Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE in Consolidation of Social Work Practice
LEVEL 6 - 60 Credits
BMPF6044

LEARNER PORTFOLIO
(PORTH AGORED and UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT DAVID)

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Task 4

Safeguarding in an area which is not your main area of work

Guidance:
Social Care Wales require newly qualified social workers to provide evidence of their understanding of safeguarding work with adults and children. The assignment below will enable you to demonstrate this. ***N.B****. if your usual area of work is with children please write about adult safeguarding. If you usually work with adults, then write about child safeguarding. Ensure you meet the learning out comes for this task (see appendix 5 of the handbook).*

Question a:
In an area **that is not your main focus of work** (see guidance above), explain the relevant legislation, and the national, local and organisational policies and procedures for safeguarding.

500 words (+/- 10%: include your actual word count at the end of each section).

According to section 3 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 ("The Act"), an adult is regarded as a person over the age of 18. In Wales, when making necessary enquiries to determine whether action needs to be taken when an adult is suspected of being *at risk, a* social worker will be governed by part 7 of *"The Act".* "The Act" defines *at risk* as a person experiencing, or at risk of experiencing abuse or neglect, furthermore, they may have needs for care and support, and because of those needs, they are unable to protect themselves against that abuse or neglect. The roles and responsibilities of a social worker, when working with adults at risk, are clearly set out in the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.

Statutory guidance identifies three initial phases to enquiries: screening (check for facts), initial evaluation (collecting and reviewing information) and determination (what should be done?), Welsh Government (2018). Consideration must be given at this stage on whether there is need to involve other relevant agencies. For instance, if a criminal offence has taken place or is at risk of taking place, such as hate crime, rape, theft, etc., then the local authority will need to involve the police, Social Care Wales (2025a). Whether or not the enquiry pursues, according to part 3 of "The Act", the local authority is at duty to assess the person's needs - and a care and support plan should be completed. However, if a person refuses care and support, it's important that the social worker is compatible with article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights – and makes a record of this on file. The outcome of the enquiry will fall under one of three determinations: immediate protection, adult not at risk and adult at risk/action needed, Welsh Government (2018).

A factor that might indicate an adult is *at risk* is a person who may lack capacity to make decisions for themselves. According to the North Wales Safeguarding Board (2021), older adults with dementia are more likely to experience abuse or neglect than those without a diagnosis. An indicator of abuse or neglect may depend on the type of maltreatment. Signs of physical abuse may include unexplained injuries, bruising, burns etc. Someone experiencing neglect might be malnourished or have untreated injuries etc. Social Care Wales (2025b). To help further safeguard people who are deemed to lack capacity, section 44 of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 made it a criminal offence for an individual to ill-treat or wilfully neglect a person for whom they care for. This emphasises the importance of implementing independent safeguards such an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) – as a way of ensuring that the person who lacks capacity is supported and represented, Office of the Public Guardian (2020).

The adult safeguarding process should be underpinned by a person-centred approach, with a clear understanding of the individual's personal outcomes, as well as their views, wishes, and feelings. It also ensures that the social worker observes the principles of "The Act", which puts emphasis on voice and control, promotion of well-being, and co-production. Importantly, defining a person's preferred outcomes is also a way of guiding the intervention in a way that's meaningful for them.

Word count: 537

References

Mental Capacity Act 2005.

North Wales Safeguarding Board (2025) 'Supporting people with dementia to be involved in adult safeguarding enquiries' (Online) Available at: Supporting-people-with-dementia-to-be-involved-in-adult-safeguarding-enquiries-Good-Practice-Tips.pdf (Accessed: 05/10/2025).

Office of the Public Guardian (2020) 'Mental Capacity Act: Code of practice' (Online) Available at: Mental-capacity-act-code-of-practice.pdf (Accessed: 05/10/2025).

Social Care Wales (2025a) 'Wales Safeguarding Procedures' (Online) Available at: Safeguarding Wales (Accessed: 05/10/2025).

Social Care Wales (2025b) 'Wales Safeguarding Procedures' (Online) Available at: Safeguarding Wales (Accessed: 05/10/2025).

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

Welsh Government (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard People: Volume 6 – Handling Individual Cases to Protect Adults at Risk' (Online) Available at: volume-6-handling-individual-cases-to-protect-adults-at-risk.pdf (Accessed: 05/10/2025).

Question b:
Reflect on the difference between safeguarding in adults' and children's work

400 words (+/- 10%: include your actual word count at the end of each section).

A key consideration when comparing adult and children safeguarding is the different legislation and policies. Even though the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 ("The Act") and the Welsh Safeguarding Procedures figure prominently in both adult and children safeguarding, there are key procedural differences.

For instance, the child protection process is a vital part of children safeguarding and is a way to ensure the safety and well-being of children who are at risk of harm, abuse, or neglect. Furthermore, the Children Act 1989 introduced the concept of parental responsibility, which puts emphasis on the parent's legal responsibility of the child. Therefore, it is crucial to secure the involvement of parents in children safeguarding. As a measure of last resort, local authorities have the power to apply for a legal order that gives them parental responsibility for a child, which often leads to the removal of the child from their caregiver. Ultimately this demonstrates the restrictive measures available to the local authority as a method of safeguarding children. In essence, at the forefront of any decision-making in child safeguarding is the child's welfare and best interests.

In the matter of adult safeguarding. "The Act" puts more emphasis on an individual's autonomy and capacity to make their own decisions. This means if any safeguarding issues arise, emphasis will be on empowerment and collaboration and respecting the choices of the individual. According to the Ann Craft Trust (2025), adults have the right to self-determination and can choose to not act at all to protect themselves. The Mental Capacity Act 2005 even states that a person shouldn't be treated as lacking capacity based on an unwise decision. This demonstrates the often-difficult balance of protecting adults at risk with respecting their freedom and independence. However, the law can intervene in extreme circumstances and the local authority can carry out enquiries where necessary.

Lastly, there can be differences in the types of abuse and harm children and adults experience. For example, according to Fraga Dominguez et al. (2022) financial abuse is highly prevalent

for elder people, and according to research by NSPCC (2024) there has been an increase in child sexual abuse offences of an online nature. Lisa Curtis speaking on the NSPCC Learning Podcast (2019) argues that just because a social worker works in adult services, doesn't mean they don't have a responsibility to safeguard children as well, and vice versa. It's worth concluding that despite the differences, children and adult safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Word count: 411

References

Ann Craft Trust (2025) 'Why Have Different Policies and Procedures for Safeguarding Children and Adults?' (Online) Available at: Why Have Different Policies and Procedures for Safeguarding Children and Adults - ACT (Accessed: 06/10/2025).

Children Act 1989.

Fraga Dominguez, S., Ozguler, B., Storey, J. E., & Rogers, M. (2022). Elder Abuse Vulnerability and Risk Factors: Is Financial Abuse Different from Other Subtypes?' (Online) Available at: Elder Abuse Vulnerability and Risk Factors: Is Financial Abuse Different From Other Subtypes? - PMC (Accessed: 06/10/2025).

Mental Capacity Act 2005.

NSPCC (2024) 'Statistics briefing: online harm and abuse' (Online) Available at: Online harm and abuse: statistics briefing (Accessed: 06/10/2025).

NSPCC Learning Podcast (2019) 'Podcast: safeguarding adults and children' (Online) Available at: Podcast: safeguarding adults and children | NSPCC Learning (Accessed:05/10/2025).

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.