

## Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p><b>Suicide</b>  <b>Source:</b> NSPCC Learning  <b>Date published:</b> 12 September 2024</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a Why Language Matters blog post exploring how the language we use to talk about suicide can make it easier, or harder, for children and young people to share how they're feeling and access support. The blog discusses how the language of suicide can be accusatory and sometimes minimises what children and young people are going through. It highlights how rethinking language choices can help to reduce the stigma around suicide and support children who are struggling with suicidal thoughts or feelings.</p>	<p><b>Read the blog post:</b> <a href="#">Why language matters: rethinking the language of suicide</a></p>
<p><b>NSPCC Helpline referrals</b>  <b>Source:</b> NSPCC  <b>Date published:</b> 11 September 2024</p> <p>The NSPCC has published a news story on Helpline referrals involving children aged five and under. Figures show that last year, 40% of all referrals to local services from the NSPCC's Helpline were for children aged five and under. Some concerns raised included neglect and physical abuse. The NSPCC is calling on the Government to ensure early years services are well resourced.</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">Almost 40% of all our Helpline referrals involve children aged 5 and under</a></p>
<p><b>Early years PANTS resources</b>  <b>Source:</b> NSPCC Learning  <b>Date published:</b> 12 September 2024</p> <p>NSPCC Learning, with the PSHE Association, has updated its Talk PANTS resources for nurseries and primary schools to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. The updates include a presentation of the Underwear Rule to use with 3- to 5-year-olds.</p>	<p><b>Access the resources:</b> <a href="#">PANTS resources for schools and teachers</a></p>
<p><b>Safeguarding reviews in Wales</b>  <b>Source:</b> Welsh Government  <b>Date published:</b> 04 September 2024</p> <p>The Welsh Government has published the final version of its Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) statutory guidance. This statutory guidance explains how safeguarding reviews are undertaken in Wales. The SUSR lays out a framework for how Safeguarding Boards should work in partnership with Community Safety Partnerships and other partnerships in the area, such as Public Service Boards and Regional Partnership Boards, to protect people from harm – sharing lessons and working together to secure the wellbeing of every person in Wales. The statutory guidance will apply from 1st October 2024.</p>	<p><b>Find out more:</b> <a href="#">Single Unified Safeguarding Review: statutory guidance</a></p>
<p><b>Children in care: Scotland</b>  <b>Source:</b> University of Stirling, Lancaster University, AFKA Scotland  <b>Date published:</b> 10 September 2024</p> <p>The University of Stirling, Lancaster University and Association for</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">Scotland's most vulnerable children taking years to be placed in permanent homes</a>  <b>Download the report:</b> <a href="#">Permanently progressing? Building secure futures for</a></p>

<p>Fostering, Kinship &amp; Adoption (AFKA) Scotland have published the final report from their research on children in care in Scotland. The research explores children’s experiences, their progress to permanence and outcomes by looking at statistics for 1,836 looked after children from 2007 to 2022. Findings include: over 79% of children were in homes intended to be permanent and the average time to permanence was more than two years; by the end of July 2022, 12% of children were in impermanent placements; 64% of children who had ever been looked after away from home had two or more placements; and contact with brothers and sisters varied according to where children lived.</p>	<p><a href="#">children in Scotland</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b> &gt; <a href="#">Children in care</a></p>
<p><b>Children in care: Northern Ireland statistics</b> <b>Source:</b> Department of Health <b>Date published:</b> 03 September 2024</p> <p>The Department of Health in Northern Ireland has published a statistical bulletin on children who had been in care for at least 12 months at 30 September 2023. The bulletin sets out information on placement and placement changes, Special Educational Needs, educational achievements, and health assessments and disability. Findings show that the number of children in care is 46% higher than ten years ago and 16% had experienced a placement change during the previous 12 months, which is similar to the previous three years.</p>	<p><b>View the statistics:</b> <a href="#">Publication of the statistical bulletin children in care in Northern Ireland 2022-23</a></p>
<p><b>Experiences of children in care</b> <b>Source:</b> BBC <b>Date published:</b> 07 September 2024</p> <p>The BBC has published a news story on children in care and young care leavers in Wales having to move their personal belongings in bin bags. The BBC heard from young people who saw their belongings go missing as a result and explored the impact this had on them. The National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) is running a campaign, called My Things Matter, asking local authorities in England and Wales to pledge never to ask a young person to move their belongings in a bin bag or throw away a young person’s belongings without their consent. They are also asking local authorities to work with children in care to ensure they feel supported while moving.</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">Belongings of care children put in bin bags and lost</a> <b>Find out more about the campaign:</b> <a href="#">My Things Matter</a></p>
<p><b>Children’s services</b> <b>Source:</b> Frontline <b>Date published:</b> 10 September 2024</p> <p>Frontline has published a new report into children’s social work in England in 2024. The charity surveyed 570 social workers to build a picture of children’s social care. Key findings include: social workers identified an increased risk of harm to young people outside the family home, such as criminal and sexual exploitation; and they highlighted that children and families with social workers are struggling with poverty. The report includes calls for national and local government to tackle child poverty and extra -familial harm.</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Frontline shares government recommendations</a></p>
<p><b>Fostering and adoption</b> <b>Source:</b> Care Inspectorate <b>Date published:</b> 10 September 2024</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Fostering and adoption statistical bulletin 2023/24</a></p>

<p>The Care Inspectorate has shared new statistics on fostering and adoption in Scotland. The report examines the operation of fostering, adoption and continuing care services in Scotland over the past five years. Key points show that the number of foster care households in Scotland has continued to decrease and not all family groups of children are placed together.</p>	
<p><b>Homelessness</b>  <b>Source:</b> Article 39  <b>Date published:</b> 09 September 2024</p> <p>The charity Article 39 has created a new resource for children aged 16 and 17 who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. The resource provides guidance on the rights that children have and information around: help from local authority children’s services; being looked after by a local authority; and getting help from an advocate.</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">New resource for children aged 16 and 17 without a home</a></p>
<p><b>Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children</b>  <b>Source:</b> RMCC  <b>Date published:</b> 04 September 2024</p> <p>The Refugee and Migrant Children’s Consortium (RMCC) has published a briefing on the age determination process for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The briefing discusses age disputes and highlights how children can be incorrectly classified as adults based on appearance and demeanour, leading to their placement in adult accommodation or detention. The RMCC is calling on the Government to ensure accurate age assessments for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Key recommendations include: reduce the risk of misclassification; ensure age assessments are local authority-led; and protect the right to challenge age decisions.</p>	<p><b>Read the briefing:</b> <a href="#">Unaccompanied children seeking asylum and age disputes</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>  &gt; <a href="#">Protecting children from trafficking and modern slavery</a></p>
<p><b>School absence</b>  <b>Source:</b> Children’s Commissioner for England  <b>Date published:</b> 10 September 2024</p> <p>The Children’s Commissioner for England has published a report on children missing education in England. The report analyses data from local authorities and the Department for Education, looking at how local authorities are providing support, as well as the scale and nature of children missing education. Findings show that children who left the state education system and became a ‘child missing education’ were more likely than other children in state-funded schools to be known to social care, have a special educational need, a social, emotional or mental health need, or live in deprived neighbourhoods. The Commissioner is calling for the Government, local authorities and schools to take a more robust and consistent approach to preventing, investigating and supporting children missing education.</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Children missing education: the unrolled story</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>  &gt; <a href="#">Podcast: absenteeism in schools</a></p>