



**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE in Consolidation
of Social Work Practice
LEVEL 6 - 60 Credits
BMPPF6044**

**LEARNER PORTFOLIO
(PORTH AGORED and UNIVERSITY OF WALES
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Task 4

Safeguarding in an area which is not your main area of work

Guidance:

*Social Care Wales require newly qualified social workers to provide evidence of their understanding of safeguarding work with adults and children. The assignment below will enable you to demonstrate this. **N.B.** if your usual area of work is with children please write about adult safeguarding. If you usually work with adults, then write about child safeguarding. Ensure you meet the learning outcomes for this task (see appendix 5 of the handbook).*

Question a:

In an area **that is not your main focus of work** (see guidance above), explain the relevant legislation, and the national, local and organisational policies and procedures for safeguarding.

As my main focus of work is within the Children's Team I will be looking at Adults. Within Wales the main relevant legislation is the Social Service and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWB(W)A2014. The Act sets out the duties that the Local Authority has to promote well-being and protect children, young people and adults who has care and support needs.

Within the Act adults at risk are defined as 18 years old and older who have specific care and support needs, who are experiencing or are at risk of abuse or neglects and are unable to protect themselves due to their needs. There is also a strong emphasis on partnership working with the adults involved.

Another relevant legislation is the Wales Safeguarding Procedure. This is a statutory guidance and it explains how organisations must report adults safeguarding concerns as well as give clear procedures on how to report, investigate and manage safeguarding referrals. There is an app which is useful for any practitioner within the field as it will "give pointers for practice" and information on how to complete tasks; this will ensure an all Wales approach which is standardised.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 gives a legal framework on deciding whether or not someone has the mental capacity to make a specific decision at a particular time. It also respects people who lack capacity by ensuring that they still have their rights and are being respected. It also outlines how professionals can act lawfully in an individual's best interest. The individual will always be at the centre of any intervention although they lack capacity.

The Rights of Children and Young Person (Wales) Measure 2011 (RCYP(W)M)2011) is there to protect children and young people's rights and it includes adults between 18 and 25 years old too that are transitioning into adulthood. Similarly to the (RCYP(W)M)2011) there is the United Nation Principles on Older People 1991. These are a set of guidelines that encourages the Government to give older people independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity which is explained on the United Nations website.

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 is another legal status that ensures that Welsh speakers have the right to have all communications through the language of their choice and this is relevant within the children's team as well.

In Wales there are Regional Safeguarding Boards for both children and adults within each county. The purpose of these boards are to promote joint working with a clear process of how concerns are reports, update policies and procedure inline with what is happening on a national level as well as promoting public awareness about adult safeguarding issues as explained on their Wales Safeguarding Procedures website.

Words: 445

500 words (+/- 10%: include your actual word count at the end of each section).

Question b:

Reflect on the difference between safeguarding in adults' and children's work

There are some significant differences between safeguarding within the children's team and within the adult's team. Within the legal definitions adults are classed as over the age of 18 years old, and children and young people are under 18 years old but can sometime be up to 25 years old depending if they are vulnerable, such as being in care.

The similarities are that both adults and children team work under the Social Service and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWB(W)A2014) but children social workers still refer to the Children Act 1989.

After researching into what safeguarding means within the adults team I feel that the main difference between the two is capacity. Within the Mental Capacity Act (2005) "adults are

presumed to have capacity and autonomy unless proven otherwise.” Furthermore, adults are able to make unwise decisions and refuse support and this is outlined within the Mental Capacity Act safeguarding involved supporting adults to make their own decisions. Whereas children are considered vulnerable and need of protection and is more focused on parental responsibility to safeguard their children and act in their own child’s best interest.

When it comes to decision making there is a huge emphasis on mental capacity with adults but with children safeguarding decisions are made outside of the family and at times, against parents wishes if necessary.

Type of abuse can be similar between the children and adult’s team such as physical, emotional, sexual and the difference are with abuse such as self-neglect and finances which are more related to adults.

There is an useful app that outlines what is expected of practitioners and how to apply the legislation, (SSWB(W)A2014 and the safeguarding guidance, Working Together to Safeguard People. This app is split into children and adult and gives information of the safeguarding process and describes roles and responsibilities of relevant practitioners. The Wales Safeguarding Procedures states that safeguarding children will often be linked to family environment and developmental needs and it involves protecting children from long-term harm where as in the adult’s teal they states that safeguarding adults will often link to health, disability, or care circumstances and involves supporting adults to live safely with dignity and independence.

Words: 363

400 words (+/- 10%: include your actual word count at the end of each section).