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Case study one.

Introduction

This portfolio will contain three sections on safeguarding, such as how to recognise and document safeguarding procedures and an overview of the several types of abuses that may occur. The reporting and referral of safety protocols, which incorporate the five Rs of safeguarding. Furthermore, the obligations of the setting for child safety include the staff's role and a brief explanation of the designated safeguarding lead. Various safeguarding Acts will be discussed, in addition to children's rights and the definition of physical abuse as indicated in the case study that was made available. The Case study will be linked throughout.

Recognising and recording

According to Public Health Wales (2023) and Save the Children (2024) the meaning of safeguarding is to protect children against neglect and abuse along with ensuring any harm that may affect the children's welfare and growth. To make sure children receive safe and effective care as they develop. It involves taking every necessary step to ensure that all children and young people have the best chance to succeed. Article 6 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that every child has the right to life up to their full potential (United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) no date). (Healey (2018) explains that any non-accidental activity by parents, guardians, and additional adults, which differ from social standards and poses a serious danger of inflicting a child or young person bodily or psychological harm is considered child abuse.

According to Hobart and Frankel (2009) in order to safeguard children, it is necessary to be able to understand what distinct types of abuse there are. Healey (2018) explains that the distinct types of abuse are Neglect, Emotional, Bullying, Child sexual exploitation, Child trafficking, Criminal Exploitation, Domestic, Female genital mutilation, Grooming. Non-recent abuse, online, Physical, and sexual. This is also supported by National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to the Children (NSPCC) 2024 a. In order

to have an understanding of the distinct types of abuse professional practitioners must be aware of the safeguarding policy Wales (Care Inspectorate Wales, 2021). Hobart and Frankel (2009) disclose that children can be abused or neglected regardless of their age, gender, colour, religion, or socioeconomic status. In Wales everyone who works with children must follow the Education act 2002 which gives guidance on understanding the process and expectations for safeguarding in school (Welsh government, 2022). It is also important for professional practitioners to understand the social service and well-being (Wales) Act 2014. To ensure the best quality of safeguarding appropriate and effective training will be needed. Such as Safeguarding training that includes 2020 All Wales basic safeguarding awareness pack (Social care Wales, 2023).

This case study describes suspected physical child abuse as there is bruising near her ribs. According to Archana and Don (2019) physical abuse can range from minor bruises to severe fractures but in this case study we are looking at minor bruises. Bryce *et al.* (2019) claims that physical abuse can be anything from kicking, shoving, punching, dragging, shaking, chocking throwing a child and poisoning a child. And tends to happen from the hands of the parent/guardian. Christian (2015) describes that infants and toddles are at a higher risk of physical abuse due to the vulnerability and thy are smaller in size. The effects of physical abuse in children can cause life-long health difficulties such as neurologic disability, hearing and sight impairments, cerebral palsy, and epilepsy (Christian, 2015). Adams *et al* (2018) describe that physical abuse in childhood can increase the risk of depression and anxiety later in life. UNCRC Article 19 states that governments have and obligation to take all rational steps to safeguard children from neglect, abuse, and violence of any kind whether it comes from parents of other carers (UNICEF no date).

Reporting and Referral

Glossop (2022) and Flexebee (2021) say that there are 5 Rs to safeguarding children in Wales and those are -

Recognize- Where there is a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of child neglect and child abuse.

Respond- An understanding that the safeguarding policy of the setting is followed and used as a guideline. Responding appropriately along with not ignoring the situation under any circumstances.
Report- Report immediately to the designated safeguarding lead while remembering confidentiality in addition to reporting to those who will be part of the safeguarding process.
Record- Everything must be recorded including the time, date, and location and who was present. It is particularly important to record any information as soon as possible and remember that minute details are significant.
Refer- This referring stage is completed by the designated safeguarding lead of the setting who will pass on any concerns to the appropriate authorities (Glossop, 2022 and Flexebee, 2021).

According to section 11 of the children's Act 2004 every child education environment needs to have a child safeguarding policy in place and make certain that every employee has had a criminal history check also known as a DBS check (Care check, 2024). GOV.UK (no date) explain that a disclosure and barring service (DBS) check is a document that states any details of conflictions and conditional information according to the rehabilitation of offender Act 1974. GOV.UK (no date) go on to say that in enable to work with children and enhanced DBS check must be conducted that includes all the above information along with non-conviction data provided by certain law enforcement agencies. Reasons a DBS check must be conducted by schools is to assist schools in making safer hiring selections and stop inappropriate individuals from working in a school environment with children and other individual who are vulnerable. This is supported by South Wales Police (2024).

Law requires Public Health Wales to set up precise policies and procedures for identifying and reporting child abuse as well as to respond effectively to complaints of maltreatment (Public Health Wales, 2023). In Wales there is a guidance of a duty to report to the local authority which will mean that a referral to social services will be taken, and they will collaborate with the police to investigate suspected abuse. (Social care Wales, no date).

Save the children (2024), The safeguarding company (2024), Fuller (2023) maintains that child protection is essential given that is shields children and adolescents from abuse in addition to ensuring educational institutions and other organisations associated with children are able to step in before a crisis arises. Additionally, it offers solid proof that may be needed during a court case. as once guidelines for protecting children are violated and the trust is abused it may have a devastation long-term impact on children's lives along with the lives of the families. Abuse may affect children's physical, emotional and mental health. Falherty *et al* (2014) explains that a child may be put at risk for further abuse is an adult fails to recognise the sings of child abuse and therefore no action can be taken to prevent further abuse from happening. That is why is it incredibly important to be able to recognize any signs or symptoms of child abuse.

Setting Responsibilities

The role of a designated safeguarding lead is to make sure that multi-agencies like social services or the police are informed of any safeguarding issues, information, or suspicions that a child or their families may be experiencing (Wales Safeguarding Procedures, no date). A safeguarding lead is not just there to work alongside other agencies but to provide support for the staff that perform safeguarding duty (Tri. X, 2017).

NSPCC Learning (2024) explain that safeguarding in schools is an important part of keeping children safe. Every school has a whole-school policies and procedures. Schools need to ensure that all members of staff are confident in raising concerns along with the designated safeguarding lead is confident with working alongside other safeguarding agencies such as police, health visitors and social serves. Along with ensuring that staff have resources to promote well-being withing the setting (NSPCC Learning 2024). Department for Education (2023) continue to say that regarding safeguarding all staff members must have the appropriate training for safeguarding and child protection. Schools are the first to identify any concerns regarding the safeguarding of the children due to the hours the children spend in the settings and the relationships they have built with the children and their families. Davie (2017) points

out that another aspect for professional practitioners to support safeguarding issues is to familiarise themselves with the children, watch how they learn and play and engage with others. Once that relationship has been built the professional practitioner is then able to recognize any changes in behaviour that the child/children may show. Along with understanding what types of abuse there is it is important to recognise any signs and symptoms of child abuse (Davie, 2017).

If a practitioner has a concern about a child's safety a report must be made as the child will be under the age of 18 (Social care Wales, no date). The practitioner has a responsibility of being vigilant to any physical and emotional well-being of children (Welsh Government, 2019). In this case the practitioner has recognized that the child in question had bruising near her ribs through observing her while they were doing an arts and crafts task in which the child in question had stretched over the table exposing her sides and ribs. In guidelines with the Children's Act 1989 The practitioner has a duty to report their concerns to the dedicated safeguarding officer of that setting (Social care Wales, no date). The practitioner told her safeguarding officer upon further observation of the child in question her behaviour had changed from being an outgoing, happy, confident, and independent little girl to a shy, withdrawn, quiet little girl. The practitioner also declared that the little girl did not want to remover her Cardigan although the weather was very warm, and she was very warm. All of which are signs of physical abuse. (South Wales Police 2024, NSPCC 2024 b and HM Government 2015)

If a school or organization do not follow the safeguarding procedures or have poor safeguarding procedures, then neglect and abuse can be easily missed it can cause increased cases of child abuse (Care check, 2024). If any safeguarding issues arises in order for it to documented, it must be forwarded to the safeguarding officer of the setting, and they must maintain thorough and precise written records that are kept in a safe location for example this could be a looked draw that only a few members of staff have access to. Along with maintaining the privacy of the record and they are kept separately from other records. This is supported by Welsh Government 2020.

If a safeguarding issue does arise in a school setting the safeguarding officer must contact the local safeguarding board (Welsh government, no date a). Local authorities

along with the organizations including the police departments in the area, health boards and NHS trusts are obliged by section 28 of the children's act 2004 to make sure that their procedures are conducted with consideration for the welfare of the children. These authorities must establish a safeguarding board under section 7 of the social serves and well-being (Wales) act 2014. Another safeguarding procedure is the working together to safeguard people guidance. (NHS no date a). It is the duty of every staff member to create a secure learning environment for children (Department for Education, 2023).

Conclusion

Furthermore, in order for educational professionals and all other agencies working with children to give children an opportunity at success while providing them with secure and efficient care, policies and procedures must be followed. If policies and procedures are not followed, then there can be a rise in cases of child abuse and neglect since signs and symptoms may be missed. Appropriate training must also be received to recognise the warning signs of child and adolescent abuse, in addition to understanding each person's role and responsibilities, what to look out for, and how to report and respond to a safeguarding issue. It is incredibly important to keep up to date with any Safeguarding policies and procedures and updates or legalisations and act in to be able to offer the best possible care for the children.