



**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.

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

A key piece of legislation which guides practitioners in Wales is the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA). In terms of safeguarding, section 126 of this Act stipulates that an “adult at risk” is (a) experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect, (b) has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of these needs) and (c) as a result of these needs the adult is not able to protect themselves from actual, or risk of, abuse or neglect. Section 126 (2) further stipulates that if there is “reasonable cause to suspect” an adult is at risk the local authority must make the necessary enquiries to determine whether action should be taken (s126, 2, a) and what action should be taken (s126, 2, b). **(133)**

In order to help practitioners understand their roles and responsibilities to safeguard adults (as well as children) as legislated in the SSWBA, the Wales Safeguarding Procedures are available. In addition statutory guidance has been published by Welsh Government in the form of Working Together to Safeguard People: Code of Safeguarding Practice (of particular relevance is Volume 6 “Handling Individual Cases to Protect Adults at Risk”). Both offer the same, standardised advice to guide all people working with adults (i.e. public, private and third sector) and are to be used by all practitioners working in Wales. “Safeguarding and protecting people is everybody’s responsibility.” **(102)**

In line with guidance in Vol 6, the local authority I work for has a single point of contact for people to report their concerns for adults at risk, this is the same for internal or external referrals. Concerns should be shared by using the Multi Agency Referral Form which has been developed by the regional safeguarding board which covers the area. Regional safeguarding boards were established to co-ordinate, monitor and improve safeguarding procedures and response, in line with the requirements set out in the SSWBA. **(86)**

Types of abuse are typically defined as physical, sexual, emotional/psychological, financial, neglect (including self-neglect), domestic abuse, risk of radicalisation. Poverty, isolation, poor mental health, substance misuse, the impact of poor physical health are often contributing factors to abusive behaviour. In addition, adults who are vulnerable and dependent on others for care, who have a disability, who have communication difficulties are more likely to suffer abuse. Signs of abuse in an adult could include a change in behaviour (withdrawn, tearful, angry), a change in a person's appearance (becoming unkempt, poor hygiene, ill-fitting clothes), cuts or bruises or other physical injuries which are left untreated, a change in their financial circumstance, an accumulation of untaken medication, acquiring a sexually transmitted disease. However, there is no precise list of what indicates a person is being harmed or abused. Abuse can take place in any setting, within any relationship and the signs can be subtle as well as obvious. People who are being abused will usually be scared to share this with professionals or might not even recognise they are being abused. **(178)**

(499)

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 major difference between safeguarding adults and children comes with the legislation under which the duty to investigate lies. For adults, the duty to investigate if there is “reasonable cause to suspect” risk falls under sec 126 (2) of the Social Services Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) whereas the duty to investigate for children (if there is “reasonable cause to suspect”) lies within section 47 of the Children Act 1989. **(70)**

Although “suspected risk” for both Children and Adults is reported to a single point of access (in line with SSWBA), in the local authority that I work for, decision making and case responsibility remains within the childrens team when there are safeguarding concerns. In respect of adults, there is a designated team which deals with any safeguarding concerns, separate to the care and support team. **(65)**

A further difference are the requirements for Social Workers if a child’s name is placed on the At Risk register. A Social Worker must visit the child every 10 working days, be seen at home at least every 4 weeks, be seen alone whenever possible and a minimum of every six weeks and see the child’s bedroom at least once between conferences. In addition, multi-agency core group meetings must take place, the first being within 10 days of Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) and then at least 4 weekly, no more than 6 weekly. The decision for the child’s name to be on the At Risk register needs to be reviewed on a regular basis, the first being 3 months after ICPC and then a maximum of 6 monthly afterwards. In contrast, if an Adult Protection conference determines that an adult is at risk, the care and support protection plans should be “subject to regular reviews” and the adult should be “given the opportunity” to be seen alone. **(168)**

The Child Protection register lists all children in a local authority who are subject to a care and support protection plan and considered to be at risk of harm. No such list exists for adults. **(35)**

A further difference is that Adults are determined to have capacity to make their own decisions, unless assessed to the contrary by the Mental Health Act 2005 (MCA 2005). Principle 3 of the MCA 2005 stipulates people have the right to make unwise decisions. The MCA 2005 also applies to children aged 16-18; this leaves parents, carers and professionals working with

people in this age bracket with a dilemma – allowing them to make their own decisions, allowing them to take risk yet still having a responsibility to protect them from risk. (91)

(429)