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Good afternoon my name is Helen Wright, and I am a police officer based at Newport station who will be representing the police service during this conference. In accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023), under the national statutory guidance which states police must assist other organisations and agencies to carry out their responsibilities where there are concerns about the child's welfare (Department for Education, 2025). The Laming report 2003 also states that a single agency working alone cannot provide effective child safety. Each service must fulfill its role. Recognising their obligations to the children and to one another, all professionals who work with children must collaborate to reach a common goal (Maier, 2013). This reflects article 19 of the UNCRC which states children have a right to be protected from harm and neglect (UNICEF, 2022)

As a police officer my role is to safeguard the welfare of the children and to ensure they are safe and secure. In line with (Children's Act 1989) section 17 and 47 places duties on police and local authorities to assess and respond to children in need or at risk of significant harm (Coram Children's Legal Centre, 2024).

I can confirm that Hannah, who I now know to be the mother of Daisy and Rose, has a history of criminal activity in relation to alcohol and substance abuse. On the evening of Saturday the 28th of June police received reports of a disturbance at a property in Newport. I cannot, however, disclose the address of the property in line with the Data Protection Act 2018. Once at this address officers reported the initial presence of two adults, Hannah and who we now believe to be Hannah's boyfriend Steven. Both adults

were under the influence of alcohol. Once inside the property, both a fellow officer and I noticed that the home environment was in a state of significant disrepair, including excessive clutter, lack of hygiene, and potential safety hazards including the noticeable use of substance abuse. At this time, we were unaware that both children were present in the house.

The mother (Hannah) became extremely irate and did not want us to look around the property, especially upstairs. This is when we noticed Daisy at the foot of the stairs holding hands with Rose, her sibling, both looking extremely distressed. Both children were taken aside by an officer in line with Article 19 of the UNCRC. Daisy stated that she wanted to get some food for his sister but did not want mum or Steven to get angry as he was told not to come downstairs. The children were wearing soiled clothing which had a strong smell of urine. It was evident that neither of them was in a safe, secure environment in which they could flourish in line with the Laming Report 2003 which states child safety must be central (GOV.UK, 2003). This is also in line with the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014, in which one aim is to put the needs of the individual at the centre of their care and by giving them a voice.

Hannah proceeded to explain to us that both adults had a disagreement which had escalated causing furniture and objects to be thrown along with Hannah herself being hurt with what appeared to be a large red mark on her face. This did look like she had been slapped but upon further examination it was in fact the cause of an object that had been thrown during the argument. Due to concerns regarding neglect and the risk of significant harm. Neglect is when there is failure to provide for a child's basic physical and psychological needs. Which can result in harm to their growth and well-being (NSPCC, 2022). A Section 47 safeguarding referral was made to Children's Social Care. This is when an enquiry is initiated to Social Services for them to assess the situation and determine the necessary actions to safeguard the welfare of the children (family lives, 2025). The children were assessed as needing immediate support this is in line with police protection powers under Section 46 of the Children Act 1989 in which police have the right to seek further investigation if they feel a child is likely to suffer significant

harm, the police have a duty to inquire into the child's case. A child in these circumstances is referred to as 'having been taken into police protection' (HMICFRS, 2025).

In conclusion both Hannah and Simon were arrested for being in possession of a class B drug under the misuse of Drugs Act 1971. As the incident involved domestic abuse and children were present, I shared the information with the school through an operation encompass so that appropriate support can be provided for Daisy's well-being (Operation Encompass, n.d).

My professional opinion is that both Daisy and Rose are at risk of emotional abuse due to domestic incidents and the use of substance/alcohol at home. The incidents they are witnessing are not a safe and secure environment (NSPCC, 2022).

I would also like to state that it is essential that communication between us as professionals is open and transparent as it is paramount that the welfare of Daisy and Rose is at the forefront of our investigations (ESSCP, 2019).

Self-Reflection (714-word count) 4mins 40 seconds

Hello, Helen Wright and this is my self-reflection.

I believed I knew a lot about safeguarding at the beginning of this module because I have worked in education for a long time and have taken several training courses to ensure that I am legally up to date with policies and procedures. The training I have received has enabled me to understand the four types of abuse, Neglect, Sexual, Emotional, Physical, and the potential signs and indicators of each.

However, there are additional types of abuse I was unaware that existed such as child exploitation, female genital mutilation and online abuse.

This module has enabled me to understand the differences between child protection and safeguarding. While child protection focuses on the steps taken when a child is determined to be at risk of significant harm, safeguarding refers to the larger duty of care we all have as professionals to keep children safe.

However, I was unaware of the way a child protection conference is conducted and the procedures that are implemented in an Initial Child Protection Conference which professionals take to form a multi-agency approach in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)

One case I can personally recall and one that led to a major turning point was the Victoria Climbié case. This story had a significant impact on me as I remember the case from previous years. I can recall the recommendations that Lord Laming made in news reports and how so many changes needed to be made to ensure the safety of our children. This case and so many others are where the system has let children down when it should have protected them the most. I feel as a professional working with children it is my duty to ensure that they feel safe and secure.

This module has enabled me to further my understanding of safeguarding one important aspect is the Social Care Wales app which I have downloaded which provides guidance to settings as well as real-time legislative updates and tools for continuous professional development.

I hope to use my skills to educate people about resources like the app, and how it may benefit them. I now feel more confident in discussing this subject with others and that this module has helped me gain a greater insight into the different acts and legislations that we currently have in place as well as ones that are yet to have royal assent such as Children's Well-being and school's bill which is currently at the committee stage. This aims to better protect children and to raise standards throughout education.

The 5 Rs within safeguarding which are recognising, recording, reporting, referring and responsibilities and why are these important for effective safeguarding in line with the Children's Act 2004.

Firstly, it is important that practitioners recognise and spot the signs of abuse in children and young people within their care. (Laming 2003). Recognise the meaning of observing any differences in a child's behaviour or changes in circumstances. The national society for the prevention of cruelty to children NSPCC (2025) states that it is important to look for something concerning happening in a child's life, for example, becoming withdrawn from school and friends, unexplained changes in behaviour possibly becoming more aggressive towards peers. Children First (2025) also states that a change in behaviour along with covering their body with layers of clothing to hide any physical injuries they may have sustained. However, these signs do not necessarily mean abuse; there could be other factors within the child's life that are causing this distress. For example, a family break up or adjusting to a new sibling are all factors that need to be considered. It is imperative that practitioners record the information once a safeguarding concern has been raised. Recording the date, time, the individual who is at risk and if the child has disclosed anything, use direct quotes GOV.UK, (2025) states that we need to stick to what is seen, heard and said. Once a safeguarding issue has occurred and has been recorded, it then requires the need for reporting. Within my school we complete a blue safeguarding form and immediately locate the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) (High Cross, 2025). The DSL will decide the next steps to take, including any referrals to children's services if necessary. It is important to note that safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility GOV.UK, (2025) states "Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe." Practitioners who work with children need to make sure that they are up to date with safeguarding procedures by using the Social Care Wales app and complete annual safeguarding training by their employer (Social Care Wales, n.d.).

Reference list for Child Protection conference

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