Trefniadau Diogelu Cymru
Wales Safeguarding Procedures

Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019

The new Wales Safeguarding Procedures provide guidance for practitioners involved in safeguarding about *how* things are to be done

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the *Wales Safeguarding Procedures*?

The *Wales Safeguarding Procedures* **build on** the statutory guidance of the *Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014,* part 7 Safeguarding and specifically Working Together to Safeguard People volumes 1, 4, 5 and 6. The Procedures have been written **to provide clear guidance and expectations** for safeguarding both adults and children.

They aim to help **anyone** who works with adults or children (whether through paid or unpaid work) to apply the legislation and statutory guidance of the *Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014* to their roles and duties by explaining **what their responsibilities are** and **how to meet them**.

That "Safeguarding is everyone's business" is clearly stated within the Procedures which also clarify what is required of people in specific roles.

The Procedures use consistent language and terms.

Does this mean that the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 has been updated or changed?

No. The legislation has not changed.

The *Wales Safeguarding Procedures* **update, strengthen and clarify the procedures** everyone must follow; to make sure that those regulations are put in place. Practitioners should aim to get the best outcomes possible for children and adults at risk, their carers and families, across Wales.

How were they developed?

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures were developed by talking and listening to partners and stakeholder groups from across Wales. This means that changes have been led by good practice but informed by operational realities.

This process was led by the **Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Board**, which was chaired by the Director of Social Services in the Vale of Glamorgan on behalf of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Regional Safeguarding Board. The initial

draft of each section was completed by Emeritus Professor Jan Horwath, before undergoing numerous revisions informed by stakeholders across Wales.

The Board is made up of members and practitioners of the **Regional Safeguarding Boards**.

The Board will continue to meet on a regular basis to support the successful and effective roll-out of the *Wales Safeguarding Procedures*, The Procedures need to be adopted by each of the **Regional Safeguarding Boards.** The Procedures will be regularly updated by the project board

Why do we need procedures?

The *Wales Safeguarding Procedures* ensure that safeguarding practice **accurately reflects statutory guidance** and is **standardised** across all agencies and all of Wales. The *Wales Safeguarding Procedures* **replace** the *All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 and the Wales Interim Policy & Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse 2010 (updated 2013).*

Who are they for?

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures provide guidance for **anyone working with children or adults in Wales**, whether in a paid or unpaid role; in the statutory, third (voluntary) or private sector; in health, social care, education, police, justice or other services.

What do they include?

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures are made-up of:

2 sections to cover the whole-life age range

- Procedures that are specific to children
- Procedures that are specific to adults at risk

And 1 section about workers:

- Procedures relating to allegations against practitioners

The sections provide clear guidance on:

- Safeguarding principles
- Early intervention and help
- Duty to report
- Initial Enquiry and Responding to a Report, including timescales
- Decision Making
- Planning and Intervention
- Cross-border working

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And also:

- Pointers for practice in working with children
- Pointers for practice in working with adults at risk
- A set of practice guides about the safeguarding of children in specific circumstances

What and how much is different?

There is **guidance and clarity on how** to apply the legislation and statutory guidance of the *Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014* to your roles and duties. This is done by explaining more thoroughly **what everyone's responsibilities are** and **how to meet them**.

The changes include:

- Specific timescales required for some actions/tasks
- The terminology to be commonly used and understood, as explained in the glossary within the Procedures,
- and the understanding that safeguarding will be delivered under the ethos of the Act; taking into account the views, wishes and feelings of the individual concerned, their right to a voice, choice and advocacy.

What does this mean for me in my role?

It should mean that you are confident to carry out your role in safeguarding as is required by the Act:

- Ensuring that the voices of individuals and the "what matters" question are involved in the process of safeguarding.
- Using the professional judgement of practitioners to meet the identified needs of individuals, in a framework where practice is **standardised** between agencies across Wales.

Where can I get the Procedures?

The *Wales Safeguarding Procedures* will be easily and readily available to as many people as possible across Wales. They will be available in two ways:

- Digitally, on a platform currently supported by Social Care Wales www.safeguarding.wales
- As a free App available for Android and iOs.

Both formats will allow you to quickly find the specific information or guidance you need, when you need it. Information is detailed in a clear and accessible format.

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Will training be provided?

A commissioned provider will train lead trainers from each sector in each Regional Safeguarding Board area. There will then be face to face **training and information sessions** for all practitioners **across Wales in early 2020**. (Please contact your regional safeguarding board for more information.) This training will be supported by materials developed nationally. The specially-commissioned materials will be clearly identified by this branding:

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Training sessions will be available for those who work with children and young people, those who work with adults at risk, and as a combined version for those who work with both, but will ideally be delivered to a multi-agency audience.

The training materials will be made publicly available for all organisations to deliver to their staff teams. They should also be used for updating any existing training packages.

Is there an official date that the Wales Safeguarding Procedures go into effect?

The timetable will be:
Procedures Launch in Safeguarding Week, week starting 11.11.19 at a conference in Cardiff and on the 14.11.19 at a conference in Rhyl.

Adoption by regional boards – November to January 2020

Training delivery – January 2020 onwards

Implementation is led by each Regional Safeguarding Board but should be completed by April 2020.

Does this mean we have to re-write our safeguarding policy/ies?

There has been **no change** to the **legislation and statutory guidance** outlined in the *Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014*. Therefore if you reviewed and updated your procedures regularly they should not need to change.

The Procedures will provide **more detail and clarification** for those who work with children and adults on their safeguarding ***practice*** by explaining in more detail **what their responsibilities are** and **how to meet them**. This aspect may need to be reflected in safeguarding policies, depending on your services and staff roles.

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Who can we contact if we have any questions about the Procedures?

Find your **Regional Safeguarding Board**.