

My role- Key worker

My name is Olivia and I am Freddie's key worker in the setting.

I am in this meeting today to discuss the concerns that were raised about Freddie.

My role as a key worker is to ensure the children feel safe, secure, seen, and listened too and aware of their rights (Welsh Government, 2026).

I have a duty of care to ensure that all concerns or suspicions are reported and referred to the appropriate people (Safeguarding Wales, 2019).

In line with the Data Protection Act (2018), whilst understanding the importance of confidentiality, information can be shared once there is a safeguarding concern.

Therefore, any information shared today is to protect the children involved.

Following the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR, 2025) I ensured that the data and information gathered was used appropriately and accurate.

I recorded and reported my concerns to my manager (Hannah) and onto MyConcern which is where we record and report our concerns in the setting, I done this after noticing that the child became very withdrawn with others and in activities he usually enjoyed.

In line with Safeguarding Wales (2019) and guidance from my manager and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), I ensured to record everything that was worrying us, dates were written down, accurate information was given, this was to ensure the children involved, safety and wellbeing. MyConcern (2024) is used in our setting, which is in line with our policy for recording safeguarding concerns and keeping children safe and secure.

The child has started to arrive at the setting wearing dirty clothes and the child's level of hygiene has started to decline over the last month. Which in line with Safeguarding Wales (2019) is a sign of neglect.

The NSPCC (2025) clearly states that a child that is left in dirty clothes daily is a form of neglect, and this could have an impact on the child in the future.

These observations may indicate neglect, which is a failure to meet the children's basic psychological and physical needs. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs clearly shows what children's basic needs are such as food, water, clean clothing and sleep. Referring to the hierarchy of needs the child has been showing, poor hygiene, behavioural changes, dirty clothing and concerns regarding the child's welfare.

United Nations Rights of the child (UNCRC, 2019) state on Article 19, every child has the right to be protected from any violence, abuse, or in this case possible neglect. We all have an obligation to ensure that all children are protected and safe.

After expressing concerns, the manager and I had a meeting with the mother discussing our concerns. However, the mother could not give us any further explanation of the child's behaviour and said there are no changes to family circumstances and Mum does not see any changes regarding the behaviour.

As more concerns were raised and recorded, the child arrived at the setting with a male who was not known to us. Myself and other practitioners were able to smell a strong smell of alcohol on the male.

Under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act (2014) they state that we must ensure that the child is safe and secure, ensuring that their basic needs are being met and being protected from any unlawful harm.

The child was clearly distressed and became more withdrawn than usual after being dropped off. We are also aware that the child also has a younger sister named Tilly who is under a year old.

As a childcare professional, I have a duty of care towards all children within the family, not only the three-year-old child attending the setting. Any concerns regarding the one

child may indicate risks to the other child living in the same household. This is supported by the Children Act (1989) and Children Act (2004), this is to ensure that all of us safeguard and promote the welfare of all the children.

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015) encourages early prevention and intervention to improve outcomes for children and families.

Following this incident, I immediately informed my manager (Hannah) and passed it on to the DSL and a referral to Social Services was made, multi-agencies are involved such as Health Visitor regarding the younger sibling's development and health and whether there has been any concerns about parental involvement and engagement which is in line with the Multi-Agency Practice framework (2025) to ensure that everyone works together to help the children and families.

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