WALES SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

What are the Wales Safeguarding Procedures?

These are guidance documents which are available to practitioners to make sure that everyone knows and understands how to deal with specific circumstances when working with children and adults who may need safeguarding

Do they replace the Legislation that we work to?

No. We still need to make sure that we work to the Children Act 1989, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, the Social Services and Well- Being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Domestic Abuse (Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence) Wales Act 2015.

What about other guidance?

There are many other guiding principles that we need to be aware of and ensure that we use in all safeguarding work. These include The European Convention of Human Rights, The United Nations Principles of Older Persons, The United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, and the Welsh Language Standards.

Why do we need the Wales Safeguarding Procedures?

When the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 was introduced the Welsh Government produced a set of guidance documents which are designed to help practitioners have a consistent approach to Safeguarding, Child Protection and the protection of Vulnerable Adults against Abuse and Neglect. The Specific guidance documents are called 'Handling Individual Cases' Volume 5 that relates to children at risk and Volume 6 relates to adults at risk. The Wales Safeguarding Procedures are designed to be used alongside these guidance documents. The aim is that they are easier for practitioners to access and understand. They are a 'How to' guide which enable you to look up information about specific parts of the Child or Adult Protection process as you need it.

How can I get a copy of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures?

These new Procedures are only available in Digital Format, there are no printed versions available. They can be accessed via the website http://www.myguideapps.com/projects/walessafeguardingprocedures/default/

They are also available as a mobile app via the Apple App store and Google play store at www.safeguarding.wales in English and www.diogelu.cymru in Welsh. All practitioners are encouraged to download the app to their mobile device as this will give you instant access to the procedures at any time. This means you can check actions you may need to take at a

point in the safeguarding process. If you are not able to access the website, then check with your manager about how best to access the procedures.

How do I know that I have the correct version of the Procedures?

The team that produced the guidance have guaranteed that the procedures will be updated every six months so you will always have access to the up to date version via the digital platform you choose to use.

Have we had any documents like these before?

Yes. These new procedures replace the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 (AWCPP) and the Wales Interim Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse 2010 (Updated 2013). They are designed to cover the safeguarding of both children and adults in one document, though there are specific sections which cover actions for each.

Why did we need new procedures?

The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 introduced several changes to the child and adult protection process and to safeguarding principles in Wales. These new procedures are aligned with this legislation and the terms used within it. They should give clarity to and ensure consistency for practitioners.

Have the new procedures introduced any other changes?

Yes. There is now national guidance for dealing with Professional Concerns which is called 'Safeguarding Allegations and Concerns about practitioners and those in a position of Trust'. It introduces a consistent approach across the Social Care workforce, whether you are working with children or adults. This is a standalone section within the procedures which replaces both Part IV of the AWCPP and Professionals Concerns process and procedures for adults. It gives clear guidance about when these procedures should be followed and provides four decision outcomes for these types of investigations.

Do the New Procedures have any similarities to the previous versions?

Yes. The duty to report concerns of abuse and neglect are still a statutory responsibility (which means it is required by law) for relevant partners. These include Police, Education, Local Health Boards and NHS trusts. However, anyone who is not a relevant partner must still report.

How easy will it be for me to find the information I need?

Because the documents are in digital format it will be really easy for you to look up the part of the procedures that relate to your question. In addition there are lots of key terms which are highlighted in the text and if you click on these they provide an explanation or link to more relevant information. There are also 'Pointers for Practice' included in the document which give examples of real cases and action you should take.

What are the general principles of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures?

The procedures operate from a strengths based / outcome focused approach. They promote effective multi agency and partnership working by building trust, using respectful challenge,

and working collaboratively to define and resolve difficulties. It is hoped that as practitioners we can all work together to ensure clarity of purpose, maintain a child or person-centred approach and work together for a common cause.

Remember **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.** If you are **concerned about a child or an adult** who **may be at risk** you can seek **advice, guidance and support** from social services **staff that deal** specifically **with child and adult protection**, or from the Multi - Agency Safeguarding Hub (**MASH**).

The following documents will now outline the main differences specific to both children and adult safeguarding**:**

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

What are the differences between the Wales Interim policy and Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures?

What other information is contained in the procedures?

There is some useful addition information in the last three sections of the procedures as follows:

Regional Safeguarding Boards

In this section you will find contact details for all six Welsh Regional Safeguarding Boards. The Procedures are 'owned' by each of the Safeguarding Boards which makes them a truly multi-agency document, rather than being owned by one agency such as Social Services or Health Boards.

What Else can I find on Safeguarding Board Websites?

These are a good source of information about all aspects of safeguarding including Regional Policies and Procedures that have been agreed and in some cases information about multi agency training too.

Glossary

This is a useful section of the procedures, as if there is a word that you are not familiar with or would like more information about you can 'look it up' here. Throughout the document there are highlighted sections of text that allow you to do this, but the glossary provides a full explanation of many of the terms used, which is easily accessible as they are all in one place.

About this App

This section gives information about the app, who was involved in developing it and how to give feedback about the contents.