

ECEY 5011 - Safeguarding Part 1 Script

9th July 2024

Julie Lockett, Stephanie Barrett, Natasha James, Eliesha Rogers and Emma Graham

Emma Graham – Social Worker – Chairperson

Thank you for your attendance to conference today regarding Jodie, Ben, and Lily. My name is Emma Graham, and I will be chairing this meeting. Today is Tuesday 9th July 2024. Let us make a start. Julie Lockett If you could report to conference first, please.

Julie Lockett – NNEB/HLTA

My name is Julie Lockett, and I am the NNEB/HLTA within the nursery setting in question.

The Welsh Government (2019) and Professional standards for assisting teaching (Welsh Government, 2019) suggest that as a NNEB/HLTA, I am responsible for promoting a safe environment whilst being vigilant about the physical and emotional well-being of the children. Being confident about identifying and reporting concerns and to recognise signs of abuse, neglect, or any other safeguarding issues and follow the appropriate protocols for reporting concerns to the designated safeguarding Person known as DSP or relevant authorities.

Recently Ben's personality and appearance has changed significantly. He has lost his enthusiasm for group activities and appears very withdrawn. This is more evident during self-play where he is isolating himself from his peers. His appearance is a concern in relation to cleanliness, and an extremely strong smell of urine has been present. This is not in accordance with Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, (McLeod, 2024; Wahome, 2022 and West, 2022). Ben is also over enthusiastic during our snack time like he has not eaten.

This does not reflect how Ben appeared during my home visit with my colleague Stephanie Barrett before his commencement in nursery. The home visit enabled us as staff to familiarise ourselves with Ben and his family within their home setting.

UNICEF (no date c) and UNCRC (2023) state that in Article 24 that all children have the right to receive the highest quality healthcare, access to clean drinking water, nutritious food, and a safe living environment. It is important for both adults and children to have knowledge on maintaining their well-being and safety.

Due to the stated concerns, I sought an explanation from Mum after instruction guidance received from my DSP as to why these changes may be taking place. After our conversation, Mum was unable to offer any clarification in relation to my concerns. I would also state that she did not look 'well' herself and her appearance was dishevelled. I reassured Mum that I was there to listen and support her if she needed me to at any time.

This was in accordance with OFSTED (No date) and NSPCC Learning (no date b), who state that any unexplained changes in behaviour or personality can be potential signs that a young person may be at risk of harm, abuse, or neglect. It is necessary to pay attention to any sudden changes in a child's behaviour in this case Ben's, as these changes could indicate underlying issues that need to be addressed with care and compassion. This was clearly the case with Ben.

McCarthy (2015) acknowledges, the importance of building relationships that supports a level of communication and trust.

According to Guidance Support for Parents from Action for Children (no date) and Children in Wales (2021), support is available for parents and there should be no stigma of embarrassment in seeking help. This is an integral role as a NNEB/HLTA to reinforce this if the situation requires that suggestion.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government, 2018), Spinks (no date) and OFSTED (2023) acknowledges that local organisations and multi-agency partnerships need to develop effective methods for identifying emerging issues and unmet needs of individual children and families. Under this legislation and guidance, I did not feel that

Ben's needs were being adhered to, and this prompted my concerns to be reported our DSP, who is the safeguarding lead for our setting.

Moreover, Dixon *et al.* (2022), NSPCC Learning (2023) and Social Work News (no date) suggest that multi-agency working can be complex; while the agencies and individuals involved generally share common aims and goals regarding the safeguarding process, each operates under its own guidelines, practices, and procedures.

Furthermore, an unknown man was present during Ben's drop off to the setting. This man did not introduce himself and seemed uncomfortable. Ben appeared agitated whilst in his company and responded with,

"It is Mum's friend" when I asked who the man was.

Ben also has a sibling, a little sister called Lily who is under a year old, and she has seemed less animated than usual upon Ben's collection from our setting. As with Ben I have a duty of care for Lily too.

Wales Safeguarding Procedures (2021), Public Health Wales (2023) and Almond, Ball and McManus (2023), acknowledges that safeguarding children is a collective responsibility that involves everyone who encounters children, including parents, caregivers, educators, healthcare professionals, and community members.

This concludes my statement of concern, but I would like to reiterate I am concerned about Ben and his family. I am more than willing to support where needed under multi-agency direction and the policies and procedures of my setting.

Thank you for your time today.

Stephanie Barrett – Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP)

Hello, Stephanie Barrett, the Designated Safeguarding Person in Ben's nursery.

Safeguarding is defined as protecting a child's welfare and safety (McCarthy, 2015). My duty is to ensure all safeguarding concerns, knowledge or suspicions that a child or their family are experiencing is shared with multi-agencies such as social services or the police, using the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, known as MASH (Wales Safeguarding Procedures, no date; Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014; Section 17, Children's Act 1989 updated 2024) Children have the right according to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) (2019) Article 39, to get help if they have experienced abuse, hurt, or neglect.

Concerns for Ben's welfare were brought to my attention by his key worker,, following safeguarding procedures, enabling all practitioners to raise any concerns they may have and record these (Lindon and Webb, 2016) Using 'My Concerns', enables us to easily and safely record all information and in line with Data Protection (The Safeguarding Company, no date). This enabled me to consider the information and what my responsibilities were (McCarthy, 2015). Within our setting, we work hard to attain good relationships with all our parents, using the key worker system with the aim to create the triangle of trust, between the Key Worker, the child and the family (Birth to 5 Matters, no date a). Developed from Bowlby (1969) building relationships ensuring the child feels safe and secure whilst meeting their basic physiological needs (Rose, Gilbert and Richards, 2016).

For the last month Ben has shown unexplained behaviour and arrived in nursery in dirty clothes and with poor hygiene. According to the Welsh Government Safeguarding Guidance (no date b) and NSPCC (2020) these are common signs of suspected abuse, namely neglect. I advised the key worker to talk to Ben's mum. As it is our duty to act in Ben's best interest, in line with Article 3, to ensure all adults do right and to ensure Mum is looking after and protecting him (UNICEF, 2019) However, at times, a parent might be unable to physically or mentally care for a child, possibly due to financial difficulties, illness or depression (Healey, 2018), yet it is a child's right to have their parents provide

for them. If parents are struggling, support should be put in place, Article 18 (UNICEF, 2019).

Furthermore, the key worker spoke with mum and Ben, who gave no reasons for how Ben is currently presenting. Ben needed to have a voice about issues affecting him (Article 12, UNICEF, 2019). Ben's rights are paramount, (Section 2.6 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014) and he is not having his basic needs met from home identified in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs (1943, Garvey and Zeedyk, 2018).

It has been two weeks, and nothing has changed, and still no explanation. He has the right to be protected from neglect, Article 19, (UNICEF, 2019). I have also attempted to talk with mum, and refer her to Cardiff Gateway for Support for Families, to implement an Early Intervention. This organisation works together with other agencies to improve care, support, and improve wellbeing, (Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014), Mum did not consent, seemed to withdraw, and was not her usual warm and nurturing self. Whenever possible, information shared should have consent, under the Data Protection Act 2018 GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) 2018) I used my judgement to ensure no risk to Ben and Lily, following the Working Together to Safeguard People (Welsh Government, 2019), I placed my first Multi-Agency Report Referral Form (MARF) in, to gain support from MASH. The Munro Report (2011) identifies the importance of collaboration with multi agencies and highlights early interventions are effective and in line with Children's Rights.

I received a call from, Operation Encompass, informing me an incident has taken place at Ben's home. The same day, Ben was brought to school by an unknown male, smelling of alcohol, concerning staff and other parents. When Ben entered the nursery, he seemed withdrawn, agitated, and scared. I called mum for a well-being check on herself and to check who this male was. Mums reply was a friend, they argued last night. I informed mum of the Operation Encompass and stated how Ben appeared. I told Mum, that I will be contacting MASH and completing a referral. Emphasising my duty to act in the best interest of Ben and Lily (HM Government, 2023) additionally reducing risks the children are exposed to therefore reducing the likelihood of Adverse Childhood

Experiences (ACEs) (Education Wales, 2022; Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; Welsh Government, 2021)

Following protocol, I made my second referral to Cardiff MASH due to my significant concerns about the family. Healey (2018) says issues in the home can disrupt a child's psychological wellbeing and is a form of emotional maltreatment. Ben and his sister according to Article 24, have the right to an environment that is safe and clean as well as Article 27, a safe place to live (UNICEF, 2019).

This concludes my report to conference today.

Natasha James – Police Officer

Hello, I am PC James the police officer, Information associated with criminal history will be shared concerning incidents relating to children's safety (Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnerships, 2020). The Home Office (2016) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) (2015) state that police officers have a leading role in safeguarding children through the role of preventing, as well as investigating crime. Police officers hold a role in identifying, protecting and safeguarding children. While Working Together to Safeguard Children framework, states that working in a strong multi-agency must be maintained to identify and respond to children's and family's needs (HM Government, 2023). Information will be shared in line with Data Protection act 2018 to protect physical mental and emotional wellbeing of individuals. As a police officer I have powers of protection to remove a child to a place of safety if I believe a child is at risk of significant harm within the section 46 of the Children Act 1989 (Wales Safeguarding Procedures, 2024b).

The police received a call from neighbours of the affected property approximately one month ago, reporting antisocial behaviour of raised voices. I received the report from the attending police officer who explained that the tenants of the reported property were reluctant to let the attending officers in. There were signs of intoxication and upset from the tenants at the property *Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, 2014 section 127*. Which was enforced and calming measures were used to support the occupants of

the house who are known to be Jodie and Marcus which is Jodie's friend. Ben was not in the house at this time.

A visual overview of the inside of the property indicated cans and glass bottles of alcohol littered around the house. The officer heard a baby crying from an upstairs room mam was to try and settle the baby. On returning downstairs, the officer noted Jodie struggled to sooth Lily and showed signs of upset along with an indication of attachment issues between her and Lily, (Howe, 2011 cited in National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children learning (NSPCC Learning, 2021a). This could be due to a variety of reasons, possibly the mother's mental health difficulties or becoming a single parent (NSPCC Learning, 2021a).

There were dirty nappies and dirty clothes around the house and a strong smell coming from the kitchen from the dirty plates in the sink. Every child has the right to adequate standards of living as stated in Article 27 of the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), 2019).

There was a second call to the police at midnight ten days ago, which came from neighbours where they could hear a man shouting and a woman crying, shouting 'leave me alone', as well as 'stop', continuously. When I arrived at the house, I observed Ben sitting at the top of the stairs in his pyjamas with his head in his hands upset. I approached Ben to ask why he was upset. Ben explained, 'Marcus had been hitting and throwing things at my mam and it woke me up'. I reassured Ben saying we were there to help him. Article 19 of UNCRC that every child has a right to be cared for and protected from neglect and abuse (Welsh Government, no date a). In line with The Children Act 1989 and 2004 there is a requirement for multi agencies working together to safeguard and support the children's welfare (Heddlu Dyfed-Powys, 2021). I would be required to inform the local children social care office if there were signs of risk or harm to the child, in this instance I informed the social worker (West Yorkshire Police, 2021).

The report detailed the incidents within the house in line with Section 130 of the *Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014* to report any incident to the relevant partners and Section 28 of the Children Act 2004 (Welsh Government, 2021b) Collaboration will

ensure effective support is provided to safeguard and encourage the welfare of the children (NSPCC learning, 2024).

Signs of withdrawal or lack of involvement were displayed by Ben's behaviour which is associated with exposure to witnessing domestic abuse at home (Barnardos, 2024). Jodie was upset about the events and explained that they both had been drinking and having a good night, however it went too far, and they both started to have a disagreement whereby, Marcus started to hit her and throw glass bottles and cans. When I asked Jodie about Lilys whereabouts, she told me she was sleeping upstairs. Individuals have the right to feel safe in their home as stated in the *Domestic Abuse Act 2021*. While making sure that Jodie's physical and mental wellbeing is being looked after in line with the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*.

Immediately after attending both incidents, an Operation Encompass (no date) phone call took place to the designated safeguarding leader within the Early Years setting before the start of next school day. This may reduce the long-term impacts of domestic abuse the child has had exposure to, in addition to providing early intervention and support (South Wales Police, 2024).

Due to the emotional abuse exposure, the children should be placed on the child protection register list in the local authority area to protect the children from suffering or likely to suffer significant harm with a care and support plan in place (Wales Safeguarding Procedure, 2024a).

This concludes my report to conference today.

Emma Graham – Social Worker

Good afternoon, my name is Emma Graham and I am reporting to conference on the 9th of July as a family social worker to Jodie, Ben and Lily.

As a family social worker, my role is to safeguard children, promote their welfare, and support families in accordance with Section 17 of the Children's Act 1989 and Lim (no date).

This report details my involvement with Jodie and her children, following a police referral by PC James. Can you please confirm this PC James? The referral was made under Section 130 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and Section 28 of the Children's Act 2004.

Upon receiving the referral, a Child in Need assessment was initiated as per Section 17 of the Children's Act 1989 (Child Law Advice, 2023). This assessment aims to establish whether a support plan for the child and family is necessary. Under Section 47 of the Children's Act 1989, local authorities are mandated to investigate and ensure the safety and welfare of children at risk. This includes conducting Section 47 enquiries if there is reason to believe a child is at risk of immediate significant harm (Child Law Advice, 2023).

During my visits to the family home, the following observations were made, the home environment was untidy with empty bottles, broken glass, soiled nappies on the floor, and a strong urine smell. The state of the household suggests that basic needs such as cleanliness, safety, and stability are not being met. This aligns with the principles outlined in Maslow's hierarchy of needs, where basic and safety needs must be addressed for overall well-being (Huntington, 2023).

In addition to this, Lily was found with a soiled nappy, and dirty clothing indicating poor hygiene and potential neglect. Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018), National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2017) and NSPCC (2020) define physical neglect as failing to meet a child's basic physical needs, such as hygiene and appearance. Lily's condition is an indicator of neglect.

Additionally, recent domestic violence incidents involving Jodie and her partner Marcus raise additional concerns. Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ensures children's right to protection from violence, abuse, and neglect

(UNICEF, 2017). Consequently, NSPCC (no date a), states that witnessing domestic violence is emotional abuse.

Moreover, Jodie's struggles with low mood and alcohol dependency are concerning. The NSPCC (2021b) notes that parents with substance abuse issues often struggle to meet their children's needs, leading to poor supervision and increased risk of harm. The NHS (2022b) advises against alcohol consumption in cases of depression, as it can exacerbate symptoms.

According to the British Association of Social Workers (2021), transparency in actions and decisions is crucial in social work practice. Evans (2023) reinforces that transparency can strengthen relationships between social workers and clients. The Munro report (2011) highlights the importance of multi-agency collaboration for a comprehensive understanding of a child's circumstances. Reports should be relevant, factual, and highlight key concerns (Safeguarding Wales, no date).

The UK GDPR supports the sharing of necessary information to protect vulnerable individuals while balancing privacy rights. The Information Commissioner's Office (no date) and the Department for Education (2023) both emphasise this balance in cases of potential abuse or neglect.

Based on the observations and assessment, it cannot be denied that Jodie and her children are experiencing significant challenges. However, UNICEF, (2017) Article 7 of the UNCRC states children have the right to be cared for by their parents. Article 9 of the UNCRC states that separation may be necessary if it is in the child's best interest (UNICEF, 2017). In this case, the children may be at risk of harm due to environmental neglect, physical neglect, and emotional abuse. It is important to address these concerns promptly to ensure their safety and well-being.

This concludes my report for conference today.

Eliesha Rogers - Health Visitor

Hello, my name is Eliesha Rogers, and I am a health visitor. I have been registered on the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) register since 2010 (Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) 2015).

As a health visitor I must follow the nurses, midwives and health visitor Act 1979. Under section 28 of the children's Act 2004 my role is to specialize in working with families with children from birth to the age of 5 by promoting the healthy child Wales programme (Welsh government 2021 a), the health and well-being and identify any health needs of the children. I am there to support, protect and safeguard the children from any harm. This is supported by NHS (no date c), National carers service no date, Social care Wales 2024.

I have been involved with this family since Ben was born back in 2021. I have visited Ben 4 times since birth. This is in regulation with NHS (no date b). At Bens first visit at 12 days old I gave mam advice on safe sleeping, vaccinations, feeding and information regarding Ben's development in the next few months (NCT no date and NHS 2023).

During further visits mam seemed to be doing well and taking to parenthood naturally and Ben was a happy and content baby who was developing in accordance of the guidelines of the Boys UK-WHO growth chart 0-4 years (Royal Collage of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) 2009a).

Forwarding on to Ben's 2-year check-up he was a cheerful and energetic child. During my observation I noticed that Ben had reached each milestone for his age regarding his development and speech and language. This is in guidelines with speech and language UK no date and Welsh government (2015). This Is also supported by UNICEF (no date a).

During this visit Mam exposed to me that she was expecting a little girl in the coming months and was naming her Lily. During all of my visits I had no concerns regarding the health, cleanliness and well-being of Ben.

When Lily was born, I was assigned to be her health visitor along with Ben's. On my visit to see Lily at 2 weeks old I conducted a family health review in compliance with Core contacts for children 0-7 (Welsh government, 2022). All was progressing well and the

relationships between mother and baby and brother and sister were positive. The cleanliness of the home, and the children were good. Ben and Lily looked well-nourished and healthy. This is in regulation with Building a brighter future Plan (Welsh government, 2013). This is also supported by Birth to 5 matters no date.

During my visit to Lily at 8 weeks old, I noticed that the cleanliness of both Ben and Lily and the home had deteriorated. My concerns arose in regulation with the well-being of future generations act 2015 (Commissioner for Wales, 2024) When I confronted mam, she said that she had seen a doctor about postpartum depression, that the doctor had prescribed antidepressants for a brief period and advised some talking therapy once a week. She also declared that the relationship between her and Lily was not great and felt hopeless and depressed most of the time (NHS 2022a) During this time I did have concerns about the children's wellbeing along with mams mental health. I had document all this down on the Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) (NHS no date a) I made a follow up appointment to see the children and her situation in a months' time to see if things had gotten better.

Upon the follow up appointment with mam she seemed better, and the overall cleanliness of the children and the home was much better. She said the antidepressant and the talking therapy had been helping and her relationship with Lily was better. The development Lily Was correct in correspondence with Girls UK_WHO growth chart 0-4 years (RCPCH 2009b).

In regulation with the mandatory health visit check (Bennet, 2017) Lilys 8-month visit did not go as well as previous visits there was a smashed glass near the front door and as mam opened the door there was a strong odour coming from inside and a smell of alcohol coming from mam. I noticed there were old nappies dotted around, and smell grew stronger as I got further in the cleanliness of the home and Lily were not great. UNICEF no date b article 24 states that every child has the right to a clean environment. During this visit Ben was not at the property and Lily was very unsettled mam struggle to sooth her. Mam did declare that she and her neighbour had had a few drinks in the garden last night. My concerns for the safety and wellbeing of the children were escalating in accordance with social services and well-being act (Wales) 2014.

I was then contacted by Emma the social worker who informed me that an operation Encompass had been sent to the school By Pc James.

Upon hearing this I had tried to contact mam to arrange a visit to see how thing were and I had no rely that is when I had made the decision to visit the home and mam did not let me in and because this was a mandatory visit I had to file a non-attendant form saying that mam did not attend. This is in regulation with All Wales health visiting services (NHS 2020) It was at this point that I contacted Emma, and she notified me that section 17 of the social services and wellbeing act 2014 had been carried out and that a initial child protection conference will be taking place in the coming days. Under section 10 of the children's act 2004 it is our duty to make arrangements and corporate with one another to improve the wellbeing of the children. (HM Government 2023)

This concludes my report regarding the safeguarding of Ben and Lily thank you for listening.

Emma Outcome/Finalise -

Acting as chairperson today I would like to Thank you for your reports to conference and for working together to gauge an understanding of the family's situation in line with statutory guidance from the Working Together to Safeguard Children Act (2023) Department of Education (2023).

By addressing these issues and supporting Jodie through her challenges she may be better equipped to meet her children's needs and create a healthier environment for her, Ben and Lily. It is important to approach this situation with empathy and provide Jodie with the resources and support she needs to improve her and the children's well-being. Please leave today and think about how we will proceed with the case, whether this will be a support plan, or the children being placed on the at-risk register. Please open your diaries and schedule a meeting for 16th July at 09:00 hours.

Thank you.

Personal-Reflections

Julie Luckett

As a long time NNEB and recently a qualified HLTA I knew that there was a safeguarding responsibility and a protocol that must be adhered to that is a legal responsibility.

As safeguarding is constantly changing in accordance with children's needs in our care, we must keep ourselves updated on the necessary documentation protocol and any training available. I have participated in safeguarding training within my setting, and we are proactive in accessing updated protocols and legislation.

During this group activity I have discovered that there is a tremendous amount of support available for parents in need through multi-organisations. It would be advantageous for my setting to distribute these and alleviate any stigma that may be attached.

Also, whilst participating collaboratively within this module I have discovered positivity and support from those involved. This includes their own practice and their individual setting procedures especially related to supporting their children and families.

Recently there were several safeguarding concerns due to pupil disclosures. I have been in my current setting for nearly twenty-three years, and I have never experienced anything quite like this.

Supporting the children involved took care and consideration whilst adhering to the safeguarding protocol, utilising our self-harm and suicide awareness policy where I was part of a small party involved in creating it. Also importantly checking in with those staff members who were involved in supporting the children during this time. Well-being matters.

Stephanie Barrett

Before starting the safeguarding module, I felt I already had good knowledge and understanding as I have worked within a school setting for 15 years and every year renewing my Level 1 safeguarding. My role for the last five years as the well-being lead and having to work closely with the DSP and Family Liaison Officer and children who maybe experiencing abuse at some kind of level, either physical, emotional, sexual, and neglect and being a safe person for children to talk to.

from my role, I was aware that I cannot make any promises to the child and that it is my duty to protect children in my care and record exactly what they say, then I would report it via My Concerns or depending on the level of concern directly to the DSP.

What I learnt and was most surprisingly shocked at was the acts and legislation's that are in place and how they have had to be amended due to another case of abuse. I was more surprised that each nation of the UK has their own versions and within Wales, each county seems to have a different way, especially when recording, reporting and multi-agency process.

I was pleased to learn how quickly the relevant social services team must decide action, 1 day and regarding the outcome, within 15 days an initial child protection conference must take place. However, despite all the legislation and multi-agency working it deeply saddens me that regularly we hear of children and young people who have experienced abuse.

During this module it was interesting to gain knowledge on different roles the Multi agency team have in the case, although it as also brought to my attention how important a practitioner's role in knowing their children to identify concerns to provide early intervention. It has also highlighted how important communication is and how working as a team with multi agencies is paramount for the child and family.

What I intend to do next share information with my team for next year and ensure all staff are fully aware of the support available to families.

What I have gained from this module to keep me up to date with the procedures was downloading the Wales Safeguarding Procedures app.

Natasha James

My knowledge of safeguarding is to protect children from harm and to ensure their wellbeing. Safeguarding measures include building safe environments, following existing policies to prevent abuse and neglect, encouraging open communication, working with multi agencies and keeping an eye on how well safeguarding practices are working.

As an early year's practitioner in a school setting, the importance of safeguarding children cannot be overlooked. Throughout my role, I have completed level 1 safeguarding training, which has equipped me with the necessary knowledge and skills to ensure the wellbeing and safety of the children in my care. In addition to this, I have experience in reporting information disclosed by a child onto the 'my concern' website that we use as a school, as well as informing the safeguarding officers of any disclosures.

One key aspect that I have recently become familiar with is the safeguarding app, which I have found to be a valuable resource in my role. This app allows me to easily access information and guidance on safeguarding procedures, ensuring that I am always on the right track and able to respond effectively to any potential concerns.

Participating in lectures and training sessions has further enhanced my understanding of safeguarding practices, including simple yet relevant measures such as, locking doors to protect children from harm and making sure there are no hazards for children to fall over. I have also gained insight into the importance of being vigilant to any changes in children's behaviour, as this can often be an early indicator of potential safeguarding issues.

I have learnt about the importance of Operation Encompass, which provides information directly to the school ensuring that we are aware of the children/families who have been visited by the police after a 999 call. This gives me an understanding of who I need to keep a close eye on. This has highlighted the need for me to be a thorough and efficient practitioner in recording and reporting any safeguarding concerns. It is imperative that I

remain alert to the signs of abuse or neglect and take prompt action to protect the children in my care.

Overall, my commitment to safeguarding children is constantly growing and I am grateful for the knowledge and skills that I have gained through training and professional development. I am dedicated to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and I will continue to stay informed and vigilant in my safeguarding practices.

Emma Graham

In my role as a teaching assistant, I have embraced numerous training opportunities, including those focused on safeguarding and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). I prioritise staying current with the latest applications and protocols for recording and sharing information, ensuring that I am equipped to protect myself, my colleagues, and, most importantly, the children in my care. My ongoing professional development in this area includes an understanding of the various forms of abuse, these being physical, emotional, sexual, and neglect.

During this module, I have gained a deeper understanding of the four types of abuse. Physical, emotional, sexual abuse, and neglect. Moreover, I have learned about the alarming ways criminals use social media for child drug mules, radicalisation, child trafficking and the sexual exploitation and grooming of children. This has broadened my perspective on the digital dangers that children face today.

Additionally, while I was previously aware of the Children's Act 1989, I was quite shocked to discover the extensive range of legislation and guidelines that agencies follow to protect children. This realisation has underscored the importance of staying informed about these legal frameworks to ensure that, as a practitioner, I am fully equipped to uphold these standards in my role.

Having this new level of knowledge can aid in further supporting colleagues, families, and children. I have also gained knowledge on the safeguarding app, which allows me to stay up to date with changes or new guidance in legislation. This tool is invaluable in ensuring that I am always informed and prepared to implement the latest safeguarding

practices effectively. This module has enhanced my knowledge and reinforced the importance of vigilance and legal awareness in safeguarding children.

Eliesha Rogers

Prior to this assignment, I was apprehensive of this topic since there was a lot of content to process, but as the lectures continued and I began researching, I became more confident on the subject. I had a general awareness of safeguarding; I understood the essentials of what to do and who to call. Every September for the past ten years that I have worked as a teaching assistant, I have attended safeguarding training level 1. I have developed knowledge and awareness of safeguarding issues during my years as a teaching assistant, and I have become very aware of any changes that may raise concerns for me. If I have any concerns about the safeguarding children, I record them on my concerns page so that other staff members can view them if necessary. In addition, I notify one of the three safeguarding offices in my setting, so they are also aware that I have filed a report.

I have learned throughout this module that there are many regulations and laws regarding safeguarding children. Along with the many different legislation and acts that each professional needs to follow and what procedures they need to take. I now know that there is a safeguarding app with an abundance of information available to aid in any circumstance, and I plan to use it should the need arise in the future. I understand that there are several organisations that collaborate to keep children safe from harm, abuse, and neglect, in addition to making sure their rights are upheld, and they receive excellent care along with many agencies to support families. I now have a better understanding of child protection and how regulations have evolved and changed over time. If any safeguarding incidents do occur in my setting, I feel more prepared and educated of addressing them and know what action to take.

I intend on learning more about safeguarding in the future. I aim to complete safeguarding courses level 2 and 3, and following that, any training that may be needed to become a safeguarding officer myself.

That Concludes our reflections thank you for listening.

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