

CYPE(6)–07–21 – Paper to note 3

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Elin Jones MS,
Llywydd

Date: 16 November 2021

Subject: Safeguarding training

Dear Elin,

It seems fitting to write to you this week, during National Safeguarding Week to share our experiences of safeguarding training. We recently completed the two part Introduction to Safeguarding and Child Protection in Wales training delivered by the NSPCC. Deciding to do this training was one of the first decisions we made as a Committee. We believed it was important both on a practical level, to help us know what we should do if during our committee work we encounter any safeguarding concerns; but also as a statement of how important and critical we believe safeguarding to be for anyone who has contact with children and young people.

The training was excellent; and even those Members who had undertaken safeguarding training previously, felt it was useful in the context of their role as a MS. As we understand it, there are no ways for training to be mandated for all MS. However, we want to encourage all our colleagues to take up the opportunity to undertake safeguarding training. We are also issuing a statement (enclosed) to this effect.

We are aware that safeguarding training is provided by a range of different providers within Wales, and that the Member's Learning and Engagement Team within the Senedd can support either individual MS or groups of MS in undertaking the training. We understand that as part of National Safeguarding Week, this team are raising awareness of the opportunities to learn more about safeguarding.

Senedd Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN
SeneddPlant@enedd.cymru
senedd.cymru/SeneddPlant
0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN
SeneddChildren@senedd.wales
senedd.wales/SeneddChildren
0300 200 6565

I am copying in the party leaders, and Jane Dodds MS. We know that the party leaders can play an important role in encouraging members of their groups to undertake such training.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS
Chair

Cc:

Mark Drakeford MS

Paul Davies MS

Adam Price MS

Jane Dodds MS

Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

The importance of Safeguarding training and knowledge

16 November

The importance of Safeguarding training and knowledge

During National Safeguarding Week (15-19 November 2021), we are calling on our fellow Members of the Senedd to take up opportunities to undertake safeguarding training.

As a Committee, one of the first decisions we made was to undertake an Introduction to Safeguarding and Child Protection in Wales training course. We prioritised this because we wanted to ensure that during our Committee work, or in our wider work as individual Members, we would have the knowledge and confidence to take the right steps, if faced with safeguarding concerns.

All Members of the Committee completed this training. All of us found it incredibly useful and informative. Whilst some of us had undertaken safeguarding training in previous roles, doing training that looked at the specific, and often unique context of how safeguarding issues may arise in our roles as MS was important. Elected politicians such as ourselves have a unique and often privileged role in society. We come into contact with many children and young people, and we should all have the knowledge to know what to do if during that contact we have safeguarding concerns.

We now feel more equipped to do this, and we would encourage all our fellow Members to seek out such training opportunities.

CYPE Committee

Jayne Bryant MS, (Chair)

James Evans MS

Siân Gwenllïan MS

Laura Anne Jones MS

Ken Skates MS

Buffy Williams MS