What are the differences between the All Wales Child Protection Procedures and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures?

There are several basic differences to the old and new procedures including how they are set out. They are now one document to cover both children and adults with a general introduction.

What information is included in the introductory section?

This section explains that the purpose of the procedures is to help practitioners apply the SSWBA and the Handling Individual Cases Guidance. It also states that they are for everyone who needs guidance in safeguarding practice. It goes on to set out that they are needed to make sure that practice is standardised across all agencies in Wales. The final few things covered in the introduction are a 'how to use' guide, information about the glossary and an explanation of how the procedures were developed.

Where do I find information specifically about Children and Young People?

To get to the detailed information that was covered in the AWCPP you will need to access the Children and Young People at risk of harm page. This page is divided into 6 sections as follows:

- Safeguarding Principles and Effective Practice
- The Duty to Report a Child at Risk of Abuse, Neglect or Harm
- Responding to a Report of Risk or harm
- Decision making and Child Protection Conferences
- Planning and Intervention for Children on the Child Protection register
- Safeguarding Allegations / Concerns about Practitioners and those in a position of Trust
- All Wales Practice Guides

This means you can easily pick the section that you want without having to look through information that may not be relevant to your query.

What are the main changes from the way of working under the All Wales Child Protection Procedures?

The procedures have been written with a child centred focus throughout. This means that when we work with the child or young person their concerns are recognised, their wishes and feelings are known, and the practitioner develops an understanding of the child's everyday life. There are tips, including example questions to ask, within the procedures to find out about the lived experience of the child. The procedures also promote the outcome focussed / strengths-based approach to working with children and young people, through developing working relationships with the child and their family. This is in line with the principles of the SSWBA 'what matters to the child and family'. The procedures also move the focus of safeguarding work from presenting signs and indicators to the impact of these leading to positive and meaningful outcomes.

This is a shift:

from seeing the **Tip of the Iceberg,** to finding the **Iceberg below the water.**

What are the specific changes that I need to know about in my work with Children and Young People?

Perhaps the best way to identify the changes is to look at each section of the procedures and highlight them as they occur throughout the document.

Section 1 – Safeguarding Principles and Effective Practice

- There are two new categories of abuse introduced for children. These are **Financial Abuse** (which includes theft, fraud, pressure about money and misuse of money) and **Psychological Abuse** (which includes threats of harm or abandonment coercive control, humiliation, verbal or racial abuse isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks, and witnessing abuse of others).
- The new procedures highlight additional risks associated with Child Criminal Exploitation, these are **Radicalisation, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Modern Day Slavery and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).**
- The Procedures adopt a blanket term of **practitioners** for all those who work with / are involved with Children and Young People. This includes professionals, unpaid volunteers along with paid employees.
- The Procedures introduce **Care and Support Protection Plans** to address the needs of children and young people who are experiencing and /or likely to experience on-going significant harm.
- **Care and Support** still applies to any **unmet need** even if the child or young person is not found to be at risk of significant harm.
- The new procedures expect practitioners to know about **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)** and be able to assess how these could have impacted on the parental capacity to meet the needs of the child or young person.
- Throughout the document there is increased emphasis on **early help and prevention** to reduce the need for safeguarding enquiries and intervention.

Section 2 – The Duty to Report a Child at Risk of Abuse Neglect and / or Harm.

- The term **Referral** has been replaced with **Report.**
- The term **Report Maker** has been adopted and refers to the person making the **Report.**
- The **responsibilities** of the **Report Maker** are clearly set out in the Procedures.
- The Procedures introduce the term **Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP)**
- All **agencies** other than the Local Authority should have a nominated **Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP).**
- All staff should know who their agency's **Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP)** is.
- The **Designated Safeguarding Person's (DSP)** responsibilities should be outlined in the agency's own safeguarding Procedures.
- The Procedures provide clear guidance on when and how **to seek consent whilst making a report.**
- If the **decision is** made **not to seek consent** prior to making **a report,** the **reasons** for this decision **must be recorded.**

Section 3 Part 1– Responding to a report of a child at risk of Abuse, Neglect and / or Harm.

- The Local Authority should **acknowledge receipt** of the report **within 7 working days** rather than the 10 working days previously stated in the AWCPP

- A **record** taken of a **strategy discussion / meeting** should be **shared within 1 working day** rather that the 5 working days specified in the AWCPP
- The procedures **outline duties** around the **section 47 enquiries** and **child protection conferences**
- They introduce **a timetable** for **multi-agency planning** during **section 47 enquiries**. They provide a level of **detail** about the **investigation process** and the **lived experience of the child**
- All the above follow the **underlying principles** as set out in the **SSWBA 2014**
- **Practitioners** are expected to **take ownership** of **information** they have **contributed to the section 47 enquiry** and **ensure** that both the **child and their family are aware** of any **information** that has been **included**
- A **timescale for a medical examination** taking place where there has been an allegation of sexual abuse **has been omitted** from the new procedures
- **Assessment** of the child should be carried out by a **paediatrician** with **level 3 safeguarding competencies**
- Regarding **lack of parental consent** to the **medical examination** the new procedures refer to a **Child Assessment Order** or **Emergency Protection Order (EPO)** that can **direct parents to co-operate**

Section 3 Part 2 – Decision Making and Initial Child Protection Conferences

- **Consideration** should be given to making **written bilingual information available** to children and their families about potential outcomes of the section 47 process
- If it is determined that concerns of **significant harm are not substantiated** the new procedures recommend **a care and support needs assessment under section 20 of the SSWBA or a report to preventative services** should be made
- The new procedures state that **all practitioners must submit a written report** to conference. This replaces **will be required** in the AWCPP
- **No timescales** are provided for arranging **a pre-birth conference** if an **unborn child may be at risk of significant harm.** Under the **AWCPP** this was between **8 and 16 weeks of the expected due date.**
- The role of **Care and Support Protection Plan Coordinator (CSPPC)** is introduced.
- The **CSPCC** will be a **social worker** who has suitable **qualifications and experience** to take on **lead responsibility** for the **plan** on behalf of the Local Authority
- **Each child** whose name is placed on the **Child Protection Register** should have a **named Social worker** who will be the **CSPPC**
- **The CSPPC** will be **responsible** for coordinating the preparation, review, revision, delivery, and completion of **the plan.**
- The new procedures set out a **timescale of 42 working days** from the start of **the section 47 enquirie**s for **completion** of **the proportionate assessment**. This is a change from 35 days for completion of the core assessment in the AWCPP.

Section 4 – Planning and Intervention for Children on the Child Protection Register

- The new procedures **highlight** the **need for child focussed milestones** and **specific outcome measures** to ensure **all core group members understand** what life will be like for the child at point of de-registration.
- The **responsibilities** of the **Care and Support Protection Plan Coordinator (CSPPC)** are outlined in this section

- The new procedures introduce some **set questions** that **support development of the** care and support protection **plan.**
- If you are core group member who participates in review conferences – **your reports should be shared with the child and family face to face at least 5 working days before the review conference**
- The new procedures **suggest bringing forward a review conference** if the **plan is not protecting from harm, or there are significant problems implementing the plan.**
- There are **no timescales set** for responding **to enquiries to the child protection register**, however these **must still be recorded** on the **Social Services database** within **24 hours.**

Section 5 – Safeguarding Allegations / Concerns about Practitioners and those in Positions of Trust

This is a completely new section which aims to standardise procedures across both the children and adult's workforce. It provides clear guidance for when this part of the procedures should be followed. The main additional points are:

- **Professional Concerns** can be **addressed through a separate process** which is able to run **in tandem with the safeguarding process**
- There is **further emphasis** on the duty to report concerns about practitioners and highlights the importance of **whistleblowing policies.**
- There are now **4 specific decision** outcomes**: Unsubstantiated, Substantiated, Unfounded and Deliberately Malicious.**