

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Family reunification Source: NSPCC Date published: 20 August 2024</p> <p>The NSPCC has published a report on support for families when children are returned home from care. The report looks at the costs associated with unsuccessful reunifications and calls on the UK government to improve support. The report discusses the rates of re-entry into care and finds that the estimated cost of unsuccessful reunifications in England is £316,775,715 per year. Recommendations for government include: increase the support offered to families to help children successfully stay at home when it is safe to do so and improve the collection of data around re-entry to care.</p>	<p>Read the report: We're calling on the UK government to improve support for reunited families</p>
<p>Physical punishment Source: NSPCC Date published: 22 August 2024</p> <p>The NSPCC has published a news story about ending the use of physical punishment against children. New UK figures from the NSPCC's Helpline show that between April 2023 and March 2024 there were triple the amount of calls to the Helpline mentioning physical punishment against children, compared to the year before. The news story discusses possible reasons behind this increase and makes calls for the government to end the use of physical punishment in England.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Over 300% increase in contacts to our Helpline about physical punishment against children</p>
<p>Children with disabilities Source: Care Inspectorate Date published: 20 August 2024</p> <p>The Care Inspectorate has published a thematic review into disabled children and young people's views and experiences of social work services in Scotland. The review included work with disabled children, families, and social work teams as well as an analysis of publicly available data. Key findings include: many disabled children and young people's views, feelings and wishes were not being heard; increasing complexity of need and high demand for services was outweighing the availability of supports; and children and young people were not always provided with meaningful choices about the support they received. The Care Inspectorate is calling for the views of disabled children and their families to be considered within service mapping and planning.</p>	<p>Read the review: Disabled children and young people's experiences of social work services: a thematic review</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)</p>
<p>Kinship care Source: Kinship Date published: 21 August 2024</p> <p>The charity Kinship has published a report examining the educational and mental health support that children in kinship care receive in England and Wales. Kinship carried out its annual survey and received 1,657 responses from kinship carers. Findings show: over a quarter of kinship carers said their children hadn't received the emotional or therapeutic support they</p>	<p>Read the report: New Kinship report highlights needs of kinship children are overlooked and ignored</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Children in care</p>

<p>needed; and nearly 4 in 10 kinship carers said their children hadn't received support to help them navigate their identity and family relationships. Kinship is calling for policy and practice that effectively assists children in kinship care to get the support they need with their mental health and education.</p>	
<p>Stop and search Source: Children's Commissioner for England Date published: 19 August 2024</p> <p>The Children's Commissioner for England has published a new report on police strip searches of children in England and Wales. The Commissioner analysed strip searches conducted by police across five and a half years of data, from 2018 to 2023. Findings show: from January 2018 to June 2023, 3,368 strip searches of children were conducted by 44 police forces; 457 strip searches of children were conducted in England and Wales between July 2022 and June 2023; an appropriate adult could not be confirmed to be present in 45% of these searches; and Black children were disproportionately affected. The Commissioner is calling for national codes of practice for strip searching to be strengthened.</p>	<p>Read the report: Strip searching of children in England and Wales: first complete dataset for 2018–2023, including new data July 2022-June 2023</p>
<p>Child sexual extortion Source: Guardian Date published: 21 August 2024</p> <p>The Guardian has published a news story on how financially motivated sexual extortion or 'sextortion' is affecting children. Featuring a Childline counsellor, the article discusses cases of teenagers contacting Childline with experience of financial sextortion. The Guardian has also shared guidance on how sextortion fraud works and how to deal with sextortion scams.</p>	<p>Read the news story: 'It looks so real': amid rise in financial sextortion, Childline is helping teenagers fight back Read the guide: How can children be protected from online sextortion fraud?</p>
<p>NWG neurodiversity and child exploitation</p> <p>This conference, organised by NWG Exploitation Network, takes place on 26 September 2024 online.</p>	<p>Find out more: NWG Exploitation Network</p>