What should we understand about Safeguarding?

The Victoria Climbie inquiry highlighted several key issues that make a course in safeguarding children vital. Consider the following points raised:

* The inquiry highlighted that poor professional practice and lack of knowledge of Child Protection policy and procedure was at the root of the failure to protect Victoria.
* Those who need Victoria either failed to recognise that she was being abuse or did not know what to do with their concerns.
* The inquiry found at least 8 opportunities where Victoria’s life could have been saved.

Law and Policy

There are several laws and government policies which contribute to Safeguarding children and policy. These are:

The Children Act 1989 – this law defines “Children in need” and introduces the term “significant harm” which is the bench mark for Child Protection.

The Education Act 2002 – this sets out the duties and responsibilities for schools in safe guarding children.

The Children Act 2004 – Every Child Matters – this introduction the “five outcomes” for children.

The Children Act 2004 – this followed on from Victoria Climbie inquiry. It formalized several key recommendations from this inquiry.

Defining Safeguarding

It can be difficult to know exactly what the term “safeguarding” means. Look at the following points and think about which areas you would consider as being a definition of Safeguarding.

Safeguarding is…. Protecting children from harm.

Safeguarding is….. Preventing impairment of children’s health and development.

Safeguarding is….. Enabling safe and effective parenting.

Safeguarding is …..Giving children equal opportunities in life.

In fact, all four of these points are a good definition of what it means to Safeguard children.