

1. Teacher – Silvia Yaneva

My name is Silvia Yaneva, and I am the main teacher involved in Gabi's everyday education and development. In our early years setting I am the main teacher involved in Gabi's everyday education and development. My job is to ensure that every child is safe, happy and cared for daily. The meaning of safeguarding is to protect children from harm and abuse or neglect, also making sure they grow up in a supportive safe environment. (Working together to safeguard children from HM Government 2018) My concerns have escalated over the last month for Gabi, who is 3 years old. Her behavior has changed quite considerably. I have also noticed that her personal hygiene and the cleanliness of her clothes have become concerning. It's clear that Gabi is being neglected and not taken care of by her mom. I have written down and documented these concerns in a professional manner with dates and details in place. Information I have collected with other professionals who need to know (ICO, 2021) Records are kept factual, short, and secure.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Children says that a child's needs and safety must be put first. As a teacher, I must follow and adhere to the Education Workforce Council Code of Conduct (EWC, 2022). This says a fair, honest and careful approach must be taken. The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015) reminds us that the decisions we make may affect the future of a child's well-being. Safeguarding is important and a team effort.

In Gabi's case I will correspond and work together with social workers, health visitors and police, if need be, during the initial child protection conference (ICPC). My role will be to show evidence in a clear factual document which has been prepared, what we have witnessed, seen, what we have done, and any changes in Gabi over time. All this evidence will help to keep Gabi and her siblings safe and protected.

By being Gabi's teacher, I have a legal right and duty to keep her safe and protect her. I recognised warning signs, kept records, and put forward my worries to my management team; I made sure that I took the right steps to make sure Gabi's safety came first. By working with other professionals, I hope that Gabi's and her siblings' future help them grow up in a safe and caring home environment.

All warning signs: In Wales there's guidance and laws put into place to help all professionals who work with children to help protect them. • Children's Act 1989 - 2004 we must protect a child's welfare. • Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 guides us to work with other agencies. • Education Act 2002 - Nurseries and schools to have safeguarding systems in place. • Working together to safeguard children. (2018) Rules of how professionals should work and liaise with each other. • Keeping learners safe (Welsh government 2023) explains what must be done in schools in Wales. • UN convention on the Rights of the Child (UNICEF, 1989) every child has the right to feel safe and cared for.

All evidence gathered regarding Gabi's concerns is private and confidential and is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (GDPR). If a child is in danger, I can then share all the information appropriately.

By working as a Teacher, I have a legal duty to keep all children safe and follow the safeguarding policies (Children's Act 2004). I make sure that I follow the five R's of safeguarding. (Respond, Record, Report, Recognise and Refer (NSPCC, 2021))

Meaning of the above: • Respond - by speaking to management • Record - I have written all concerns down factually and professionally • Report - All concerns have been put to the attention of a designated safeguarding lead • Recognize - I have recognized that something is wrong. • Refer - I have referred my concerns to Social Services with the help and support of my manager.

Early years foundation stage (CDFE,2023) specifies that all teachers must act if they have any concerns that a child may not be safe. Looking at Gabi's case, poor hygiene, mood changes also sign that an adult who cares for her was under the influence of alcohol.

I have taken my concerns to my manager, who has tried to contact Gabi's mother to no avail. No answers or explanations have been brought forward by her mum, which has now brought the situation of Gabi's home life more concerning.

Gabi was brought to the setting one morning by a man who has never been before or known to myself or my colleagues. He smelled of alcohol and seemed still under the influence of drinks. Which was extremely concerning. Gabi showed signs of being scared and was more reserved and quieter. We are aware that Gabi has a younger sibling, under the age of 1 year old, who could also be at risk of neglect.

After a meeting with my manager, we thought it was of great concern to contact the social services regarding this matter. We followed all policies and went about the correct manner to make sure that Gabi's welfare and protection was put first.

2. social Worker – Evgeni Yanev

Hello everyone, my name is Evgeni. I am the designated Social Worker who is responsible for the Gabi case file. My role as a social worker is to protect children, also making sure they grow up in a safe, caring, supportive home environment.

The early years teacher who worked with Gabi on a day-to-day basis had serious concerns regarding her well-being at home and sent me a referral to which I have acted upon.

The Referral document explained that Gabi, who is 3 years old, had quit and withdrawn by herself. It was also noticed that Gabi was coming into the setting wearing dirty clothes looking very tired and her hygiene had deteriorated. The teacher and

management at the setting tried on numerous occasions to reach Gabi's mum but had no answers to why Gabi was in This Way.

Gabi was brought to the setting by a man who was unknown to the staff or teacher and was also smelling of alcohol this was a serious incident Gabi showed signs of being scared and anxious on that particular day and concerns were higher due to the fact that another sibling under the age of one years old was also involved and brought to my attention.

After reading the referral, I started an assessment under the social services and well-being act 2014 (Wales) working together to safeguard children (HM Government, 2023). I put together all the information that I had gathered from all the professionals involved and arranged a visit to their home.

While on my visit I met Gabi's mum. The house itself looked unkempt and untidy; little food in the cupboards and the fridge's poor hygiene also visible. When speaking with the mum, she explained that she was struggling financially, also emotionally. She mentioned that the man who brought Gabi to the setting was her new partner.

I found that the story she was giving was not consistent I also found that Gabi was very quiet, would not give eye contact and looked unkempt, unwashed with poor hygiene

While offering family Support and community help the mother got defensive and refused the offer of help.

After looking at those risks of neglect, alcohol misuse and the fact of a baby being at the house, I made the decision to convene an initial child protection conference (ICPC) bringing all professionals together.

Before this Conference I received a report from a police officer who was also involved after visiting the home where a welfare concern was raised. The man who brought Gabi to the setting was known by the police for alcohol related far abuse and antisocial behavior. This helped to support concerns raised by the teacher and showed that there could be ongoing issues within the household. All the information gathered, including the school's report, gives a clearer understanding of the situation Gabi is in and that her and her siblings could face.

My responsibility at the initial child protection conference is to put forward all the information clearly and fairly so that an informed decision can be made about the safety of Gabi By working as a social worker my duty are : • To gather information from all who are involved in the case • To assess risks and decide if Gabi is suffering or maybe at at risk of harm • Giving support to the family to help make positive change in the home. • To act to protect Gabi. Writing up a protection plan

All these duties are from the children's Act 1989 and 2004 which states that professionals must protect the welfare of children and the UN convention on the Rights of the child (UNICEF, 2019) which says that every child has the right to safety and care.

During this meeting, I will put forward that Gabi's case to be placed under the child protection plan for Neglect. This means:

- Continuous visit from a social worker to check on Gabi's welfare, safety progress
- To support the baby's health and the mother's wellbeing a health visitor will pay visits to the home
- The early years teacher will observe and continue to make any concerns regarding Gabi.
- The mum will be asked to work together with Support Services regarding parenting programmes or alcohol support groups.

After a time if the situation does not improve and Gabi's safety is at any risk, a section 47 investigation may be put forward under the children's Act 1989. This is for further child protection action.

All the information gathered and put in place is confidential and handled and filed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 (GDPR).

Confidentiality is important and taken seriously, but some sharing of information is paramount if a child is at risk of harm. (ICO, 2021).

My priority is the safety of the children involved, but I always make sure that I show respect to the families.

In conclusion, I aim to make sure that Gabi is safe, cared for and supported as her social worker. All the combined reports and documents from the police and teacher included show serious concerns about the neglect, welfare and risks at the family home. By working as a team and using clear communication between police, teachers, also other agencies we can make sure Gabi is protected but also help the family in making positive changes. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and by working together we can all make sure that Gabi grows to grow up in a caring, safe, loving home environment.



3. Health Visitor – Sharmin Jamil

My name is Sharmin Jamil and I am the health visitor responsible for Gaby's case. As a health visitor, I am well placed, in collaboration with the others, to help identify safety and wellbeing issues pertinent to the present case and to arrange access to support services (Munro Report, 2011; Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2023). During the visit, I am expected to observe signs such as unexplained bruises and bite marks indicative of physical abuse. As in the provided case, I will look out for poor hygiene

and inappropriate clothing at home indicative of neglect. At home, I will look for behavioral and emotional indicators of abuse. My assessment allows me to determine whether the child is at immediate risk of serious harm. I will listen to the child and caregivers, communicate sensitively, and act in line with local safeguarding procedures while maintaining some degree of respectful uncertainty as encouraged in the Laming Report (Laming et al. 2003). I may respond by contacting local child protection authorities or refer the child or family to social and child protection services as required by the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (HM Government, 2023). During the home visit, to comply with GDPR regulations, I would only collect information that is essential, avoiding excessive details, and only use collected information for child safeguarding purposes (Data Protection Act 2018). As a home visitor, my duty extends beyond assessing and reporting issues related to Gabi's safety. The Social Services and Well-being Act (2014) emphasizes a preventive approach to safeguarding requiring home visitors and other stakeholders to identify all children at risk at home and to report these to relevant authorities.

During the visit, I found Gabi, her mother, the 3-year-old's sister and a fourth person identified as the mother's partner. I introduced myself and explained my role clarifying the purpose of the visit with my mother and the boyfriend. I gained consent from my mother and asked about changes in the family situation. I provided feedback from the school staff. The mother admitted that the family is experiencing some difficulties but denied the idea that the child was neglected. I also observed the home environment. I was concerned about the level of cleanliness, noting that the girl and her sister were poorly groomed consistent with initial observations by her teacher. I was also concerned about the sleeping arrangement since the child and sister share a considerably small room. The interactions between children and the mother's boyfriend appeared rather hostile. I noted the child's sister missed her last appointment at the GP occasioned by recent financial struggles.

In the current case, Gabi is at risk as she is experiencing a considerable degree of neglect as demonstrated by wearing dirty clothes and deteriorating levels of hygiene (Social Care Wales 2025; Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014). There is also harm to the extent that the child is experiencing neglect (wearing dirty cloth) and impaired social and emotional suffering as shown by being withdrawn. The case meets the threshold required for initiating a visit because the child is experiencing significant harm given there is evidence of ill-treatment justifying intervention as stipulated in All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 (Office of Children's Commissioner for Wales 2008). This is because Gabi would be expected to be provided close parental support and groomed appropriately (Children Act 1989). The children's welfare is adversely affected to the extent that their physical wellness is impaired and is experiencing neglect and issues with family relationships (Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014; Children Act 2004).

GROUP REFERENCES

Children Act 1989. London: HMSO. Children Act 2004. London: HMSO. HM Government (2023) Working Together to Safeguard Children: Statutory Guidance. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6849a7b67cba25f610c7db3f/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023_-_statutory_guidance.pdf (Accessed: 6 November 2025). Welsh Government (2022) Keeping Learners Safe: Statutory Guidance for Education Providers on Arrangements for Safeguarding Children. Cardiff: Welsh Government. Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act (2014). Cardiff: Welsh Government. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Cardiff: Welsh Government. UNICEF (1989) United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Geneva: United Nations. NSPCC (2021) The 5 Rs of Safeguarding: Recognise, Respond, Record, Report, Refer. London: NSPCC. Education Workforce Council (EWC) (2022) Code of Professional Conduct and Practice. Cardiff: EWC. Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) (2021) Data Protection and Safeguarding: Guidance for Practitioners. London: ICO. Department for Education (DfE) (2023) Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. London: Department for Education. Munro, E. (2011) The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report – A Child-Centred System. London: Department for Education. Laming, H. (2003) The Victoria Climbié Inquiry. London: The Stationery Office. The Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales (2008) All Wales Child Protection Procedures. Available at: https://www.basw.co.uk/system/files/resources/basw_125225-1_0.pdf (Accessed: 6 November 2025). Social Care Wales (2025) Practice Guidance for Safeguarding Professionals. Cardiff: Social Care Wales.