



Heddlu Police

DYFED-POWYS

Child Abuse and Child Protection Policy

Policy summary:	<i>The purpose of this document is to ensure that Dyfed-Powys Police has a consistent and professional approach to policing incidents of child abuse and child protection in line with the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.</i>			
Policy number:	027/2021			
Version control:	Version	Date	Author	Rationale
	1	01/02/21	[REDACTED]	New Policy
Date implemented:	01/02/2021			
Review date:	1 year from published date.			
Owner/contact: (approved by –Board)	Vulnerability Hub			
Consultation and approval	Detective Superintendent [REDACTED] DCI [REDACTED]			
Welsh Translation	Yes	✓	No	



1. Statement of Policy

The aim of the policy is to protect the lives of children and safeguard their welfare by ensuring Dyfed-Powys has a consistent and professional approach to policing incidents of child abuse and children at risk.

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and accompanying Guidance define a 'child' as a person who is aged under 18.

Section 130 (4) of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 defines a child at risk as a child who: *is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm and has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs).*

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures define harm as any ill treatment which includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional abuse and psychological abuse

Abuse can be a single or repeated act and can be a positive act of neglect or an omission to act. Abuse can be committed by adults and children and can be both inter- and extra- familial in nature.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and for services to be effective each practitioner and organisation must play their full part both individually and in collaboration. We adopt a multi-agency response to respond, investigate and reduce the risk of abuse of every child.

The policy applies to all categories of Dyfed-Powys Police employees, whether full time, part time, permanent, fixed term, temporary (including agency staff) or seconded staff.

Dyfed-Powys Police adopts a holistic ACE lens approach to identifying and safeguarding all reports of children at risk.



2. Policy Scope

It is accepted that the following are priorities for Dyfed-Powys Police in its approach to child abuse:

- To protect the lives and wellbeing of children. We will ensure that, in the policing of child abuse, the welfare of all children is paramount.
- To promote a child-centred approach. We understand for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the personal outcomes for the child and what matters to them. The rights of the child should be central to the approach and their best interests should always be paramount.
- To investigate all reports of child abuse and to protect the rights of child victims of crime. Specialist officers and services will be utilised to ensure the most effective investigations.
- Identifying, responding, investigating child abuse and safeguarding children is embedded as a mainstream policing activity;
- To take effective action against offenders so that they can be held accountable, through the criminal justice system, while safeguarding the welfare of children;
- Work with our partners to develop a proactive multi-agency approach to prevent and reduce child abuse by adopting an ACE lens to safeguarding decision making and utilising early interventions.

The above principles are everybody's business and Dyfed-Powys will equip its staff to recognise and respond quickly and effectively to protect those children at risk of harm.

This policy will be made available for all staff to follow during the course of their duties and officers will be provided specific localised procedure guidance in line with Authorised Professional Practice and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.

The principles of this policy will be followed by all staff when dealing with the pattern of reporting, responding to and investigating reports of child abuse. Dyfed-Powys Police guidance will provide details of the responsibilities of all parties involved in the conduct and management of investigations, from first contact with an employee of Dyfed-Powys to the conclusion of the investigation.



Guidance will be available to all staff on the internal intranet site.

The safety and wellbeing of individuals at risk of exploitation is paramount. Failure to identify and appropriately grade risks at the earliest opportunity could have serious consequences.

3. Powers and Policy/Legal Requirements

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures detail the essential roles and responsibilities for practitioners to ensure that they safeguard children who are at risk of abuse and neglect. They also help practitioners (us) apply the legislation and statutory guidance from the Social Services and Well-being Act, 2014 (Wales). The aim is to improve person-centred outcomes for children at risk.

The Children Act 1989 and 2004 places a duty on all agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, which includes sharing concerns at an early stage to encourage preventative action.

Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is a comprehensive guidance document that covers the legislative requirements placed on individual services including the Police. This document provides a framework for local safeguarding partners to make arrangements in order to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children by identifying and responding to their needs.

Dyfed-Powys Police are an organisational partner of the regional safeguarding board and assisted in the development of the 'Information Sharing Protocol for the Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults'. This document was produced in conjunction with safeguarding service leads including our Detective Superintendent for Public Protection, and provisions of the following have been considered:

- *UK GDPR;*
- *Data Protection Act 2018;*
- *Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 (Wales);*
- *Children Act 2004;*
- *Children Act 1989;*



- *All Wales Child Protection Procedures now superseded by the Wales Safeguarding Procedures;*
- *Children and Young Persons Act 2008;*
- *Education Act 2011;*
- *College of Policing - Child Abuse*

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Section 4 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the **protected characteristics** that qualify for protection under the Act as follows: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion or Belief; Sex; Sexual Orientation.

The **public sector equality duty** places a proactive legal requirement on public bodies to have regard, in the exercise of their functions, to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is unlawful under the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The equality duty applies to all protected characteristics with the exception of Marriage and Civil Partnership, to which only the duty to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination applies.

Carrying out an **equality impact assessment** involves systematically assessing the likely or actual effects of policies on people in respect of all the protected characteristics set out above.

An equality impact assessment should be carried out on any policy that is **relevant** to the public sector equality duty. An equality impact assessment template is available [here](#). A welsh version of the equality impact assessment template is also available [here](#). Guidance on how to complete the template can be found on the diversity intranet page.

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Equality Impact Assessment Completed	
Name:	[REDACTED]
Department:	CID- Vulnerability Hub
Signed:	[REDACTED]
Date:	19/01/21

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

This policy has been drafted in accordance with the Human Rights Act and has been reviewed on the basis of its content and the supporting evidence and it is deemed compliant with that Act and the principles underpinning it.

Name:	[REDACTED]
Department:	Legal Services
Signed:	[REDACTED]
Date:	29.01.2021



4. Options and Contingencies

This policy will be owned by CID- PVP.

It will be reviewed regularly to ensure its effectiveness and make necessary amendments in relation to changes and updates in related legislation and guidance.

Approval decisions regarding the implementation of this policy will be made by the Detective Superintendent of Protecting Vulnerable People and the Strategic Vulnerability Group.

Scrutiny and audit of force records is regularly carried out to ensure Dyfed-Powys Police have acted accordingly to safeguard and seek support for vulnerable persons where necessary.

The following Code of Ethics principles apply:

- Accountability – We will be answerable for the decisions, actions and omissions made in relation to the application of this policy.
- Fairness – This policy will be implemented regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or gender.
- Honesty – We will apply the contents of this policy with honesty to maintain the trust of the community we serve.
- Integrity – We will apply this policy ensuring we are striving to do the best we can for the more vulnerable members of our communities.
- Objectivity – The application of this policy will be based upon evidence and best professional judgement.
- Openness – We will be open and transparent in our actions and decisions.
- Respect – We will treat all members of the community with respect and maintain their dignity.
- Selflessness – We will act selflessly in the best public interest.



CODE OF ETHICS

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

This policy has been drafted in accordance with the Code of Ethics and has been reviewed on the basis of its content and the supporting evidence and it is deemed compliant with that Code and the principles underpinning it.

Name:	[REDACTED]
Department:	Vulnerability Hub
Signed:	[REDACTED]
Date:	01/02/2021

5. Take action and review

Our progress is reviewed regularly within the Strategic Vulnerability Group which provides governance and oversight, ensuring that the strategic approach and response to vulnerability is fully embedded within the organisation.

The group is chaired by the Detective Chief Superintendent, Head of CID, and reports to the Assistant Chief Constable and into the Force Performance Board.

The Strategic Vulnerability Group will continue to monitor effectiveness, focusing on continuous learning in this area.

The NPCC National Vulnerability Action Plan provides clear direction and focus. Our progress against this plan is reviewed regularly within the Strategic Vulnerability Group.

Regular reviews and audits of incident logs, records and decision making is carried out to ensure we are in compliance with all legislation and guidance listed in section 3 of this document.



Freedom of Information Act 2000

Section 19 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 places a requirement upon the Force to publish all policies on the Force website. Policies are why we do things and procedures are how we do them. A case-by-case review of procedures must be undertaken to protect law enforcement and health and safety considerations. Where a combined policy and procedure document is being produced the Force is legally required to publish the policy section and assess the procedure part to ensure no sensitive information is published. Generally the default position shall be that a policy and accompanying procedure document will be produced separately.

There is a requirement therefore to review this document to establish its suitability for publication. Please identify below whether the document is suitable for publication in its entirety or not. Where it is believed that disclosure will be harmful please articulate the harm that publication would cause and highlight the relevant sections within the document. Where it is perceived that there is harm in disclosure the document should be forwarded to the Disclosure Unit for review.

Suitability for publication

Suitability for publication	Yes/No	Date	Signature
Document is suitable for publication in its entirety	✓	01/02/21	
Document is suitable for publication in part, I have identified those sections which I believe are not suitable for disclosure and have articulated below the harm which would be caused by publication.			
Harm – in publication			

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FOI review – to be completed by Disclosure Unit

(Only required if author believes there is any harm in disclosure)

Suitability for publication	Yes/No	Date	FOI Decision Maker
Document is suitable for publication in its entirety			
Document is suitable for disclosure in part and relevant redactions have been applied. A public facing version has been created.			
Once review has been undertaken FOI Disclosure Officer to return document to policy author and following sign-off document to be published within Force Publication Scheme. Any future changes to the document should be brought to the attention of the Disclosure Unit, as appropriate.			