

Self-Reflection

This reflection explores my learning and development through the safeguarding module and across my experience in the early years. From my prior knowledge of safeguarding that has been learnt through working in a school, there are dedicated inset days where all staff go through policies and procedures to ensure staff are knowledgeable on how to act when presented with a safeguarding issue and to make sure all information is up to date. Across each Classroom, there are information boards where policy booklets are on hand if needed and clearly shown posters of who the designated safeguarding leads are.

My understanding of safeguarding at the beginning of this module was that safeguarding is a role carried out by all practitioners as we are all responsible for the safety and well-being of the children in our care. As a practitioner, I am DBS checked along with anyone who will be working with children or vulnerable adults as it is a legal requirement by Ofsted to make sure that the individuals they are employing are qualified and safe to work with the children in their care (Disclosure and Barring Service, 2012). Due to previous situations that have been clear safeguarding issues that were not handled appropriately leading to horrific consequences like the case of Genevieve Meehan, where the trusted practitioners showed a lack of compassion and care to keep her safe under their care all because she took a shorter nap than usual which led to her death (Greater Manchester Police, 2024).

During the course learning about the Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance highlighted how wide of a range of agencies that could be involved when safeguarding a child, that being anywhere that a child has a responsibility of a child in their care to children, as it is a shared responsibility of all agencies involved to communicate together for the wellbeing and safety of children in their care.

When starting this module, I was confident that I understood abuse, but from listening through lectures and reading material I have widened my knowledge on how many different types of abuse there are, non-recent abuse was a difficult one to read about as this showed the effects later on in life on adults who remember the abuse they went through. Non-recent abuse shows the effects in later life such as emotional difficulties with anxiety and depression, having struggles with parenting or mental health issues (NSPCC, 2025). This shows that it is vital that child abuse needs to be monitored closely to give a child the best chance at a healthy and positive future.

From this course, I have found the use of the safeguarding app to be extremely useful as this is a direct information source for individuals employed in education or care. It has been useful when in practice as it has helped me learn more about policies and legislation as it is very quick to access up to date policies but also a way for all practitioners to be following the same procedures, as all the data will be the same as used by multiagency and the setting practitioners, so that everyone can refer back to and be informed of the same policies and documents. Being able to have it on a phone or a device that is nearby makes it easy for staff to check over policies straightaway or together on training days or in action as it will give pointers on how to handle situations (Wales Safeguarding Procedures, 2025).

In conclusion, I believe that this safeguarding module has improved and informed my understanding of safeguarding and will help in my future practice. From my early career in childcare I have always known that the safety and care of the children are my responsibility as well as the other practitioners working alongside me. However, from my learning in the previous weeks, I have found learning about the hidden signs of abuse to look out for and how to respond in these situations.

References for Self-reflection

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