

Reflection:

Before starting this module, I had a good understanding of safeguarding due to things I have experienced in my job. Prior to this module, I had already done three safeguarding courses as part of my annual training. As the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 states, everyone has a role in safeguarding. Before this module, I had a good understanding of the different types of abuse and neglect. I was aware that there were 5 main types of abuse which include: sexual abuse, emotional abuse, physical abuse, financial abuse, neglect and many other types as well, although my own knowledge of them was not very strong. These happen to both adults and children. Prior to this module, I was also aware of the cases of Victoria Climbié and Baby P (Peter Connelly), which had an influence on the Children Act 1989, which prompted the Children Act 2004.

Before this module, safeguarding was a topic I felt rather unsure on, in the sense that I did not feel knowledgeable enough to confidently deal with situations in work, where I am around some vulnerable children. In my setting, we use MyConcern, which is a safeguarding database which is directly linked to the safeguarding lead of the setting.

During this module, I expanded my knowledge of safeguarding greatly. Whilst studying this module, I learnt about the five R's. Each r, represents a different step in safeguarding. They stand for recognising, recording, reporting, reffering and responsibilities. Each of these made me think about my own setting and experiences with safeguarding, and making me think of how I can improve my practice in the future to ensure nothing gets forgotten about.

Recognising concerns can vary from a child coming to school in a dirty jumper because their parent did not have time to wash it before school the following day, to a child that only comes in wearing dirty clothes, which can be signs of neglect or other type of abuse. Different factors can contribute to abuse too, for example, seperation, addiction, family bereavement etc. Recognising concerns is an important part of safeguarding as it can be the start of helping children, by hearing their voice, and following setting's safeguarding policies.

My knowledge on recording and reporting abuse and neglect did improve while studying this module, but I was also aware of who to report to in my setting if anything were to happen, and how to do it.

During this module, learning about the refferral process made me realise how big of a deal safeguarding actually is. Prior to this module, I thought that the process of safeguarding was that a childcare setting report concerns to police, who then contact

social services and that was it. I have since learnt that multiagency working is a crucial part of safeguarding and protecting children from harm.

Learning about the different laws and legislations opened my eyes to the depth and importance of them. Prior to this module, I was not aware of Section 47. Section 47 is a section of the Children Act 1989, which initiates a Child Protection Conference. A Child Protection Conference is where safeguarding concerns require different agencies involved with a child get together and discuss any possible concerns. These conferences typically involve a child's teacher, key worker, or someone working with the child, health visitor, police, a chairman and most importantly, a social worker.

Within these conferences, the different agencies share their concerns and come to an agreement on whether the child will be going on a child protection plan. This plan aims to protect the child from any further harm and therefore safeguards them.

With this new information. I am going to apply it to my practice. I will do this by keeping my own feelings on situations unbiased and neutral. If a child reveals a safeguarding concern I will stay calm and record on MyConcern as soon as possible. I will also put my own feelings aside, no matter how a situation may make me feel. I must be professional about how I handle these situations.

Individual reference list:

CDC (2022), *Important Milestones: your baby by six months*. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/milestones-6mo.html> [Accessed 5 July 2025].

Hywel Dda University Health Board, (no date), *Health Visiting*, Available at: <https://hduhb.nhs.wales/healthcare/services-and-teams/health-visiting/> [Accessed 5 July 2025].

NHS (no date), *NHS vaccinations and when to have them*. Available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/> [Accessed 5 July 2025].

NHS, (no date), *Overview- Postnatal depression*. Available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/conditions/post-natal-depression/overview/> [Accessed 5 July 2025].

NSPCC, (no date), *Neglect*. Available at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/neglect/> [Accessed 5 July 2025].

UNCRC (no date) *UNCRC*. Available at <https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/uncrc-childrens-rights/uncrc/> [Accessed 5 July 2025].

Welsh Government, (no date) *Children and Young people at risk of harm*. Available on the Safeguarding App. [Accessed 5 July 2025].