

The timeline of Batty (2005) shows how the safeguarding legislation for the safety and wellbeing of the child has been developed. The first Children Act was in force in 1989, Legislation has been developed over the years to improve the child's welfare and wellbeing, and up to this time it is still being developed to protect children with new technology and online safety (Parliament, 2015/2016).

The case studies have had a major impact on the development of legislation over the years providing strong evidence of the physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect the children suffered. Agencies did not identify the indicators of abuse, neglect or report concerns, where clear evidence suggests that there were several indicators that professionals failed to act upon (BBC NEWS, 2005). The children involved in these cases were not given the opportunity to express concerns affecting them or have their feelings considered as stated in article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Gov.UK, 2010).

Littlemore (2003) states the investigation into the Victoria Climbié case provided evidence that agencies were not following the current legislation requirements to safeguard children's wellbeing and protection from abuse. Early intervention by the agencies involved could have prevented Victoria Climbié's death (Great Britain: Department of Education, 2015). In 2003 Lord Laming's report discovered the police, social services and medical professionals were not following procedures to protect Victoria's health and wellbeing, when on 12 separate occasions early identification could have saved Victoria Climbié from suffering and even death (Great Britain, Department of Health, 2003). UNCRC (1990) states children have the right to be protected from abuse neglect and violence (Gov.UK, 2010).

Following the death of Victoria, in the publishing of Every Child Matters, Lord Laming introduced an electronic tracking system for concerns to be documented. The children's director would have clear evidence of concerns of abuse or neglect documented and make judgement on an immediate referral and report to the safeguarding board, police department and social services (DFH, 2003).

Developing my research further I discovered not long after the death of Victoria Climbié allegations of sexual abuse were made against a teacher, Mr Owens at a comprehensive school in Pontypridd, Wales. The children's commissioner carried out the Clywch inquiry in 2002 and the report was published in 2004 containing evidence of allegations made against Mr Owens where he would intimidate children to perform scenes of sexual acts and sexual contact. Most children followed instructions in fear of losing main parts, others who refused to perform sexual acts were dismissed from the class and not given a part during the play (Children's Commissioner for Wales, 2004). The UNCRC states children have the right to develop to their full potential (Gov.UK, 2010). It is concerning that a member of staff failed to report suspicious behaviour carried out by Mr Owens, who targeted vulnerable children to share rooms whilst on nights away associated with school and overnight stays at his home (Children's Commissioner for Wales, 2004). A member of staff informed the head teacher with information regarding Mr Owens behaviour, where he failed to report the concerns to the police or social services following the procedures and guidelines in the legislation of the Children Act 1989 (DFE, 2015). Children made allegations against Mr Owens, but their voices were not heard or considered. Following the water house report, Lost in Care (Towler, 2008) one of the children's commissioner requirements was to engage with children and young people acknowledging their views, opinions, concerns and matters affecting them (Great Britain, Department of Health, 2000).

The Employment Rights Act 1996 was published to influence professionals and organisations to report concerns, the professionals in the school did not follow policies and procedures to safeguard children. The teacher had the right to make judgement on the issue being resolved by following the whistle blowing policy by informing a prescribed person or organisation with the concerns (DFH, 1996; Great Britain, Department for business innovation skills, 2015).

The policies and procedures documented in the Children Act 1989 suggest individuals need to raise concerns to prevent children being at harm from paedophiles working within settings (DfE, 2015). Following the death of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman who were murdered by Ian Huntley, who was employed as a care taker in the school that Holly and Jessica attended. There was no access to records of his past convictions including assault, grooming and sexual abuse towards young people allowing him access into a school environment (Telegraph News, 2017). Therefore, Sir Michael Bichard was selected to chair the inquiry, to ensure procedures were carried out to prevent individuals with criminal offences and paedophiles working with children. The Bichard report was published in 2004 where it is compulsory for individuals to be criminal record bureau checked to ensure safety in the workplace and to safeguard children and young people (DFH, 2004).

Over the years several children have suffered from abuse and neglect resulting in tragic deaths for policies and procedures to be put into place. Although the government have identified and made amendments in legislation to improve the quality of life and to safeguard children. The case studies suggest the children who suffered from abuse and neglect was carried out by parents and carers who are expected to love and care for the child. The research into the case studies have provided me with knowledge and understanding that no matter what the circumstances or my views and opinions all concerns must be reported and documented to build evidence. National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty on Children (2017; 2018) suggest professionals should not delay raising concerns on suspicion after a discussion with parents or carers and continue to gather evidence of concerns to prioritise the health and wellbeing of the child. The Clywch report (Children's Commissioner for Wales, 2004) has developed my understanding of the right to feedback on the concerns reported to ensure the correct procedures are followed to safeguard children.

During the group presentation I have gained more knowledge and understanding of the roles of professionals involved with safeguarding children. The Legislation Every Child Matters was introduced shortly after the death of Victoria Climbié, where each child has the right to support. The partnership between the multi-agencies are required to work together to provide children to be safe, healthy, achieve, to enjoy, to make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being. The legislation of Every Child Matters requires multi-agencies to work together effectively, planning and delivering work accordingly to contribute towards safeguarding children to prevent the failure of the services from past case study reports being repeated in the future (Department for Education and Skills, 2005; Gov.UK, 2010).

A referral is made to provide early intervention to safeguard children and their health and wellbeing. The Common Assessment Framework provides support for practitioners working with children to recognise and assess through process to share with others and recording of evidence (DFH, 2006; DFH, 2003).

Parents need to be aware of the referral unless an overall decision suggests the child may be at risk of harm. Consent must be obtained from the parents or guardians with a signature of

agreement to be recorded in the agency record according to the Human Rights Law (2013) and Data Protection Act (2018). Most children in Wales are on a Child Protection Register because of neglect to care and provide for the child and meet their needs (Government, 2010; NSPCC, 2018). If a child or young person is in danger of abuse and neglect from parents or the immediate family, the government is responsible to provide alternative care (Government, 2010 and DFH, 2000).

The social worker's role is to build a relationship with children and young people within care to prepare and support the transition from care to living independently. A personal Advisor supports the social worker by developing a path way plan to encourage the child or young person with guidance of benefits, employment and training to influence the living skills they require (DFH, 2000).

Public Health Wales (2016) suggests most children that have suffered from neglect and abusive childhoods develop adverse childhood experiences (ACES). ACES are childhood experiences that impact on the child's health and wellbeing and adulthood. Public Health Wales (2016) suggest early intervention in the early years prevents children growing up in an abusive atmosphere. Bandura cited in Gray and MacBlain (2015) states children's behaviour will be influenced by negative copying mechanisms adopted from the experiences encountered in childhood, impacting on the adult behaviour and most learned behaviours will be repeated on their children. Harding (2008) and Roberts (2011) agree where Bronfenbrenner's theory on the Ecological system defines the immediate family influences how the individual will grow and develop where neglect can result in impairment to the child's health and development.

Early intervention encourages safe and caring environments, promoting healthier and happier adults. Early intervention is a priority to safeguard the child's health and wellbeing to grow into healthy, active adults we know children need care, stimulation, stability and love. If children's needs are not met, it can cause significant delay in the children's health, development, wellbeing and educational outcomes (DFH, 2014).

Rights of Children and Young people (Wales) Measure (2011) states early intervention is effective when all professionals make decisions and coordinate with agencies and professionals responsively to identify and act upon concerns affecting the health and wellbeing of the child. Multi agencies including health, education, police, social care and family support will need to share concerns and discuss the indicators of risk to the child. (DFH, 2011).

The Welsh Government has funded the Welsh Neglect Project to identify families in need of support as early as possible where multiagency professionals can act upon providing support and guidance of the services available, where observations can be carried out to ensure the family is developing effectively (Welsh Government, 2017).

The Munro report states all children should be protected from abuse and all professionals are responsible to report concerns including Sure Start and Family First to ensure the efficient interventions are provided to support the child and family. Every Child Matters have maximised opportunities to build services to support the needs of children and young people (DFH, 2011).

The safeguarding module has increased my depth of knowledge and understanding of the amendments made in legislation over the years to safeguard children, where all current and past legislations relate to the UNCRC. The current policies and procedures have been beneficial

to my role and responsibilities as a practitioner working with children. Research has developed my knowledge enabling me to make judgments to report concerns to the teacher and head teacher. My understanding of the documentation of concerns is important to build evidence on the concern, date and who the concerns were reported to. I have gained understanding on the right to feedback on the concerns reported and if my concerns have not been dealt with appropriately it is my responsibility to report to the safeguarding officer. Overall the safeguarding module has influenced my duty and responsibilities to safeguarding children.

Reference list

All Wales Child Protection Procedures (2008) www.awcpp.org.uk [Accessed: 20th October 2018].

Batty, D. (2005) 'In depth: Victoria Climbié Inquiry' http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/uk/2002/victoria_climbié_inquiry/default.stm [Accessed: 12th October 2018].

Batty, D. (2005) 'Timeline: a history of child protection', The Guardian, 18th May. [On-line]. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2005/may/18/childrensservices2> [Accessed: 11th October 2018].

Bentley, H., O'Hagan, O., Brown, A., Vasco, N., Lynch, C., Peppiate, J., Webber, M., Ball, R., Miller, P., Byrne, A., Hafizi, M. and Letendrie, F. (2017) 'NSPCC: How safe are our children? The most comprehensive overview of child protection in the UK' <file:///C:/Users/lisas/AppData/Local/Temp/how-safe-children-2017-report.pdf> [Accessed: 15th October 2018].

Children's Commissioner for Wales. (2004) 'Clywch: Report of the Examination of the Children's Commissioner for Wales into allegations of child sexual abuse in a school setting' <https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Clywch.pdf> [Accessed: 14th October 2018].

Gray, C. and MacBlain, S. (2015) *Learning Theories in Childhood*. (2nd Ed). Los Angeles: SAGE.

Great Britain: Department for business innovation skills. (2015) *Whistle blowing: Guidance for employer and Code of Practice*. London, The National Archives.

Great Britain: Department of Education. (1998) *Data Protection Act*. London, HMSO.

Great Britain: Department of Education. (2018) *Data Protection Act 2018*. London. HMSO.

Great Britain: Department for Education and Employment (1999) *Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children*. London, Stationery Office.

Great Britain: Department for Education. (2015) *The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations: Volume 2: care planning placement and case review*. London, HMSO.

Great Britain: Department for Education and Skills. (2005) *HM Government: An Overview of Cross Government Guidance*. London, HMSO.

Great Britain: Department for Health. (2008) *All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008: Safeguarding. Revised 2008*. London. Stationery Office.

Great Britain: Department of Health (2004) *Children Act*. London, HMSO.

Great Britain: Department of Health. (2006) *Childcare Act*. London, HMSO.

Great Britain: Department of Health. (1996) *Employment Rights Act 1996*. Chapter 18. London, Stationery Office.

Great Britain: Department of Health. (2003) *Every Child Matters*. Cm 5860. London, HMSO.

Great Britain: Department of Health. (2000) *Lost in Care: Report of the Tribunal of Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Care in the Former County Council Areas of Gwynedd and Clwyd since 1974*. London, Stationery Office.

Great Britain: Department of Health. (2003) *Laming Report*. London, HMSO.

Great Britain: Department of Health. (2011) *Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011*. London, HMSO.

Great Britain: Department of Health. (2014) *Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014*. London. Stationery Office.

Great Britain: Department of Health. (2004) *The Bichard Report: Summary of my latest recommendations*. London, COI.

Great Britain: Department of Health. (2011) *The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report: A Child Centred System*. Cm8062 London, Stationery Office.

Great Britain: Department of Health. (2003) *The Victoria Climbié Inquiry: Chairman Lord Lambing*. London. HMSO.

Great Britain: Department of Health. (1998) *Human Rights Act*. Article 8. London. HMSO.

Great Britain: Department of Education. (2013) *Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to Inter-Agency Working to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children*. London: Shurville Publishing.

Great Britain: Welsh Government: Children Act (1989) 3.12. *Conclusion of section 47 enquires 1989*. Cardiff, HMSO.

Great Britain: Welsh Government. (1999) *Children and Young People: Rights to Action 1999*

pp. 5. Cardiff. HMSO.

Great Britain: Welsh Government. (2014) *Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) 2014. Section 134*. Cardiff, HMSO.

Harding, M. F. L. (2008) 'Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law' *Taylor & Francis Online*, Volume 13, No. 3, pp. 179-193. [On-line]. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09649069108415087> [Accessed: 11th October 2018].

Homestart. (No Date) <https://www.home-start.org.uk/about-us> [Accessed: 10th October 2018].

HM Government. (2015) 'Working together to safeguard children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children' https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/592101/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children_20170213.pdf [Accessed: 12th October 2018].

Littlemore, S. (2003) 'Victoria Climbié: chain of neglect' <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/2700427.stm> [Accessed: 13th October 2018].

NHS (No Date) <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/about-change4life> [Accessed: 15th October 2018].

NSPCC (2018) Summary of risk factors and learning for improved practice around families and disguised compliance <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/learning-from-case-reviews/disguised-compliance/>

Parliament. (2015/2016) 'Online Safety Bill [HL]' <https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/onlinesafety.html> [Accessed: 20th October 2018].

Prichard, A. (2014) *Ways of Learning: learning theories and learning styles in the classroom*. (3rd ed) London: Routledge.

Public Health Wales (2016) 'For healthier happier and fairer Wales: ACE Report 1' <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/88504>

Roberts, R. (2011) 'European Early Childhood Education Research Journal' *Companionable learning: a mechanism for holistic well-being development from birth*, Volume 19, No. 2, June, pp. 195-205. [On-line]. <https://web-a-ebscohostcom.ezproxy.uwtsd.ac.uk/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=1&sid=35636d8f-1406-4b3f-b0f8-295806324748%40sessionmgr4008> [Accessed: 14th October 2018].

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. (2010) 'Child Protection Factsheet: An introduction to child protection legislation in the UK'

https://www.distancelearningcentre.com/resources/child_protection_legislation.pdf

[Accessed: 12th October 2018].

Towler, K. (2008) 'The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 Lost after care 2011' file:///C:/Users/lisas/AppData/Local/Temp/003-Lost-After-Care-E-2.pdf [Accessed: 28th October 2018].

NHS (2017) 'Your Baby's Health and Development Reviews'

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/baby-reviews/> [Accessed: 21st October 2018].

NSPCC. (2018) 'Signs, Symptoms and Effects of Child Abuse and Neglect'

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/> [Accessed: 21st October 2018].

The Telegraph News. (2017) Soham murders: why did Ian Huntley kill Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman? <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/soham-murders-ian-huntley/>

[Accessed: 15th October 2018].

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990) Article 12. www.unicef.org.uk [Accessed: 20th October 2018].

Welsh Assembly Government. (2004) Breakfast and Breakfast Clubs for Primary School Children: UK Literature and Lessons to be Learned' http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/15816/1/literature-review-e.pdf_lang%3Den [Accessed: 14th October 2018].

Welsh Government (2004) Clywch Report: Children's Commissioner for Wales.

<https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Clywch.pdf> [Accessed: 20th October 2018].

Welsh Government. (2015) 'Early Years Outcomes and Framework'

https://moodle.uwtsd.ac.uk/pluginfile.php/114118/mod_resource/content/1/150916-early-years-outcomes-framework-en.pdf [Accessed: 11th October 2018].

Welsh Government (2016) 'Healthy Child Wales Program'
<https://gov.wales/topics/health/publications/health/reports/healthy-child/?lang=en> [Accessed: 15th October 2018].

Welsh Government. (2017) 'Safeguarding'
<https://gov.wales/topics/health/socialcare/safeguarding/?lang=en> [Accessed: 29th October].