

Knowledge Organiser GCE Health and Social Care, and Childcare - The role of current legislation and government initiatives to safeguard and improve the care and support for children and young people in Wales. 2.4.3

There are several pieces of legislation and government initiatives which aim to improve care and support children and young people to achieve their personal outcomes through outcome-focused care. Without legislation and government initiatives, there may be no checks to ensure care services provided meet the right standard of quality. Furthermore, there could be a possibility that individuals would not receive safe, high quality care, a lack of accountability and childcare services would not improve.

Organisations also have responsibilities in providing care and support for children and young people – such as following relevant government guidelines and legislation, using appropriate vetting systems, such as DBS checks – which is known as ‘Disclosure and Barring Service’. Ensuring that advocacy is offered in the event of any safeguarding concerns. Also, ensuring appropriate, on-going training is offered to keep all staff up-to-date with safeguarding. Organisations should also comply with legislation on confidentiality and sharing information. Organisations should follow the Welsh Accord on the Sharing of Personal Information (WASPI); this is a consistent approach which helps organisations meet their data protection responsibilities.

Volume 5 also gives the definitions of different types of abuse and the indicators: physical, psychological, financial, sexual and neglect.

Some children and young people may be at greater risk of abuse and neglect because of the following factors:

- carer stress – a child or young person’s disability may cause stress which can lead to greater risk.
- dependency – children and young people are dependent upon care and support
- medical and psychological conditions of children and young people
- religious beliefs
- family conflict
- additional learning needs.

These are just some factors that may contribute to children and young people being at greater risk of harm.

Organisations also should provide information on advocacy services such as ‘Snap Cymru’; an organisation that provides information, advice and support for both parents, children and young people who may have additional learning needs. This would allow individuals to feel ‘an equal power’ in any decisions regarding their care and support.

Safeguarding is about protecting children and young people from abuse or neglect and educating those around them to recognise the signs and dangers. The Statutory document - Volume 5 – Handling Individual Cases to Protect Children at Risk - identifies two key principles that should be applied in Welsh local authorities. These principles are that safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility, and approaches should be **child-centred**.

All childcare workers have a ‘**duty to report**’. This means if a childcare worker recognises the signs that a child or young person is at risk or experiencing abuse or neglect, they have an obligation to promote the safety and welfare of children and young people and alert social services or the police.