What are the differences between the Wales Interim Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults 2010 (Updated 2013) 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 Adults?

To get detailed information that was covered in the Wales Interim Policy for Vulnerable Adults you will need to access the Adults at Risk page. This page is divided into 6 sections as follows:

- Safeguarding Principles and Effective Practice: Adults at risk of Abuse and / or Neglect
- The Duty to Report an Adult at Risk of Abuse and / or Neglect
- Responding to a report of an Adult at risk of abuse and/ or Neglect
- Responding to a report of an Adult at Risk (including Adult Protection Conferences)
- Planning and Intervention for adults at risk of Abuse and Neglect
- Safeguarding Allegations / Concerns about practitioners and those in positions of Trust

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 Wales Interim Policy for Vulnerable Adults?

The procedures have been written with a person-centred approach throughout. This means that when we are working with Adults their concerns are recognised, their wishes and feelings are known, and the practitioner develops an understanding of their life. Working 'alongside' adults is always promoted, with individuals being central to all decision making. Clear communication and the provision of appropriate support along with promoting and respecting their dignity will enable the individual to fully participate in the process.

What are the specific changes that I need to know about in my work with Adults who may be at risk?

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: Adults at risk of abuse and / or Neglect

- **Early Intervention** should be offered wherever possible **to prevent adults becoming 'at risk'**
- It is **essential** that the **adult is actively engaged** in determining **how best to meet their needs**
- **Practitioners** should be **aware of the different stages** of the **safeguarding process:**
  1. Identification of the Concern
  2. Gathering Information
  3. Assessment and analysis of early help, care and support or care and protection need:
  4. Decision making and planning the most appropriate intervention
  5. Actions and Interventions
  6. Evaluating the effectiveness of the actions and interventions
- There are **pointers for practice included** here which give **examples of how the process works**
- Throughout the new procedures **presumption** that **an individual has capacity** is **implicit**
- Adults and their carers are more likely to engage with early help services if they are
  1. Timely and accessible
  2. Practitioners form positive and trusting relationships
  3. The term safeguarding is properly understood
  4. Information is shared openly and honestly
- When determining the most appropriate interventions consideration should be given to 'What matters' to the adult in line with the SSWBA

Section 2- The Duty to Report an Adult at risk of abuse and /or Neglect

This section is in line with Section 128 of the SSWBA which states that:

A Report should be made whenever there are concerns for an adult at risk who:

1. Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect
2. Has needs for care and support (whether the authority is meeting any of those needs) and
3. As a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or risk of it

Both Social Services and the Police have statutory powers to investigate suspected abuse and neglect.

- The new procedures have adopted the terms **Report (formerly referral)** and **report maker** for the person making the **report.**
- **Acknowledgement of** and **Feedback from** the **Duty to Report** (DTR) **must** now be provided by the Local Authority (LA). Previously this was deemed good practice
- **'At Risk'** safeguarding DTR's **must** now be considered. Previously this was deemed good practice
- **Justifiable reasons** must be **provided** if the LA decides to **proceed** with a **safeguarding report against** the adult's **wishes.**
- In the event of **proceeding with a safeguarding report without consent** the adult at risk must be **informed.** Should the **person not have capacity** a **family member, carer** or **other appropriate person** should **be informed**.
- The new 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 is the **Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP)** for their agency

- The **Designated Safeguarding Person's (DSP)** responsibilities should be outlined in the agency's own safeguarding Procedures, these include monitoring safeguarding allegations and providing advice and information
- Throughout the new procedures the **presumption** of **capacity is implicit**
- When considering **capacity issues consideration** should be **given to the level of duress** a person **may be experiencing**

Section 3 Part 1 and 2- Responding to a report of an adult at risk of abuse and neglect (and Adult Protection Conferences)

- **The role** of the **report maker** is **defined** here
- The **role** of the **report taker** is **defined** here
- The new procedures introduce **specific guidance** on **areas** that should be **covered by section 126** enquiries
- The procedures introduce **a same day timescale** for the **adult to be seen** if any of the following circumstances apply:
  1 Physical Injury
  2 Sexual Abuse
  3 Already subject to a protection plan
  4 Severe neglect / other severe health risk
  5 Abandonment
- The new procedures introduce **3 possible outcomes of Section 126 Enquiries** as follows:
  1. Immediate Protection
  2. The adult is not at risk but may have care and support needs
  3. Adult at risk and action to protect is needed.
  At this stage **a decision** may also be taken that **no further action is required**: the adult is **not at risk** and **no unmet care and support needs** have been **identified.**
- The new procedures introduce the term **Lead Coordinator** which **replaces and extends** the **function** of the **former Designated Lead Manager (DLM)**
- The **Lead Coordinator** must be **employed** by **Social Services** and **should, where possible**, be a **qualified Social Worker**
- The new procedures **introduce specific areas** that should be **covered in strategy meetings**
- **If required,** the **Care and Support Plan** should be **developed** during the **strategy meeting**
- The **Care and Support Plan** should **include all elements** as required **by part 4 of the SSWBA** but should **emphasise** the **protection or risk management** element **to support the individual to achieve** their **personal outcomes**
- The **Lead Coordinator ensures** that the **adult protection process** is **followed** and **monitors progress**
- The new procedures introduce **changes to the process** for **adult protection conferences** and a **timescale** for **producing and sharing reports**
- The **Lead Coordinator ensures** that an **Adult Protection Conference** is **convened, chaired**, and **recorded** as and when **required**
- The **Adult Protection Conference** must be **multi-agency** and include the **attendance of the adult at risk**
- **Advocacy services** should be **provided** to the adult **if appropriate**
- The **Adult Protection Conference** process should be **person centred throughout** and is **outcome focused** and **strengths based**

Section 4 – Planning and intervention for an adult at risk of Abuse and Neglect

- The new procedures refer to the role of **Delegated Lead Coordinator**. This is likely to be a **senior professional taking on the role of Lead Coordinator**. This person will **usually be from another statutory service such as Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB**
- The Term **Lead Practitioner** has also been **introduced.** This will be the **allocated Social Worker or Care Coordinator** who is **responsible for updating** the **Care and Support Protection Plan**
- The **Lead Practitioner** is responsible for **engaging** with the **adult and ensuring** that they **contribute** to the **development** of **their Care Support and Protection Plan**
- The **care support and protection plan** should be **regularly reviewed** by the **strategy group** who are **attendees of the strategy meeting and / or discussion, where there is an open adult protection case**
- The new procedures **encourage practitioners** to **think about the lived experience of the adult** and **suggest example questions** that can be used to **establish what** this **looks like**

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 either through a separate process** or **integrated** into the **adult protection 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.**