

Welsh Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Part 7

Strengthening Safeguarding

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Engagement with stakeholders

Ministerial announcement – The Safeguarding Advisory Panel

“The Panel will have a critical role in developing new arrangements, working with key safeguarding agencies and stakeholders, and will look in detail at the arrangements required to implement a new coherent legal framework for adult protection and new leadership and collaborative arrangements.”

The Panel has:-

- worked with statutory, independent & third sector, older people & young people;
- produced a report for the Deputy Minister published in February 2014;
- assisted Welsh Government to develop regulations & statutory guidance.

Key Provisions of Part 7: Safeguarding

- National Independent Safeguarding Board.
- Regional Safeguarding Boards.
- Strengthens arrangements for children through new Duty to Report.
- New legal framework to protect adults including:
 - Adult at Risk definition;
 - Adult Protection and Support Order;
Safeguarding Adults Boards;
 - Duty to Report and Duty to Enquire.

National Independent Safeguarding Board

Advisory Board by public appointment to:-

- advise and support Safeguarding Boards;
- promote improvement, consistency and collaboration;
- communicate & share good practice;
- report on adequacy & effectiveness of safeguarding;
- make recommendations to Welsh Ministers;
- make an annual report to Welsh Ministers.

Safeguarding Boards

Objective - to protect and to prevent.

Regulations and Statutory Guidance specify:-

- Lead Partner;
- Safeguarding Board Areas;
- Functions and Procedures;
- User Participation;
- Annual Plans and Annual Reports;
- Funding.

Duty to Report

Relevant Partners of a local authority must report if:-

- they have reasonable cause to suspect a person is an adult is at risk in their or another local authority area or an area to which the adult is proposing to move;
- they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a child at risk in their or another local authority area.

Duty to Enquire

Duty on local authority, where it suspects a person is an adult at risk to:-

- make enquiries;
- cause others to make enquiries;
- decide if the person is an adult at risk;
- decide what if any action is required;
- record conclusions in care and support plan.

Adult Protection and Support Orders

Authorised Officer appointed by local authority can apply to a Justice of the Peace – measure of last resort.

Order to empower Authorised Officer:

- enter a premises (with a police constable);
- speak in private;
- check decisions are made freely;
- determine whether “adult at risk” and action needed.