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I confirm that I have not used any AI tools in the research and creation of this assignment. I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated materials as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used, which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

Self-Reflection script

Completing the safeguarding module has changed my perspective on my responsibilities while working with children and families and greatly expanded my understanding of what safeguarding actually entails. One of the most significant things I discovered is that safeguarding is an ongoing, proactive effort rather than something that simply takes place in times of emergency. I learnt from the course that there are many different types of harm, including emotional, physical, sexual, and neglect, and that the first signs are frequently subtle, like slight alterations in behaviour, presentation, or family dynamics.

I now have a much better knowledge of why legal frameworks are crucial for safeguarding children and directing professional practice due to this safeguarding module. I discovered that frameworks like the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004 clearly outline the duties of practitioners, local authorities, and partner agencies in ensuring children's safety, and that safeguarding is based on the law. Learning more about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) has made it easier for me to see children for their rights, voices, and entitlements.

My understanding of the significance of placing the child at the heart of all decision-making has increased as a result of this knowledge. My confidence in identifying when intervention is necessary, how to properly escalate concerns, and why safeguarding must be consistent, legal, and responsible across all levels of practice has increased.

I now have an established understanding of the Wales Child Protection Procedures thanks to these tutorials, and I recognise their significance in guaranteeing an appropriate, methodical approach to safeguarding throughout Wales. Understanding these protocols has made it easier for me to comprehend the precise actions that professionals must take when issues are discovered, such as intervention phases, information-sharing requirements, and each agency's role in child protection. Additionally, I learnt about the objectives and results of an Initial child Protection Conference (ICPC), as well as how choices are made regarding whether or not to add children to the Child Protection Register.

This knowledge will help me identify risk more accurately, collaborate with safeguarding partners, and make sure that I contribute correctly and professionally to any upcoming conferences or evaluations targeted at keeping children safe as I advance in my career working with children.

I was not completely informed or confident about how to handle safeguarding issues involving children or families prior to finishing this safeguarding session. I generally didn't know what to do, who to report to, or how to handle delicate disclosures in a way that was proper and professional. I now have a much better awareness of the proper protocols thanks to these lessons, including how to identify signs of injury and how to appropriately document and report concerns. Additionally, I've learnt how to handle safeguarding allegations at work, especially when they involve employees, which was something I used to find difficult. My confidence in handling these situations has increased as a result of realising the significance of accountability, transparency, and following to professional expectations.

I now have a thorough understanding of how safeguarding allegations in childcare settings should be reported. I now understand how crucial it is to stick to legal procedures and make sure that concerns are communicated to the relevant authorities. I now know that any child-related safeguarding complaint must be reported right away to the setting's designated safeguarding person, who is subsequently required to notify Children's Services. I now understand that the Local Authority Designated Officer, also referred to as the Designated Officer in Wales under the All Wales Child Protection Procedures, must be consulted if the allegation involves a staff member. In more high-risk situations, such as when a child is in immediate danger, concerns must be raised directly with the Police.

I am also aware of the responsibility to notify Care Inspectorate Wales in the event that a registered childcare service receives a safeguarding allegation. Acquiring this information has given me the assurance to adhere to the proper protocols to guarantee children's safety and that issues are resolved in a transparent and legal manner.

My understanding of the significance of protecting myself as a practitioner when working in childcare settings has also improved. I know how to uphold professional boundaries and follow organisational guidelines. I now recognise the importance of maintaining correct records, communicating concerns, and never managing safeguarding issues by myself. In the future, if I find myself in a challenging or delicate situation, I will safeguard myself by asking my line manager or safeguarding lead for assistance, making sure that every decision is documented, and always according to All Wales Child Protection Procedures. I can conduct myself securely and confidently while upholding my professionalism and accountability due to this knowledge.

I now have a much better awareness of what defines appropriate practice in both routine childcare work and safeguarding. I discovered how crucial it is to keep an eye on the development of children and spot any early warning indicators. I now realise that accurate, information must be recorded and presumptions must be avoided.

I really enjoyed studying about the Genetic Model of Safeguarding during this module. I found the Daniel Pelka case caught my interest. This model made it easier for me to comprehend how many risk factors, like as neglect, domestic abuse, and mental health problems in parents, can interact over time and make a child more vulnerable when experts don't efficiently exchange information or intervene. In addition, I discovered a number of additional safety models that assist professionals in identifying and addressing issues. I was able to see how greater environmental elements like poverty and cultural expectations might influence a child's experiences due to the Sociological Model as well as the Feminist Model emphasised how family abuse and safeguarding hazards can be enhanced by problems like gender inequality.

Additionally, I learnt about the groups of people who can be particularly vulnerable to abuse or harm, mainly being because abusers are more inclined to target people they think they can control. This includes those who have experienced abuse in the past, those with physical or mental problems, infants and young children, and people who are dependent on drugs. The module made it clearer to me that vulnerability is a reflection of circumstances or circumstances that could raise risk rather than a

personal weakness. As a practitioner, this understanding has increased my consciousness.

Overall, this module has really increased my confidence in my understanding and use of safeguarding. I feel more prepared to identify issues, appropriately report them, and collaborate with other professionals now that I am aware of the processes, theories, and roles that support effective child protection. My capacity to react professionally, and correctly in safeguarding circumstances has improved as a result of this learning, ensuring that I will be able to help keep children safe and supported in my future work.

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