

Number: WG30807



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Welsh Government  
Consultation Document

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

Statutory guidance in relation to Part 7 of the Act, on Handling  
Individual Cases to Protect Children and Adults at risk

Date of issue: 31 January 2017  
Action required: Responses by 25 April 2017

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh.

**Overview** This consultation seeks your views on the Volumes 5 and 6 Statutory Guidance being made to support local authorities and their partners in delivering the requirements under Part 7 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

**How to respond** You can respond to this consultation by completing the consultation response form at the back of this document and returning it to us by post to:

Lisa Griffiths, Safeguarding and Advocacy Branch,  
Social Services and Integration Directorate, Welsh  
Government, Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ.

**Further information and related documents** **Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.**

A suite of Statutory Guidance has been issued under Part 7 of the Act 2014:

Volumes 1 – 4 of the Statutory Guidance in relation to Part 7 of the Act have been issued:

- [Working Together to Safeguard People: Volume 1 – Introduction and Overview](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard People: Volume 2 – Child Practice Reviews](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard People: Volume 3 – Adult Practice Reviews](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard People: Volume 4 – Adult Protection and Support Orders](#)

**Contact details** For further information:

**Post:** Lisa Griffiths, Safeguarding and Advocacy Branch, Social Services and Integration Directorate, Welsh Government, Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ.

**Email:** [takingsocialcareforward@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:takingsocialcareforward@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 029 2080 1196

## **Data protection**

How the views and information you give us will be used

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

## Consultation

This consultation seeks your views on volumes 5 and 6 of the Working Together to Safeguard People statutory guidance developed to help local authorities and their partners implement Part 7 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (“the Act”).

**Volume 5: Handling Individual Cases to Protect Children at Risk** - provides advice on what should happen if an individual has concerns about the well-being or welfare of a child (including those living away from home) and in particular concerns that a child is:

- experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm; or
- has needs for care and support.

**Volume 6: Handling Individual Cases to Protect Adults at Risk** - provides advice on what should happen if an individual has concerns about the well-being or welfare of an adult at risk<sup>1</sup> (including those living away from home); and in particular concerns that an adult is:

- experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect;
- has needs for care and support; or
- as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it

This consultation focuses on the process to be followed in these circumstances. The consultation is not intended to identify the practice procedures as these will be developed through the All-Wales Protection Procedures which will be developed separately by safeguarding practitioners.

### Where are we now?

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (“The Act”), which received Royal Assent on 1 May 2014, creates a new legal system for social services. It creates a framework that brings together and modernises the law for social services in Wales.

The Act strengthens safeguarding arrangements for both children and adults in Wales. The introduction of the **duty to report** introduces provisions for relevant partners to report to the local authority when someone is suspected to be at risk of abuse or neglect (or in the case of children, other forms of harm).

To support the Act, the Statutory Guidance has been issued in separate volumes under the common heading of **Working Together to Safeguard People**. The following volumes have been published:

[Working Together to Safeguard People: Volume 1 – Introduction and Overview](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard People: Volume 2 – Child Practice Reviews](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard People: Volume 3 – Adult Practice Reviews](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard People: Volume 4 – Adult Protection and Support Orders](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Section 126(1) of the Social Services Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 defines an “adult at risk”

Volume 5 - Handling Individual Cases to Protect Children at Risk and Volume 6 - Handling Individual Cases to Protect Adults at Risk have been put forward for comment under this consultation. The volumes work together to provide advice on the process when an individual has safeguarding concerns about a child or an adult at risk of abuse, neglect or other forms of harm.

The volumes replace the Safeguarding Children: Working Together guidance (Under the Children Act 2004) and the In Safe Hands Implementing Adult Protection Procedures in Wales Guidance.

### **The proposals**

The updated guidance sets out clear expectations about the ways in which agencies and practitioners should work together to safeguard all people in Wales in relation to the duties under the Act, including:

- The duty to report for any relevant partner where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child or an adult is at risk; and
- The duty for the local authority to make enquires to determine whether any action is required to safeguard those at risk

Following the consultation we will update the documents to take account of the comments received and publish it as part of the full suite of volumes under Part 7: Working Together to Safeguard People.

# Consultation Response Form

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

email / telephone number:

Your address:

<b>Handling Individual Cases for Children and Adults at risk</b>		
<b>1. Is the guidance clear and easy to follow?</b>		
<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unsure</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
Please comment:		
<b>2. Is there any part of the guidance which would be more appropriate for the revised All-Wales Protection Procedures? If so please specify below.</b>		
<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unsure</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
Please specify:		
<b>3. Do the flowcharts adequately reflect the process for managing individual cases? If not please specify which flowchart and how it could be improved.</b>		
<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
If no please specify:		

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**4. We would like to know your views on the effects that the guidance would have on the Welsh language, specifically on**

- i) opportunities for people to use Welsh; and
- ii) on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

**What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?**

Please specify:

**5. The Welsh Government is interested in understanding whether the proposals in this consultation document regarding this guidance will have an impact on groups with protected characteristics. Protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, and sexual orientation. Do you think that the proposals in this consultation will have any positive impacts on groups with protected characteristics? If so, which and why/why not?**

<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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Please specify:

**6. Do you think that the proposals in this consultation will have any negative impacts on groups with protected characteristics? If so, which and why/why not?**

<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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Please specify:

**7. We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues**

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**which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to tell us about them**

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: