



University of Wales College of Medicine
Cardiff

National Public Health Service for Wales
Unit 1 Charnwood Court
Heol Billingsley
Parc Nantgarw
Cardiff CF15 7QZ.

“Child Protection and the Dental Team”

An addendum for Wales

Child Protection and the Dental Team

Addendum for Wales

Current UK Government and Welsh Assembly Government legislation aims to reduce the incidence of child abuse. Within Wales the legislative framework to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is enshrined in the Children Act 1989 [1] and 2004 [2]. **Sections 31-34** of the Children Act 2004 proposed the setting up of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) to replace Area Child Protection Committees. The Local Safeguarding Children Boards (Wales) Regulation 2006 [3] sets out how the LSCBs should be set up within Wales and guidance for working together is included in Safeguarding Children: Working Together under the Children Act 2004 [4].

Safeguarding children has been, and will continue to be, a priority for Welsh Assembly Government. Their aim is to ensure policy and practice, both at a national and local level, deliver the best outcomes for children in terms of protecting them and safeguarding their welfare. A number of key policy initiatives have been introduced by WAG in recent years.

The Welsh Assembly Government has adopted seven core aims [5] through which it will work to ensure that all children and young people have:

1. A flying start in life.
2. A comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities.
3. To enjoy best possible health and care free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation.
4. To have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities.
5. To be listened to and treated with respect.
6. To have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional well-being.
7. An opportunity not to be disadvantaged by poverty.

These aims are embodied in the five key outcomes highlighted in Section 25 (2) of the Children Act 2004.

In Wales, the Waterhouse Report, *Lost in Care* [6] was published in 2000, and as a direct result Lord Carlile was commissioned to review safeguards for children and young people in the National Health Service (NHS) in Wales. His report, *'Too Serious a Thing'*, published in 2002, contained 150 recommendations, a number of which are still being taken forward [7].

The legislation and mechanisms to safeguard children at risk in Wales are slightly different from England. In each section where there is variance we have made short notes that highlight the differences in Wales.

NHS Child Protection Structure in Wales

In Wales, the roles and responsibilities of all professionals in relation to safeguarding children are set out in **Part 3 Section 28** of the Children Act 2004. In addition, **Part 3 Section 25** places a duty on agencies to cooperate with Social Services in relation to safeguarding children.

There are no Primary Care Trusts in Wales; instead there are Local Health Boards (LHB) which generally, unlike their counterparts in England, have only a commissioning role and not a commissioning / provider role.

The Child Protection Service National Public Health Service for Wales (CPSNPHS) through its Designated Doctors and Nurses provide the professional lead to the LHBs on the NHS contribution to safeguarding children. Additionally, all NHS Trusts are required to identify a Named Doctor, Named Nurse and Named Midwife for safeguarding children.

P1.3 Recent Developments Include:

In Wales recent developments include:

- Appointment of the first Children's Commissioner in the UK
- Appointment of a Minister for Children
- All Wales Child Protection Procedures – these procedures have been adopted by all LSCBs in Wales [8]
- Publication of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services in Wales [9]
- Healthcare Standards for Wales (Standard 17) [10]

P2.2 Prevalence in Wales

As of 31 March 2005, there were 2,269 children (including unborn children) on local child protection registers. This is an increase of five per cent compared to 31 March 2004 and is equivalent to a rate of 35 children per 10,000 population based on the estimated mid 2004 population aged under 18 of 651,800 [11].

P3.2 and P3.3 What to Do If You're Worried a Child Is Being Abused

In Wales, Safeguarding Children: Working Together under the Children Act 2004 [4] and the All Wales Child Protection Procedures [8] provide advice on what to do if you are worried a child is being abused.

The All Wales Child Protection Procedures [8] are available from: <http://www.allwalesunit.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=298>

In addition, 'A Guide for Child Protection Arrangements in General Dental Practices' [12] may be useful to staff. This document includes a flow chart and local contact details for child protection services and may be accessed via the NPHS intranet web site. <http://nww2.nphs.wales.nhs.uk/> Follow the links via the Resource Team → Child Protection Service → Publications → Safeguarding Children → Guidance documents - Please ensure you access the relevant dental document for your local area.

Or via the NPHS internet site <http://www.nphs.wales.nhs.uk/> Follow the links via Health Protection → Child Protection → Publications → Safeguarding Children → Guidance documents - Please ensure you access the relevant dental document for your local area.

P3.4 Useful guidance

See above (P3.2 and P3.3).

P3.5 What happens next?

Further details of the child protection process are contained within the All Wales Child Protection Procedures (Part 2 and 3) [8]
<http://www.allwalesunit.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=298>

P4.6 Regular team training

In Wales, the Dental Postgraduate Department has organised a series of Level 2 child protection sessions at the regional Postgraduate Centres. A limited number of training sessions are also available for 'in-practice' training. This training provides dentists and staff with up to date information on their roles and responsibilities in regard to child protection. Further information can be obtained from the Dental Postgraduate website <http://www.dentpostgradwales.ac.uk/child-protection.html>

P4.8 Safe staff recruitment

LHBs may have recruitment procedures / policies available.

P5.1 Glossary

CPSNPHS	Child Protection Service National Public Health Service for Wales
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
LHB	Local Health Board
NHS	National Health Service

References

1. Children Act 1989. London, HMSO.
2. Children Act 2004. London, HMSO.
3. Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (Wales) Regulations 2006. Cardiff, The National Assembly for Wales.
4. Safeguarding Children: Working Together under the Children Act 2004. Cardiff, Welsh Assembly Government 2006.
5. Children and Young People: Rights to Action. Cardiff, Welsh Assembly Government 2002.
6. Report of the Tribunal of Inquiry into the abuse of children in care in the former county council areas of Gwynedd and Clwyd since 1974 "*Lost in Care*". London: The Stationery Office 2000.
7. The Review of Safeguards for Children and Young People Treated and Cared for by the NHS in Wales "*Too Serious a Thing*" The Carlile Review. Cardiff, The National Assembly for Wales 2002.
8. All Wales Child Protection Procedures. Cardiff, All Wales Area Child Protection Committees (LSCBs) 2002.
9. National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services in Wales. Cardiff, Welsh Assembly Government 2006.
10. Healthcare Standards for Wales Making the Connections Designed for Life. Cardiff, Welsh Assembly Government 2005.
11. Local Authority Child Protection Registers: Wales 2005. Wales, Local Government Data Unit 2005.
12. A Guide for Child Protection Arrangements in General Dental Practices. Cardiff, National Public Health Service for Wales 2006.