

ECEY5011 Safeguarding practice, legislation and the multi-disciplinary team.

I Have not used an AI in this portfolio.

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Hello, my name is Kelly Copic and I am the Social Worker for the Jones Family including the children Harry and Isla Jones. As a Social worker my role is to provide families and their children with support and protection, promoting well-being. These responsibilities are in line with section 5 of the Social Services and Well-being Wales Act 2014 (UK Government, 2025). It is my responsibility to act on the best interests of the children and advocate for them by ensuring that the rights of the children remain paramount. These rights are underpinned by UNICEF (2019) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child [hereafter UNCRC] articles 3 and 12 that state all decisions involving children should be made with the best interests of the child at the forefront and that the views of the child must be respected.

Social Services received the referral regarding the Jones family on the 26th June 2025 that outlined the main concerns for the children Harry and Isla, stating that Harry had steadily declined in his appearance over the last few weeks and there were growing concerns as an unknown male accompanied him to school under the influence of alcohol. According to the UK Government (2025) collaborative working between agencies and the duty to provide information falls under section 164 of the Social Services and Well-being Wales Act 2014 and allowed me to do initial checks on mum Heidi and the unknown Male. Owen and Hughes (2009) and McCarthy (2015) both maintain the importance of collaborative working is underpinned by the Laming report which highlighted serious concerns in the approach to multi agency working. As a result of the Laming report and in response to the Victoria Climbié report the UK Government (2025) published every child matter's paper that seen changes to policy and legislation resulting in the Children's Act 2004. With this information I was able to identify the male as Johnny Rees who had recently left prison and was serving time for armed robbery, furthermore I was able to find out that Johnny has 2 previous children currently on the child protection register. Considering this under the Children's Act 1989 section 47 Social Services decided to investigate further and deemed the children to be at risk of harm (UK Government, 2025). It was agreed that a home visit would be necessary and that I would interview the children and mum.

On arriving to the family home, I noticed and counted 8 recycling bags full of empty larger cans and wine bottles, with some that had fallen out and smashed in the front garden. Heidi opened the door and granted me permission to go inside. Once inside I could see the house was extremely dirty and felt very cold, the children were in the living room playing on the floor with the family kitten and I noticed that there were faeces in the corners of the room which I believe to be from the kitten. Both children looked dirty and neither gestured to communicate with me. Heidi seemed to be unbothered by my presence but became angry when I spoke of the growing concerns for her children. When asked about Johnny, Heidi refused to engage with me. I talked Heidi through the referrals from the early years setting and explained the concerns that were raised, I explained that according to the UK Government (2025) under the Children's Act 2004 section 2 I was required by law to observe and investigate the children to decide if they were at risk of serious harm that includes neglect. I explained that section 2 runs in the veins of the UNICEF (2019) and the UNCRC article 19 that states local authorities have a duty of care and must protect children from violence, abuse or neglect.

When interviewing Harry my concerns grew as he portrayed signs and behaviours that according to both NSPCC (2025) and Action for children (2025) were possible signs of neglect. Both organisations define neglect as failing to meet the basic needs of children and can involve leaving a child hungry, dirty, cold and without adequate health care. This would fall in line with the concerns that were shared with us as previously discussed under section 164 by the early years setting manager Lindsey Smith and her growing concerns for Harry for both his physical and emotional well-being. It was reported that Harry has recently become quieter and more withdrawn and displays concerning behaviour that can result in him hitting other children. In the interview I conducted I found Harry was anxious and wary and noted that there was no bond between Harry and his mum Heidi, recognising that she seemed to ignore him and not listen or pay attention when he was talking. This according to the NSPCC (2025) are signs of emotional abuse. In the same vein, Childline (2016) would agree and report that emotional abuse can affect children who are being ignored regularly and cause low self-esteem resulting in becoming withdrawn.

After I had spoken with Harry mum Heidi was ready to talk and admitted that she had been drinking much more recently and was spending time with Johnny who she described as a heavy drinker. I explained that according to The Children's Society (2025) children who live in homes where parents are drinking alcohol regularly can feel stressed and unsafe, furthermore we discussed that when under the influence of alcohol her parenting style can change leaving the children at risk of neglect. Heidi became teary and was apologetic and agreed to work with me to put together a safety plan for the children. In line with Wales Safeguarding Procedures (2025) clear plans were made and agreed, these plans included that Heidi would attend alcohol anonymous meetings regularly. I informed Heidi that according to the National library of medicine (2021) children who grow up in environments where there is alcohol misuse can suffer adverse effects also known as ACES'S and explained that research shows children like Harry and Isla could suffer mental health issues later in life. As a result of this Heidi agreed that Johnny would not be able to stay or visit the family home or children and was also made aware that I would visit every 10 working days to make sure these safety goals were being met.

I made it clear to Heidi that these safety goals must be met and made sure that she fully understood the consequences if they were not. I suggested family intervention groups in the local area or Harry's school could offer assistance and support. I pointed out that because of the Munro report the Department for Education (2011) highlight the effectiveness of early intervention and states in situations such as Heidi's can have a positive impact on the outcome for her and her children. I stated that in line with the UK Government (2025) the children could be removed from the family home under the Children's Act 1989 section 17 and placed with extended family. This is supported by UNICEF (2019) and the UNCRC article 20 that states the government are responsible and must where they can place children at risk with family members. Thank you that is all I must share.

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