to ensure the children's welfare is paramount.

Under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) article 3 it states that all children have the right to be protected from violence, abuse and mistreatment from their parents and caregivers (UNICEF, no date).

Under Section 17 of the Children Act (1989) it sets a duty to every Local Authority to promote the safety and overall wellbeing of children in their locality.

From the first report received Social Services decided and record their next actions within the time boundary of one working day, following their section 47 investigations the ICPC is required to be held within fifteen working days. Today's initial child protection conference is being held within the time boundaries of the strategy meeting (Safeguarding Wales Procedures, Section 3 Part 1). Under section 47 of the Children Act (1989) we have a duty to investigate concerns and reasonable cause that the children are currently experiencing harm or at risk of significant harm.

Which leads me to the purpose of this ICPC relating to the Jones family. Harry Jones age 3, Isla Jones age 1, mum Heidi Jones and mum's new partner Johnny Rees due to escalating concerns.

The family have chosen not to attend this ICPC.

I will start by summarising the concerns and risk factors that have brought the family to conference.

There have been escalating concerns from Harry's school setting regarding the decline of Harry's personal appearance and not being dressed appropriately. The school have also reported an increase of concerns regarding Harry's behaviour with a rising concern of him displaying aggressive behaviours and having frequent wetting accidents. School have reported that Harry was once a 'bubbly outgoing' member of the class but now he is withdrawn and isolated. The school and Health visitor has reported that there has been a decline in Isla's appearance, and she is often left in her pyjamas all day.

There has been a decline in mum's appearance and her lack of engagement noted by the school. Mum has disclosed to Kelly Copic the family's social worker that she is experiencing issues with alcohol misuse. There are escalating worries around mum's partner Johnny Rees whose children from a previous relationship are on the child protection register. Johnny is known to the police for Domestic Violence

Convictions and there have been previous operation encompasses. He has been recently released from prison and is also experiencing issues with alcohol and drug misuse. This has led to reasonable cause for concern in the children's home environment and putting them at risk of witnessing domestic violence.

Heidi is currently receiving an elevated level of support from her mum and dad. However, the children's biological father is currently serving a custodial sentence for an armed robbery. The children are currently going through a lot of emotional turmoil in the home environment and going into the prison to visit dad.

It is clear from the summary that there are escalating worries and concerns regarding the safety of Harry and Isla. Under section 28 (1) of the Children Act (2004) as professionals we work within the key agencies that are obligated to safeguard and enhance the welfare of children (Welsh Government, 2021). Under Section 164 of Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 practitioners have a legal obligation to share relevant information to safeguard.

I will now ask that we go around the room and introduce yourselves, your professional role, and your concerns in relation to the Jones family. If we can start with Kelly Copic the family's social worker.

From listening to all the observations and reports that have been conducted with the Jones family the children are being exposed to adverse childhood experiences (ACES), and these can cause a detrimental impact to their overall health and wellbeing (Public Health Wales, no date).

I will now ask if you think the children should be placed on the child protection register if you believe they are at risk. Section 130 (4) of the Social Services and Well-being Wales Act (2014) explain a child at risk as a child who is encountering abuse or neglect. Neglect occurs when a child's basic needs are not being fulfilled and can result in lasting impacts on their physical and mental well-being (NSPCC, 2024). Before we make the decision on whether the children need to be placed on the Child Protection register can I remind all professionals that Article 3 of the UNCRC state that all adults deciding for the child should have the child at the centre (Children's Law Centre, no date).

Kelly, Lyndsey, Jack, Molly, and Cerys.

It is clear with a unanimous decision that the children will now be placed on the child protection register under the category of neglect and emotional abuse. In my professional opinion after listening to your reports emotional neglect have been observed throughout many observations with the Jones family. According to NSPCC (2024) emotional neglect occurs when a child's emotional needs are not being sufficiently met.

The core group will be held on the 23rd of July which will be within the ten working days set out in Section 4 of Wales Safeguarding Procedures (2019).

As professionals it is our duty to provide reasonable steps to promote and elevate the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales in line with Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Jones family require early intervention support with a multi-agency approach under Every Child Matters (2003) framework to enhance the information sharing between professionals and address the children's health, safety and emotional well-being ensuring they are having the opportunities to reach their full potential. Article 39 of the UNCRC state that children who have experienced neglect or abuse will receive recovery intervention (Children's Commissioner for Wales, no date).

Thank you all for attending today's initial child protection conference your contributions have been vital to safeguarding the children.

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