

Safeguarding: practice, legislation and the multi-disciplinary team.

Reflection:

Part 1

Before starting the module, I had very limited knowledge of safeguarding. My understanding was mostly basic. I was aware that safeguarding involved policies and guidelines aimed at protecting individuals from harm and supporting them in making safe, independent choices.

During this module, my knowledge has significantly developed. I now understand that safeguarding goes beyond just rules. It involves actively promoting well-being, identifying potential risks, and working collaboratively with multiple agencies to protect vulnerable individuals. I've also learned how to report concerns appropriately and understand the importance of doing so in a timely and responsible manner, using the correct body language when dealing with an concern. Additionally, during this module, there were many things that shocked me, but the case studies of abuse with those children over the years really hit me emotionally. Seeing children who had been failed by the system was heartbreaking, especially knowing that so much of the harm might have been prevented if early interventions had been put in place. One case study that stood out to me was the case of Maria Colwell. She was just seven years old when she died in 1973 by all the abuse off her stepfather after being returned home from foster care. Her death exposed serious failings in communication between agencies and led to the first major public inquiry into child protection in the UK. Maria had been failed by the child protection system (NSPCC Learning no date). This case also showed how badly things can go wrong when professionals don't communicate properly. However, this case played a huge part in improving safeguarding policies and made me realise how far things have come but also how important it still is to stay alert. It also led me to recognise that when it comes to safeguarding children who are at risk, early intervention and open communication between professionals can make all the difference.

Furthermore, I've gained a deeper understanding of how to recognise the signs of abuse. This module made me realise that abuse isn't always obvious. Some people are very good at hiding it. It's helped me become more aware of the small signs that might be easy to miss, and just how important it is to stay alert even when there are no obvious signs something's wrong.

Going forward, I'll make sure to stay more alert and speak up if I have concerns. I'll also ensure that everyone in the setting I'm in understands their own responsibilities by following the most up-to-date safeguarding policies and procedures, and by knowing how to handle concerns in the correct way. I'll work closely with other professionals to help spot signs of abuse early, because I now understand how much of a difference this knowledge and how acting on it can truly make.

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Part 2

According to MedicHut(2024), the five Rs of safeguarding are: Recognise - identify the warning signs of possible neglect, abuse, and damage. React - if a safeguarding issue is found, take the necessary steps. Report - let the team or individual in charge of safeguarding matters know. Record - accurately record the safeguarding concerns and finally, Refer - forward the concern to the relevant authorities or services. Every one of these guidelines supports professionals manage safeguarding cases from start to finish, making surer no warning signs missed, and action is taken in a timely, responsible way to protect vulnerable individuals (TheKnowledgeAcademy no date). The 5 R's play a vital role in safeguarding.

Reference list part 1.

History of child protection in the UK | NSPCC Learning (no date). <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/history-of-child-protection-in-the-uk> (accessed 05/07/25)

Medichut (2024) *NHS Safeguarding interview Questions & Answers*. <https://medichut.com/nhs-safeguarding-interview-questions-answers/> (accessed 03/07/25).

Reference list part 2.

TheKnowledgeAcademy (no date) *The 5 Rs of Safeguarding: foundations of protection*. <https://www.theknowledgeacademy.com/blog/5-rs-of-safeguarding/>. (accessed 03/07/25).

I haven't used AI in this assignment.