



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

**LEARNER PORTFOLIO
(PORTH AGORED and UNIVERSITY OF WALES
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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 outcomes 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.

The Children Act 1989 is one of the main legislations in England and Wales when working with children as it sets out that the welfare of the child is at the centre and sets out the responsibilities on professionals and parents or those with parental responsibility for the child (Chisnell & Kelly 2019). The Children Act 1989 also sets out the definition of abuse, neglect and harm. The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 is the legal framework in Wales that brings together social services law and places duties on local authorities, health boards and Welsh Ministers to promote the well-being of children and adults in need of care and support and their carers (Welsh Government, 2023). Part 7 of the act sets out duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as set out in Section 28(2) of the Children Act 2004. The Working Together to Safeguard People volume 5 – handling individual cases to protect children at risk, is a document that sets out expectations of statutory duties. As a social worker working with adults I have been working to safeguard adults however, I am aware that I need to have knowledge of safeguards work with children as I may come in to contact with children when working with adults and their families. Also, as set out in the document are the two key principles that ‘safeguarding and protecting is everyone’s responsibility’ and the second is when working with children that a ‘child centred approach’ is taken (Welsh Government, 2023).

The XX Safeguarding Board is a statutory body which coordinates and monitors agencies in their area to ensure they “safeguard children from abuse who are experiencing or at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm and prevent children who within its area who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect or other kind of harm” [hereafter XXSB], (2023). There is a corporate safeguarding policy in place and the Wales Safeguarding procedures that all social workers should be familiar with and that they attend the local authority’s mandatory training in safeguarding. In the local authority where I work all safeguarding referrals made to social services are screened by the Multi Agency Safeguard Hub (MASH). The MASH was a pilot set up in 2014 and continues to this day with social services, health and the police all working together to share information to safeguard children.

A referral is then passed to a social worker within children services who will undertake a Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 where there is a duty to investigate the safeguarding concern to assess whether a child is at 'risk of significant harm' (Chisnell & Kelly, 2019). The Section 47 needs to be undertaken within 10 working days following the strategy discussion when the decision was made for a Section 47 to be undertaken (safeguarding Wales, 2023). The outcome of the Section 47 will assess whether intervention is required and whether that is under a child protection plan or a child in need plan. If the matter is to proceed down child protection then the first conference needs to be undertaken within 15 working days (safeguarding Wales 2023). When assessing children a 'child centred approach' should be used and to take their views of what is important to them and how they wish to be supported and applying the Gillick competency to assess whether a child is mature to make decisions about their life and the implications of the decision being made (NSPCC, 2022).

Word count – 578

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

Question b:

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

The difference between safeguarding adults and children's work firstly is that the Social Services and well-being (Wales) Act 2014 was the first piece of legislation to bring together adult safeguarding law as previously safeguarding issues would be dealt with under different legislations such as the (Chisnell and Kelly, 2019).

The difference can also be seen in the definitions and terminology used. While safeguarding in Adults sets out the definition of an *"adult at risk of abuse and/ or neglect, abuse can be physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial"*. In children safeguarding social workers assess to determine if a child is suffering or at risk of suffering 'significant harm' and harm is defined as *"ill treatment which includes sexual abuse, neglect, emotional abuse and psychological abuse, the impairment of physical or mental health that includes witnessing another suffering from this, the impairment of physical intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development"* (Wales safeguarding procedures, 2023).

In adult safeguarding the timescales for a Section 126 enquiry of the Social Services and wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 is to be undertaken is within 7 working days of receiving the referral. In children's the Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 is within 10 working days of the strategy meeting and child protection conferences to be undertaken within 15 working days (safeguarding Wales).

When working with adults as a social worker one of the important legislations is the Mental Capacity Act 2005 working in line with the codes of practice to assess an individual's capacity to assess if an individual is able to make a decisions. If an individual does not have capacity

to ensure that any decisions made on their behalf is made in their best interest and should be the least restrictive option in term of the individual's human rights and that Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards are in place (Chisnell and Kelly 2019).In children safeguarding when working with children and when assessing capacity the Gillick competency should be applied to assess if a child has the mental maturity to make decisions and understand the implication of the decision being made (NSPCC 2022). The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a convention which contains 54 articles that cover every aspect of children's lives and sets out how these are to be implemented by governments (UNICEF 2023). The UN Convention of the Rights of Older People to safeguard rights in accessing services to address discrimination and elder abuse and neglect, promoting dignity and cultural views of older people (Help Age International, 2023).

Word count – 421

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