



'What's Different?'

The Essentials

Wales Safeguarding Procedures
Children's Services





This session

- **Is an introduction**
to the new procedures for multi-agency staff, including why and how they were produced
- **Identifies main changes**
impacting staff involved in making safeguarding reports (making safeguarding referrals)





This session is not

- **In-depth training**
- For staff undertaking LA enquiries and investigations
- For staff undertaking the role of Lead Co-ordinator or Lead Practitioner (LA and Health)





Gwent's 3 stepped approach to training:

Implementation

- April 6, 2020
- National training materials available from Wales Safeguarding Board via Social Care Wales website

Step 1 (April – October 2020)

- Multi-agency briefing sessions (Delivered by Gwent Safeguarding)





Step 2

- Full day safeguarding courses incorporating the new procedures for those needing to update previous level 2 training attended.

Step 3

- Specific briefings/training for Lead Practitioners, Lead Coordinators, Report Takers in LA and health
- delivered in-house within LA, ABUHB, Police





Wales Safeguarding Procedures

- **Produced by** Cardiff and the Vale Regional Safeguarding Board, in collaboration with the other 5 Regional Safeguarding Boards, and funded by Welsh Government
- **First major collaboration** between the 6 Regional Safeguarding Boards since being introduced by the *Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) Act 2014*
- **National Project Board** oversaw production of the procedures; consisted of members of the 6 Regional Safeguarding Boards, Welsh Government and Social Care Wales.





Replace all previous procedures

~~All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008~~

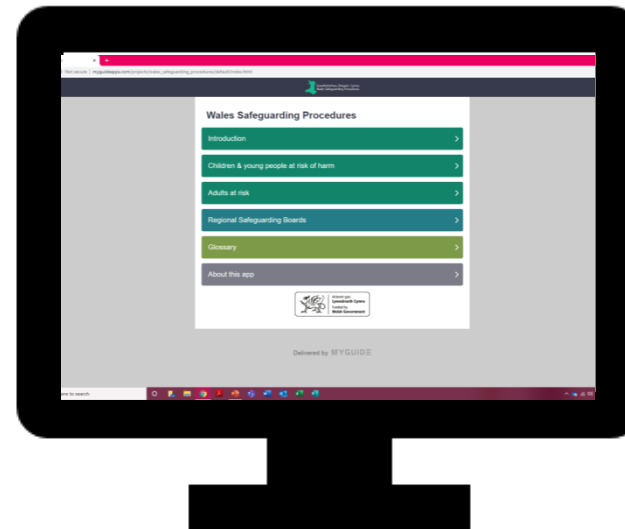
~~Wales Interim Policy & Procedures for the Protection
of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse 2010 (updated 2013)~~





The Wales Safeguarding Procedures are not available in print format. They are only available **digitally**...

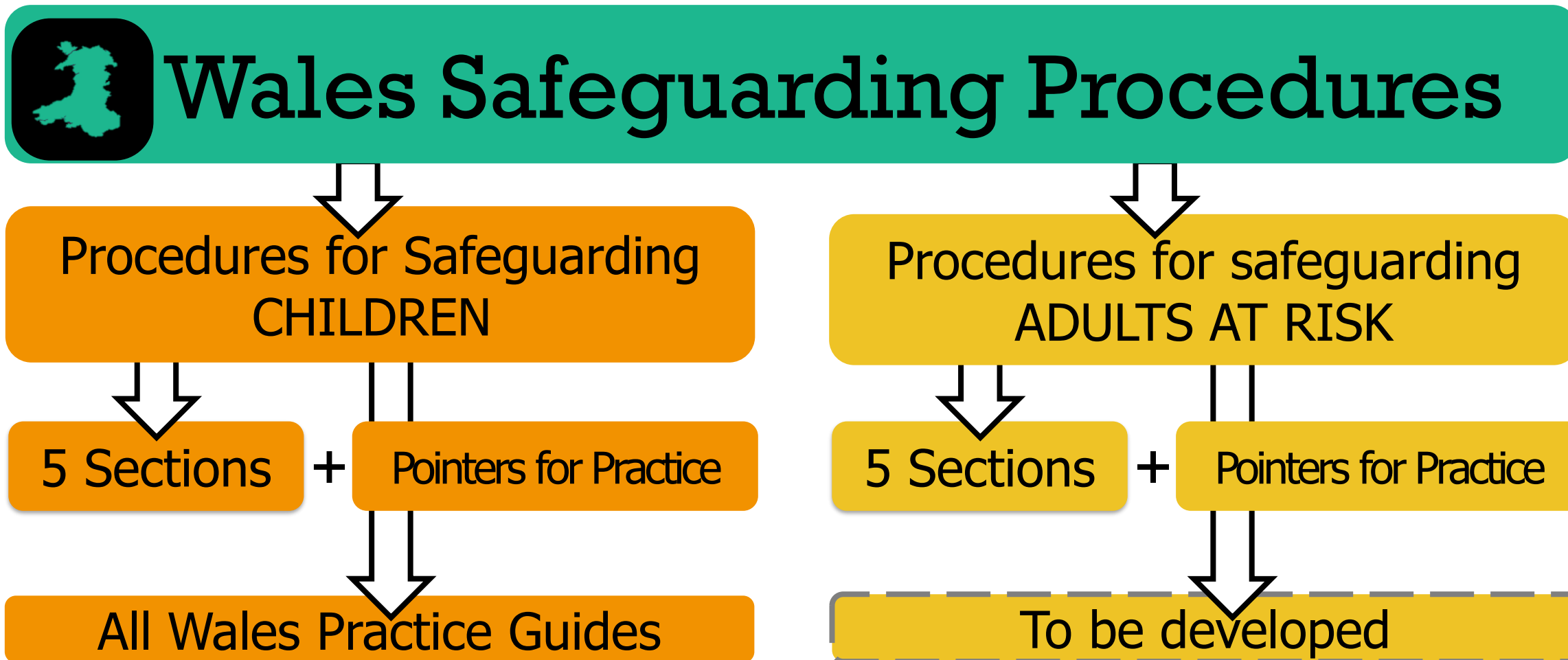
Free App



Website

safeguarding.wales
diogelu.cymru







Wales Safeguarding Procedures

Introduction >

Children & young people at risk
of harm >

Adults at risk >

Regional Safeguarding Boards >

Glossary >

About this app >

Choose language English / Welsh
Search for a word or topic

Introduction / background to the
Wales Safeguarding Procedures
Procedures for Safeguarding
Children and Young People
Procedures for Safeguarding
Adults at Risk

All Regional Safeguarding Board **websites**

Glossary of **terminology**

Includes **email** to report any issues





Cymraeg

Wales Safeguarding Procedures

Introduction >

Children & young people at risk
of harm >

Adults at risk >

Regional Safeguarding Boards >

Glossary >

About this app >

Procedures for Safeguarding **Children & Young People** at risk of harm





Wales Safeguarding Procedures

Introduction >

Children & young people at risk of harm >

Adults at risk >

Regional Safeguarding Boards >

Glossary >

About this app >



Back to Home

Children and Young People at Risk of Harm

Section 1
Safeguarding principles and effective practice: children >

Section 2
The duty to report a child at risk of abuse, neglect and/or harm >

Section 3 part 1
Responding to a report of a child at risk of harm, abuse and/or neglect >

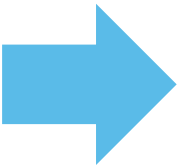
Section 3 part 2
Decision making and initial child protection conferences >

Section 4
Planning and intervention for children on the child protection register >

Section 5
Safeguarding Allegations / Concerns about Practitioners and Those in Positions of Trust >

Section 6
All Wales Practice Guides >

Sections 1-4:
Safeguarding Procedures for Children and Young People





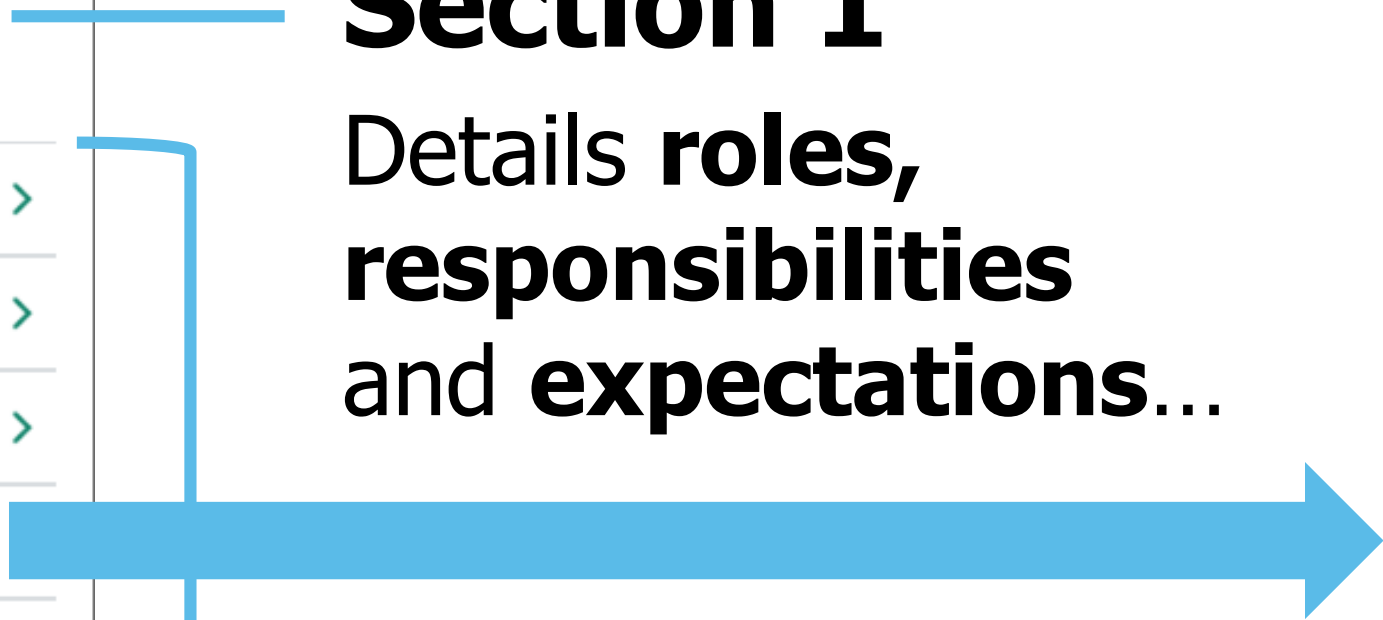
Home Search Gweithdrefnau Diogelu Cymru Wales Safeguarding Procedures Cymraeg

[Back to Children and Young People at Risk of Harm](#)

- Safeguarding principles and effective practice: children**
- [Overview of the section >](#)
- [Safeguarding principles >](#)
- [An effective safeguarding system >](#)
- Key definitions relevant to safeguarding children**
- [The safeguarding process: an overview >](#)
- [Early help and prevention from abuse, neglect and harm >](#)

Section 1

Details **roles,**
responsibilities
and **expectations...**





The screenshot shows a mobile website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a home icon, a search icon, a map of Wales, the text 'Cymraeg', and a menu icon. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'Back to Safeguarding principles and effective practice: children'. The main content area has a heading 'Key definitions relevant to safeguarding children'. The first paragraph of text is: 'All practitioners should be aware of the definitions of abuse and neglect in the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014 as well as the signs and indicators of abuse and neglect. This is essential in order to communicate concerns about...'. A red box highlights the text 'All practitioners should be aware of the definitions of abuse and neglect in the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014 as well as the signs and indicators of abuse and neglect'. A hand cursor icon is pointing at the word 'neglect'. Below this text, there is a pop-up box titled 'Neglect' with a close button (X). The text in the pop-up box reads: 'This means a failure to meet a person's basic physical, emotional, social or psychological needs, which is likely to result in an impairment of the person's well-being (for example, an impairment of the person's health)'. Below the pop-up box, there is a heading 'of Possible Abuse and Neglect in a Child' and a link 'See also: All Wales Practice Guides'. A red box highlights the link 'See also: All Wales Practice Guides'.

...and provides further **resources and information...**

...with **external links**

...highlighted **terminology**

... and **Pointers for Practice**





👉 Pointers for Practice: Signs and Indicators of Possible Abuse, Neglect and Harm In a Child

Abuse and neglect may be the result of a specific incident or ongoing or repeated abuse and neglect that has a progressively negative impact on the health and wellbeing of the child or young person and can lead to negative outcomes in adulthood. The maltreatment may result from one issue such as parental alcohol or drug misuse or an accumulation of family circumstances and stressors, such as lone parenting, domestic

Emotional Abuse and Neglect

(Possible indicators taken from:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG89/chapter/1-Guidance#physical-features> Descriptions: NSPCC, Horwath 2007 and 2013) (Accessed 29/7/2019)

Pointers for Practice

Information, guidance and additional resources on *how* to safeguard





Section 3 part 1

Responding to a report of a child at risk of harm, abuse and/or neglect



Section 3 part 2

Decision making and initial child protection conferences



Section 4

Planning and intervention for children on the child protection register



Section 5

Safeguarding Allegations / Concerns about Practitioners and Those in Positions of Trust



Section 6

All Wales Practice Guides



Section 6: All Wales Practice Guides





Detailed guides on **specific types** of abuse, neglect and harm



[Back to Children and Young People at Risk of Harm](#)

All Wales Practice Guides

[Safeguarding children from Child Criminal Exploitation](#) >

[Safeguarding children from abuse related to cultural and religious beliefs](#) >

[Safeguarding children who may be trafficked](#) >

[Safeguarding children affected by Domestic Abuse](#) >

[Safeguarding children from child neglect](#) >

[Safeguarding children from Online Abuse](#) >

[Safeguarding children where there are concerns about Harmful Sexual Behaviour](#) >

[Safeguarding children who are home educated](#) >

[Safeguarding children who go missing from home or care](#) >

[Safeguarding children from Child Sexual Exploitation](#) >





|| You may wish to pause the presentation here to download the app or open the website and familiarise yourself with the sections and features of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.

www.safeguarding.wales

App search: Wales Safeguarding Procedures





Practitioner

BLANKET TERM to describe anyone who, through their work, has contact with children :

- in **paid employment** (temporary staff, students, trainees, casual staff, agency staff, personal assistants under the direct payment scheme, etc.)
- **unpaid** workers / carers
- **volunteers**
- **self-employed** workers
- a person **contracted** to provide services





Ensure practice accurately reflects statutory guidance

- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 – Part 7 Safeguarding
- Working Together to Safeguard People
- Code of Practice under Part 10 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Other relevant legislation, guidance and protocols





Ensure process and practice are standardised across all agencies

consistent **approach**

consistent **systems**

consistent **processes**

consistent **terminology**





Provide clear expectations for safeguarding practice by...

- Helping practitioners to **apply** legislation and statutory guidance by explaining **what** their responsibilities are and **how** to meet them
- Encouraging **reflective practice** with a significant shift from prescriptive procedures to an emphasis on using **professional judgement**
- **Strengthening and clarifying** the procedures **everyone** must follow to adhere to and apply legislation and guidance





Change in Ethos

Before

“Tip of the Iceberg”

- Evident signs & symptoms
- **Specific** concerns
- **Superficial** impact
- **Non-specific** outcomes



Now

“Below the Water”

- **root** causes
- **patterns** of behaviour
- motivation and ability
- **meaningful** outcomes





Change in Approach

Before:

Focus → **Service**

Children at risk seen as '**objects of concern**'

Safeguarding a process done **to them** - 'doing an investigation' 'completing enquiries' 'case number'

Enquiries undertaken **without** considering the child's **particular needs**

Now:

Focus → **Child**

Engaging with the child, carers and family

Enabling them to know what difference can be made to their lived experience

Enquiries achieve **meaningful improvement** to their circumstances





Child-Centred Approach

to safeguarding children and young people





Early
Intervention
Engagement
Co-production
Daily Lived
Experience
Advocacy
Consent

In line with Part 2 SS&WA **a child centred approach is required.**

This is **all new** in terms of increased **focus** (from old procedures) in safeguarding.





Early Intervention

Engagement

Co-production

Daily Lived Experience

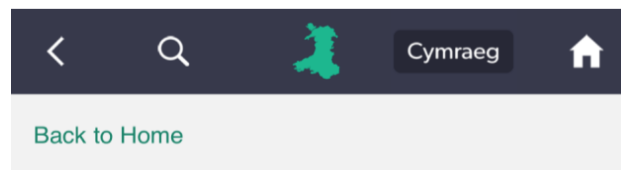
Advocacy

Consent

Change in emphasis to a **pro-active approach** that focuses on reducing the need for safeguarding enquiries and intervention by

- delaying and preventing the **need** for care and support
- working with children and their families to **avoid** situations that are likely to lead to abuse, neglect and harm
- identifying and addressing **emerging concerns** before they escalate





Wales Safeguarding Procedures

Introduction >

Children & young people at risk of harm >

Adults at risk >

Regional Safeguarding Boards >

Glossary >

About this app >

Regional Safeguarding Boards

Cardiff & Vale
www.cardiffandvalersb.co.uk

Cwm Taf Morgannwg
www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org

Gwent
www.gwentsafeguarding.org.uk

Mid & West Wales
cysur.wales

North Wales
www.northwalessafeguardingboard.wales

Western Bay
www.wbsb.co.uk

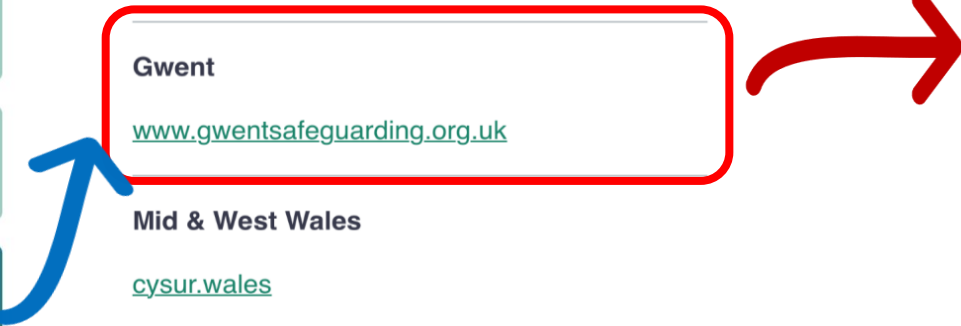


Skip to Content

Cymraeg



Quickly leave this website





[Skip to Content](#)

[Safeguarding Adults](#) [VAWDASV](#) [Cymraeg](#)

Search this site

Parents and Carers

Children and Young People

Professionals

Training

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): latest information and advice](#)

Welcome to Safeguarding Children in Gwent



Parents and Carers



Children and Young People



Report a child at risk



Protocols, Procedures and
Consultation Documents



Case Practice Reviews



Resource Hub



About Gwent Safeguarding



Professionals



Training

[Quickly leave this website](#)

Local Authorities must provide an **Information, Advice and Assistance Service (IAA)** that:

- proactively promotes **early intervention and prevention**
- emphasises **advocacy** and **co-production**
- provides the public with information and advice to **prevent escalation** of difficulties to situations that require more intensive, specialist intervention





Skip to Content

Safeguarding Adults VAWDASV Cymraeg

Search this site

Parents and Carers

Children and Young People

Professionals

Training

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information and advice

Home > Children > Parents and Carers

Parents and Carers

As a parent or carer you may be looking after a child or young person and need to find out how to keep them safe. You may be concerned about the dangers they face or some of the difficulties they will come across. The links below will look at some themes which may provide you with information on a number of different topics to help you support and protect that child or young person.

Protecting Children and Young People from Abuse

Find out about the different types of abuse and the ways you can help protect your child stay safe

The Effects of Domestic Abuse on Children and Young People

Find out how children and young people may be affected by experiencing or living with abusive relationships

Keeping Children Safe Online

Find out more information on how you can

Bullying

Information on how to support your child if they are suffering from the effects of

Report a child at risk

Protocols, Procedures and Consultation Documents

Case Practice Reviews

Resource Hub

About Gwent Safeguarding

Information - help a person make an **informed choice** about their well-being.

Advice - work **co-productively** with a person to explore options, ensure they understand what is available to them, and **actively involve them in making decisions** about what matters to them and the personal outcomes they wish to achieve.

Assistance - **take action with** the person to access care and support, or a carer to access support.





Skip to Content



Safeguarding Adults VAWDASV Cymraeg

Search this site

Parents and Carers

Children and Young People

Professionals

Training

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): latest information and advice](#)

Home > Children > Children and Young People

Children and Young People

As a child or young person you may wish to find out how to keep yourself safe. The links below may help you to think about some of the difficulties and dangers you may face on your own or with friends.

How can I get help if something is wrong, or if I want to report something?

Find out how to get help and advice if you are worried, scared or upset about something or someone



Child Abuse - What is it?



Child Abuse is anything a person does that is meant to cause harm to someone under the age of 18

How to Stay Safe online



Drugs and Alcohol



Top tips on how to stay safe online, info and advice on topics such as: cyberbullying, sexting, gaming and much

Information including the different types of drugs and their effects, the law and advice on how to manage peer pressure.



Report a child at risk



Protocols, Procedures and Consultation Documents



Case Practice Reviews



Resource Hub



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'What's Different?' The Essentials: Wales Safeguarding Procedures | Children's Services



Skip to Content

Safeguarding Adults VAWDASV Cymraeg

- Parents and Carers
- Children and Young People
- Professionals**
- Training

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): latest information and advice](#)

Home > Children > Professionals

Professionals

The following pages contain information for professionals and volunteers who may come into contact with children, their families and adults at risk during the course of their work. Each page will provide more information on the headline topic.

Whilst the topics covered are the most common you may encounter, there will be others that are covered within different parts of this website such as [Protocols, Procedures and Consultation Documents](#) or the [Resource Hub](#).

You may also find it helpful to look in the [Children and Young People](#) section or the [Parents and Carers](#) section to see what specific information is tailored for the people you are working with.

What is abuse?

Click here to find out about the main forms of abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect as cited within the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 along with other types of abuse that may involve one or more of



Keeping Children Safe Online

The majority of information on the net about Esafety is tailored either for children and young people or parents and careers. Professionals should find these links



- Report a child at risk**
- Protocols, Procedures and Consultation Documents
- Case Practice Reviews
- Resource Hub
- About Gwent Safeguarding

Report a child at risk

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.

Everyone has a duty to be alert to concerns about the abuse and neglect of children and young people and know to whom they should report their concerns.

If you are worried that a child or young person is being abused or neglected you must report your concerns to your local Information, Advice and Assistance Service below:

Blaenau Gwent
Tel: 01495 315700
Email: DutyTeam@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Caerphilly
Tel: 0808 100 1727
Email: contactandreferral@caerphilly.gov.uk

Monmouthshire
Tel: 01291 635 669
Email: ChildDuty@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Newport
Tel: 01633 656656
Email: children.duty@newport.gov.uk

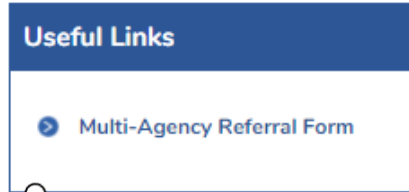
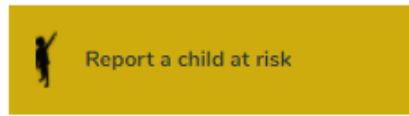
Torfaen
Tel: 01495 762200
Email: socialcarecalltorfaen@torfaen.gov.uk

After 5pm and on weekends and bank holidays please contact the South East Wales Emergency Duty Team on 0800 328 4432.

If you think a child or young person is in immediate danger then contact the Police on 999

A copy of the [Multi-Agency Referral Form](#) (MARF) is available to download here.

If you are concerned about an adult at risk visit the [Report an Adult at Risk](#) page.





Early
Intervention

Engagement

Co-production

Daily Lived
Experience

Advocacy

Consent

actively engage the child and family in determining best way to meet needs

collaborate with children and families as full partners

balance involving child in design and delivery, and ensuring best interests are met

support them to access opportunities for personal change and growth

assist them to manage risks to maximise their choice and control over their lives





Early
Intervention
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Consent

- **partnership working** with individuals, families, carers, groups and communities
- **positive risk-taking** (Support people to participate in decision-making processes)
- **potential of individuals** to use their personal strengths and resources to achieve change





Early
Intervention
Engagement
Co-production

**Daily Lived
Experience**

Advocacy

Consent

Clear understanding of:

- what a day in their life **is like**
- their **feelings** about their day
- what they want to **change**
- what **matters** to them
- what they wish to **achieve**
- their personal **outcomes**





Early
Intervention
Engagement
Co-production
**Daily Lived
Experience**
Advocacy
Consent

- **assessment** is more **precise** and **child-focused**
- identifies the **impact/s**
- gains a much **clearer account**
- evidence of the **specific ways** the abuse or neglect is affecting the child





Early
Intervention

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Aim - provide child with a **voice**.

"Attendance alone **is not participation** or giving the child a voice."

Children are **entitled** to an **active offer** of advocacy

Not a "one off" - must be considered at **all stages** of process





Early
Intervention

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Advocacy

Consent

Additional clarity around the issue of consent

Engaging children in the process **as early as possible** ensures their wishes and feelings are taken into consideration.

Where a child is otherwise deemed '**Gillick competent**' they **should be consulted** and consent obtained to **avoid marginalising** their voice.





Early
Intervention
Engagement
Co-production
Daily Lived
Experience
Advocacy
Consent

Consent of **Parent/Carer**:

The **overriding consideration** is the **best interests of the child** at risk of harm.

Practitioners should try to get consent from the parent(s)/carer of the child, **unless it would increase the risk of harm to the child.**





Early
Intervention
Engagement
Co-production
Daily Lived
Experience
Advocacy
Consent

GDPR describes exceptional circumstances that **allow** personal information to be shared **without consent** –
includes **preventing abuse or serious harm to a child**

Practitioners are encouraged throughout the procedures to **use 'their judgment'**

Practitioners should **discuss** whether it is appropriate to get consent from the parent(s)/carer with their agency's Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP)





Early
Intervention
Engagement
Co-production
Daily Lived
Experience
Advocacy
Consent

Possible reasons for **not seeking** parental consent:

- it would place the child at further risk
- the child could be threatened / coerced into silence
- important evidence could be destroyed / lost
- the parent is the alleged abuser
- the child in question is 'competent' and does not want the parent to be involved at that stage
- it is in the public interest

If you decide *not* to seek parental consent, you **must record your reason** for this decision, and **include details** in your report to social services





|| You may wish to pause the presentation
here look at the information regarding
Consent in Section 2 of the procedures

Section 2 > The duty to report a child at risk of
abuse, neglect and/or harm > **Seeking consent
to a report**





Terminology

some new, some updated





Types of Abuse

***New* Financial Abuse**

- stealing money / personal property
- not meeting care and support needs provided for through allowances / grants

Emotional Abuse

The ongoing emotional abuse of a child, including deliberately trying to scare or humiliate a child or isolating or ignoring them.





Emotional Neglect

includes not saying anything kind, expressing positive feelings or congratulating a child on successes, not showing any emotions in interactions with a child.

***New* Identity Neglect**

not recognising or addressing the child or young person's needs in terms of (for example) culture, religion, gender identity and sexuality.





Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Practitioners are **expected to thoroughly assess** the impact Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) could have upon the **parental capacity** to meet the needs of the child/young person.





Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP)

Refers to the person within your organisation who:

- is available to discuss safeguarding concerns
- should be consulted as to whether to raise a safeguarding concern with the local authority
- will manage any immediate actions required to ensure the individual at risk is safe from harm





The term '**Make a Referral**' is no longer used,
and has been replaced with:

Make a Report





Duty to Report

Greater emphasis and clarity on everyone's responsibility to make a report whenever there are safeguarding **concerns or **suspensions**.**

Explains and clarifies that

- relevant partners of the local authority have a statutory (legal) duty to report and who they are.
- anyone who is not a 'relevant partner' **must still report** any safeguarding concerns **in the same way**





All practitioners have a responsibility to report any concerns raised by the general public, in both their work and private lives:

- When a member of the public tells a practitioner **in their professional capacity** about concerns
- When a neighbour, family member, friend, or acquaintance of a practitioner talks about concerns.
- **Practitioners must not leave it to the member of public to contact social services, or just advise the person to contact social services directly.**
- If a member of the public discusses their safeguarding concerns with a practitioner, either in their professional capacity or in their private life, the practitioner **has a duty to report the concerns to social services.**





Section 5

Safeguarding Allegations / Concerns about Practitioners and Those in Positions of Trust





Section 5 : Safeguarding Allegations/ Concerns about Practitioners and Those in Positions of Trust

- Increased scope of **who** is included
- Stronger emphasis on **duty to report**
- Increased scope of **when** to follow
- Stronger emphasis on **how** such allegations / concerns are handled to ensure a fair, consistent, timely process
- Stronger emphasis on **whistle blowing policies**





Section 5 : Safeguarding Allegations/ Concerns about Practitioners and Those in Positions of Trust

Increased scope of **who** is included

- **Any practitioner** whose work brings them into contact with children
- Individuals with **caring responsibilities** for children in need of care and support, **and** their employment or voluntary work brings them into contact with children
- People in a **Position of Trust**





Person in a Position of Trust

A person is in a position of trust if **the work** they do, or the **nature of the service** they provide, means that they:

- are **likely** to have contact with children as part of their **employment or voluntary work**
- have a position of trust, authority, power or influence **as perceived by the child**
- are expected to **safeguard** the interests of children





Section 5 : Safeguarding Allegations/ Concerns about Practitioners and Those in Positions of Trust

Stronger emphasis on **duty to report**

- Concerns about the conduct or behaviour of a practitioner / person in a position of trust **must be reported** to social services or the police
- Includes **private life** – concerning behaviour of a friend, family member or neighbour who is also a practitioner / person in a position of trust, **must be reported** to social services or the police





Section 5 : Safeguarding Allegations/ Concerns about Practitioners and Those in Positions of Trust

Increased scope of **when** to follow

Whenever there are concerns or allegations

- of **abuse, neglect or harm** made against those whose work, either in a paid or voluntary capacity, brings them into contact with children
- that a person is **unsuitable to work with** children





Section 5 : Safeguarding Allegations/ Concerns about Practitioners and Those in Positions of Trust

“Unsuitable to Work With”

A practitioner may be considered **unsuitable to work with children** if:

- Are/were **subject of criminal procedures** that indicate a risk of harm
- **Caused harm or possible harm** to any child and they may pose a risk in their working, volunteering, or caring environment
- Behaved **in their personal life** in a way that could put children at risk
- Behaved in a way that **undermined the trust** they have through their position
- Caring responsibilities for a child who is subject to **Safeguarding Procedures**





Section 5 : Safeguarding Allegations/ Concerns about Practitioners and Those in Positions of Trust

Stronger emphasis on **how** such allegations / concerns are handled to ensure a **fair, consistent, timely** process

Stronger emphasis on **whistle blowing policies**, including ensuring all organisations have a whistle blowing procedure, including for **volunteers**.





Section 5 : Safeguarding Allegations/ Concerns about Practitioners and Those in Positions of Trust

Can be run **in tandem** with, or **in isolation** from, the Wales Safeguarding Procedures for Children and Young People

Procedures for responding to safeguarding allegations / concerns about practitioners and those in positions of trust

Focus is on a **practitioner or person in a position of trust** who is suspected of **causing** abuse, neglect or harm

Wales Safeguarding Procedures

Focus is on **a child at risk** of **experiencing** abuse, neglect or harm

Internal protocols

Internal process by employer





Section 5 : Safeguarding Allegations/ Concerns about Practitioners and Those in Positions of Trust

Outcome Professional Strategy Meeting

Substantiated

sufficient evidence
to prove the allegation

Unsubstantiated

there is insufficient
evidence to prove or
disprove the allegation

Unfounded

person making allegation **misinterpreted** the
incident, was **mistaken** about what they saw,
or was **not aware** of all the circumstances

Deliberately invented / malicious

clear evidence to prove the allegation is
entirely false and there has been a **deliberate**
act to deceive





Section 5 : Safeguarding Allegations/ Concerns about Practitioners and Those in Positions of Trust

A new Regional Protocol has recently been ratified.

- This protocol sets out the arrangements for responding to safeguarding concerns about those whose work, either in a paid or voluntary capacity, brings them into contact with children or adults at risk.
- It also includes individuals who have caring responsibilities for children or adults in need of care and support and their employment or voluntary work brings them into contact with children or adults at risk.
- **This protocol supports agencies' own internal disciplinary procedures** and provides guidance to deal appropriately with any concerns or allegations of professional abuse or neglect and to ensure that all allegations of abuse made against staff or volunteers working with children, young people and adults at risk are dealt with in a fair, consistent and timely manner.
- **Safeguarding children in education: handling allegations of abuse against teachers and other staff** is currently being updated





You may wish to pause the presentation
here look at **Section 5**

- How to make a report about a practitioner -
what to do / not do
- What to do if an allegation is made against you
– your rights and what to do / not do





Report Maker

Any practitioner or member of the public who reports safeguarding concerns to social services.

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures clearly **describe** both their **role and expectations**.

Changes are minimal because Duty to Report (as introduced in the Act in 2014) was already operationalised in practice





Report Taker

The **social services practitioner** who receives the report, completes initial checks and establishes whether immediate action is required

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures clearly describe both their role and responsibilities.





S47 Enquiries

- Local Authorities have a statutory duty under S47 of the Act to undertake enquiries following receiving a report about a child
- Local Authorities can delegate enquiries, but still have the **statutory duty** to ensure they are carried out competently
- Procedures includes specific guidance on **what should be covered** as part of S47 enquires





S47 Enquiries

Greater emphasis on

- **analysis** of information
- issues affecting the **health and wellbeing** of the child and quality of their **daily lived experience**
- **wishes and feelings** of the child, the **strengths/protective factors** identified
- consideration of **social-economic factors** and **adult orientated issues** impacting on parenting capacity.





S47 Enquiries

THE CHILD MUST BE SEEN THE SAME DAY IF:

- Reported to have sustained a **physical injury**
- Has **disclosed physical and/ or sexual abuse** and is to be returned to the situation that may place them at risk
- Is **already subject** to a Child Protection Care and Support Plan
- The child is **abandoned**
- Is suffering from **severe neglect** or other **severe health risks**





Three determinations (outcomes) to S47 enquiries:

Concerns of significant harm not substantiated

Concerns of significant harm are substantiated, but child is not at continuing risk of significant harm

Concerns substantiated, and the child is judged to be experiencing or at risk of abuse, harm or neglect

While these remain **unchanged**, there are some **changes to the actions following** on from these - details can be found in the '**What's Different: Quick Guide**'





CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE

The new procedures:

- state that all practitioners and agencies invited to attend a child protection conference must submit a written report
- outline the information participating agencies must provide
- outline the decision making process at child protection conference





The term '**Child Protection Plan**'
is no longer used and has been replaced with:

**Care and Support
Protection Plan**





Planning and Intervention for Children on CP Register

- New procedures encourage participation by **all** practitioner members in core group – if unable to attend a core group meeting practitioners should provide a report
- Procedures highlight the importance of parents/carer's **actively engaging** in core group and supporting implementation of the plan





Planning and Intervention for Children on CP Register

- Section 4 contains good practice tips for achieving **co-production** with children/ families
- The new procedures **introduce questions** to support development of the Care Support Protection Plan
- See 'What's Different: Children Safeguarding - Quick Guide to Key Changes' p9)





Care and Support Protection Plan Coordinator

- **named social worker** with practitioner responsibility for the case - **actively engages** with the child
- responsible for **coordinating** the preparation, completion, review, delivery and revision of the plan
- should be assigned to each child whose name is placed on the child protection register
- **must** be employed by social services, registered with Social Care Wales and have appropriate qualifications, training and experience to undertake the role





Effective Safeguarding Practice

It is expected that **every person** in contact with or working with children at risk, their carers, and their families:

- understands the **safeguarding process**
- understands their **role and responsibilities** to safeguard
- is familiar with and follows their **organisation's** procedures and protocols for safeguarding





Effective Safeguarding Practice

- is **alert to indicators** of abuse and neglect
- has **access to** and complies with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures
- knows **when and how** to report any concerns
- works **co-operatively** with the child at risk, carers and families
- is committed to fully **co-operating** with all other agencies in the interests of safeguarding children at risk of abuse and neglect.





Practitioner Needs

Recognition that for you to be able to apply an effective safeguarding system, you need:

- **the necessary knowledge and skills** - All practitioners should be trained to a level that is conducive to their role and responsibilities.
- **to be supported** by Managers and Regional Safeguarding Boards.
- **a working environment** that leads to an effective safeguarding system





Practitioner Needs

- to be able to use your **professional judgment**
- to have **direct access to advice** about any concerns about a child
- to be able to operate in a **multi-agency and co-operative** way
- to be able to **access professional strategic leadership** which supports you





Next Steps ...





Things to Consider...

- How will you **access, use and embed** the Wales Safeguarding Procedures (if not done so already)?
- What aspects of the procedures are **especially relevant / essential** to the current way of working during COVID-19?
- **Moving forward**, what other aspects of the procedures might be significant to your work/ practice?
- What aspects of your work (if any) may need to **adapt** to this way of working? How might this be done?





Please provide your feedback

Gwent Safeguarding Partnership would greatly appreciate your feedback on this resource, including whether you found it useful, etc.

A short evaluation form can be found on our website adjacent to the link to this video and should only take 5 minutes to complete.





If you have any questions or wish to discuss aspects in relation to the new procedures , please contact your agency's or team's WSP '**Champion**'

NB: This will normally be someone in your team identified as a procedures 'Champion', who attended Gwent Safeguarding WSP briefing session, and who facilitated cascading/disseminating this presentation and the 'Quick Guides to Key Changes'.

