



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

**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.

My main focus of work is children's safeguarding and has been since qualifying as a social worker, therefore I will discuss adult safeguarding. Whilst I do not actively work in adults safeguarding, as a social care practitioner it is essential that I have an understanding of adult safeguarding; this is to enable me to recognise an adult in need of care and support or at risk; and to enable me to support the whole family within my role as a children's social worker. Social Care practitioners support complex families where the adults will require their own support at times to enable them to meet their own children's needs and at times the adults may be at risks themselves.

Adult safeguarding is underpinned by legislation that places an overarching duty on local authorities to deliver a service in line with local policies and procedures. Legislation places a duty under Part7, Section 128 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 on local authorities and their partners to report an adult they suspect to be at risk, and states the responsibilities of informing other local authorities should that adult reside in their local authority; this shared the responsibility and promotes under legislation a multi-agency approach.

Those duties also apply to assessing risk once a report has been made; Part3, Section 19 applies to assessing the care and support of an adult and Part7, section 126 for adults at risk and making further enquiries.

If an adult is deemed at risk, and they have capacity, (Mental Capacity Act, 2005) the individual has to consent to interventions, and are within their rights to decline and assessment and support. An adult is within their rights to make their own decisions even if they are putting themselves at risk. As practitioners, this must be respected, and the rights of the individual promoted under the Human Rights Act 1998.

Under the Mental Capacity Act 2005, it should be assumed that adults have capacity to make decisions unless established that they do not have capacity. If it is believed that an individual lacks capacity, a mental capacity assessment is required to come to that assessment. It is not to be assumed that an adult lacks capacity due to unwise decision making.

The Welsh Government and Ministers along with local authorities have a duty to create a Safeguarding Board for Adults at risk, with an identified partner agency being the lead for that areas Safeguarding Board; with the aim of the board being to protect the adults at risk of harm in their area as well as those with care and support needs. Such risk could be emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect or financial abuse.

By understanding the legislation, policies and procedures, social care practitioners can empower adults they work with to understand their rights, as well as understanding their own role and responsibilities and boundaries.

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

(Word count: 480)

Question b:

Reflect on the difference between safeguarding in adults' and children's work

Whilst the overarching duties placed on local authorities by legislation; the main one being in Wales the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014; remain the same for adults and children; to safeguard them from significant harm. There is a difference between children's services and adult's services; mainly being those of consent and capacity.

Under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, if a child is deemed to be at risk of harm social care practitioners do not require consent from those holding parental responsibility to speak to the child or make enquiries with partner agencies as they consider necessary. Whilst good practice under the professional codes of conduct (Social Care Wales), strive to work with families in an open and honest way, there are times when children need to be spoken to immediately without consent to address any safeguarding concerns.

Further powers are in place for removing children from unsafe situations; Police can remove a child or young person from an unsafe situation under Section 46 of the Children Act 1989. Whilst professionals strive to ensure the wishes and feelings of the child are heard and included in care planning, the overarching duties placed on professionals to safeguard children sometimes prevents this from happening. Whilst a child's voice can always be heard, there

are times when a child's wishes and feelings can not be considered due to safeguarding concerns.

In contrast to this, within adults services, whilst local authorities can under legislation (Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014, Section 126, Part7) make enquiries to assess if any adult is at significant risk of harm, adult with capacity are entitled to make their own decisions. Under the Mental Capacity Act 2005, a person is within their rights to make their own decisions; even if unwise. Under this Act a person is not to be deemed as lacking capacity due to an unwise decision. As a professional this can be difficult to manage particularly if as a professional a need or risk is identified but support and intervention is declined. If following a mental capacity assessment, an individual is deemed as lacking capacity, best interest decisions must be made, and where possible the individual to be part of that decision making and attempts be made to support the individual to understand information.

Understanding the difference between adults and children's legislation, policies and procedures enables and empowers social care practitioners to understand their role, limitations and boundaries. It supports professionals to explain decision making to individuals and their families, who at times can question the intentions and decision-making process.

(Word count; 426)

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