



**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE in Consolidation
of Social Work Practice
LEVEL 6 - 60 Credits
BMPPF6044**

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

Learner's name: Nicola Edwards

Email address: nicolaeds82@gmail.com

Learner's University Registration Number: 1103818

Cohort: 22

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.

Adult rights are protected in Wales by a number of national and international laws, including The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR, 1950) which protects people's rights and liberties. The Human Rights Act 1998, incorporates these rights into domestic British law. Wales also adheres to the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, overseen and held to account by the Older People's Commissioner for Wales (2024).

In Wales, adult safeguarding is governed primarily by the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 [SSWBA], specifically Part 7. Section 126 states if a local authority suspects a person within its area is at risk, they may make necessary enquiries to decide whether action needs to be taken. Furthermore, section 128 states the duty of relevant partners of the local authority to report adults believed to be at risk. The SSWBA 2014 identifies five categories of abuse; physical, sexual, psychological, emotional and financial (SSWBA 2014, s.197). In Wales, from 2022-2023, the total number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk of abuse, where it was necessary for enquiries to be made, was 12,546 (Stats Wales, 2024b).

My local authority sits under the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board. The Adults provision of the organisation CWMPAS (Collaborative Working and Maintaining Partnership

in Adult Safeguarding) is a multi-agency strategic partnership, coordinating local practices. It provides guidance regarding adult safeguarding thresholds, ensuring responses to abuse and neglect are proportionate, appropriate and consistent across the region (Cysur, 2019). The pro-forma multi-agency referral form (MARF) is used to ensure required information is included in all referrals.

Certain groups in society, including the elderly, those with long-term illness, disabilities, or mental health problems, are more vulnerable and at an increased risk of abuse (The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence [NICE], 2024). That said, NICE warns social workers not to get complacent about other minority groups, and to be mindful about equality and diversity issues. Personal assumptions regarding a person's gender, sexuality, religion or culture, when responding to concerns and allegations, may unintentionally affect the outcome of an assessment. Ongoing training and effective supervision is vital to develop knowledge and the ability to identify abuse (NICE, 2024). An understanding of the indicators of harm, neglect and abuse are vital. Unexplained or frequent injuries; limited access to money; becoming withdrawn; low self esteem and self-harming are only a few examples to look out for (Social Care Institute for Excellence [SCIE], 2020).

Social workers must work in line with the national Wales Safeguarding Procedures, in order to apply the SSWBA 2014 legislation correctly and standardise practice across Wales (Wales Safeguarding Procedures, 2024). These procedures remind social workers that consideration must be given to the adult at risk's personal outcomes, and allow them to be in control of decisions regarding how risks are managed. During assessments, the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005 and its principles must also be taken into consideration. A person must be deemed to have capacity and allowed to make their own decisions, even if they are unwise ones. If there is reason to doubt capacity, a mental capacity assessment must be undertaken. If deemed to lack capacity, any decisions made must be in the person's best interest, and where relevant, family and carers should be involved in the decision making (Mullin, 2020, p.298).

[550 words]

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

Children's rights in Wales are also protected by the SSWBA 2014. Section 130 sets the duty of relevant partners of a local authority to report children at risk. However, It is section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and 2004, that outlines the local authorities duty to investigate, should they believe a child to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, abuse or neglect. Additionally, as of March 21, 2022, the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020 has made it illegal to physically punish children in Wales.

The key differences between adults and children's safeguarding is around legal capacity. The SSWBA 2014 and MCA 2005 ensures adults' rights are upheld and they are able to make their own decisions, wise or unwise, if deemed to have capacity. When an adult cannot make decisions due to lack of capacity, the legislation respects their rights and preferences as much as possible. Best practice is to work with their families and carers during best interest meetings to agree on what they believe would be the person's desired outcome (Mullin, 2020, p.298).

The legal duty to safeguard children is proactive and focuses on prevention and early intervention. Children are universally considered vulnerable due to their age, developmental stage, and dependency on adults. The safeguarding process for children involves assessing the child's needs, providing support to families, and taking protective action when necessary. In child safeguarding, multi-agency collaboration is critical, involving health, education, social services, and law enforcement (O'Loughlin and Bywater, 2012, p.25). The process often includes child protection conferences, care plans, and, when necessary, legal

interventions like court orders. For adults, safeguarding focuses more on a person-centred approach, respecting the adult's autonomy and rights. The process includes assessing capacity, promoting advocacy, and, where appropriate, creating safeguarding plans that align with the adult's wishes.

With children, confidentiality is balanced against the need to share information to protect the child's welfare, often without the child's consent due to their age. Although the Gillick Competence and Fraser Guidelines support professionals to make decisions with older children; balancing the child's wishes, while keeping them safe (NSPCC, 2022).

For adults, safeguarding respects the individual's right to privacy and confidentiality, with consent being a key factor unless the person lacks capacity or there is an overriding public interest.

In summary, while both child and adult safeguarding in Wales aim to protect individuals from harm, they differ significantly in their legal frameworks, target populations, procedural approaches, and emphasis on autonomy and consent.

[418 words]

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