

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Online grooming Source: NSPCC Date published: 01 November 2024</p> <p>The NSPCC has published a news story on online grooming crimes against children in the UK. Figures provided by 45 UK police forces show that 7,062 sexual communication with a child offences were recorded in 2023/24, an increase of 89% since 2017/18. The data also reveals that where a means of communication was known, 48% of offences were on Snapchat; and 81% of grooming cases took place against girls. The NSPCC is calling for Ofcom to strengthen rules for tech platforms to ensure they are proactive and that social media apps do not contribute to abuse; and for the UK Government to strengthen legislation to ensure child sexual abuse is disrupted in private messages such as on Snapchat and WhatsApp.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Online grooming crimes against children increase by 89% in six years</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Grooming: recognising the signs</p>
<p>Safeguarding teenagers Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 11 November 2024</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a podcast episode on safeguarding teenagers in the UK. The episode features an interview with Anne Longfield, Executive Chair of the Centre for Young Lives, about the support available to teenagers. Discussion points include: how to recognise the risks that teenagers face; improving access to early intervention and youth work services; and strengthening the child protection workforce.</p>	<p>Listen to the podcast: Podcast: Providing better support for vulnerable teenagers: an interview with Anne Longfield</p> <p>Watch on YouTube: Podcast: Providing better support for vulnerable teenagers: an interview with Anne Longfield</p>
<p>Children on a child protection plan or register Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 07 November 2024</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published updated factsheets collating statistics on children subject to child protection plans or on a child protection register for each UK nation. The factsheets set out: the number of children who are the subject of a child protection plan or on a child protection register; the reasons children are the subject of a plan or register; and their age and gender.</p>	<p>Access the factsheets: Child protection plan and register statistics</p>
<p>Children in care Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 07 November 2024</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has updated its statistics briefing on children in care in the UK. This briefing looks at data and statistics about children in care to help professionals, and the organisations they work for, make evidence-based decisions.</p>	<p>Read the briefing: Children in care: statistics briefing</p>
<p>Children in need Source: Children’s Commissioner for England Date published: 04 November 2024</p> <p>The Children’s Commissioner for England has published a new report on child in need plans, exploring the content of the plans and the support</p>	<p>Read the report: What is this plan for?: the purpose and content of children in need plans</p>

<p>offered to families on them. Drawing on data from a sample of child in need plans, key findings include: the purpose of child in need plans was not always clear, with differences in understanding and views between social workers and parents; a lack of consistency in support offered through child in need plans; and difficulties measuring the progress of plans. Recommendations include: national thresholds to be set for determining the level of need that children and families must meet to be offered support through a child in need plan under Section 17; and guidance on expectations for how often children receive help and how frequently that help is reviewed when on a child in need plan.</p>	
<p>Experiences of care leavers Source: Care Inspectorate Date published: 05 November 2024</p> <p>The Care Inspectorate has published a thematic review on the experiences of young people in and leaving care in Scotland, with a focus on upholding their rights. The report draws on the views of care experienced young people aged 16- to 26-years-old and staff from four participating areas in Scotland. Findings include: almost all the young people experienced positive relationships with trusted staff and felt supported when transitioning from care; a culture of rights and relationship-based, trauma-informed practice was evident; and access to suitable housing was the most significant challenge for partnerships.</p>	<p>Read the report: Transitions for care experienced young people: a thematic review</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Children in care</p>
<p>Care leavers' support Source: Barnardo's Date published: 04 November 2024</p> <p>Barnardo's has published a briefing on care leavers' experiences of accessing support in England. The report highlights young people's experiences and makes recommendations on how to improve support for those transitioning from care, covering: financial security and housing; access to health services, education and employment; loneliness and isolation; and the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>Read the report: Supporting journeys to independence: improving support for young people when they first leave care</p>
<p>Adopted children Source: Courts and Tribunals Judiciary Date published: 07 November 2024</p> <p>The Public Law Working Group has published a report on adoption best practice in England and Wales. The report covers five areas: contact with birth families; access to records; practice and procedure in placement and adoption applications; adoptions with an international element; and adoption by consent. Recommendations include that adopted children should have more opportunity for face-to-face contact with their birth families unless it is not safe, and better access to their records.</p>	<p>Read the report: Recommendations for best practice in respect of adoption</p>
<p>Safeguarding and public health Source: iHV, SAPHNA and ADPH Date published: 04 November 2024</p> <p>The Institute of Health Visiting (iHV), School and Public Health Nurses Association (SAPHNA) and the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) have published a joint policy position on safeguarding children and</p>	<p>Read the position paper: The safeguarding role of public health 0-19 Services: joint policy position</p>

<p>public health services. The paper explores the role of health visitors and school nurses in safeguarding children and how to maximise this within an integrated 'whole system' of support for babies, children, young people and families. Discussion points include: the role of health visitors and school nurses as 'Lead Practitioners' alongside their public health function; and additional health capacity in multi-agency safeguarding hubs.</p>	
<p>Child health Source: National Children's Bureau Date published: 04 November 2024</p> <p>The Children and Young People's Health Policy Influencing Group has produced a roadmap outlining measures to improve child health in England. The road map calls for the Government to make babies, children and young people a central pillar of forthcoming health plans, with children advising directly on health policy that affects them; equitable funding for children, in particular those with palliative care, long-term conditions, and special educational needs and disabilities; and integrated care systems to be made accountable for improving set child health outcomes.</p>	<p>Read the roadmap: The healthiest generation of children ever: a roadmap for the health system</p>
<p>Youth and community support Source: Coram Date published: 07 November 2024</p> <p>Coram has published an evaluation of two pilot programmes in London which provided support for parents and carers in marginalised communities affected by violence. The evaluation suggests that both programmes positively impacted parental mental health and emotional wellbeing; improved communication between parents and carers and their young people; and through direct work with schools, may have helped reduce school exclusions. Coram has published an accompanying briefing report for practitioners who support service users from minoritised and marginalised communities and a rapid evidence review of literature relating to the mental wellbeing of parents and carers from these communities.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Coram evaluation of violence reduction programmes highlights the value of support services for parents and carers in communities affected by violence</p> <p>Read the report: VRU Community Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Support Pilot Evaluation</p>
<p>Safeguarding children in the digital age</p> <p>This conference, organised by Children and Young People Now Conferences, takes place on 22 and 23 January 2025 online.</p>	<p>Find out more: Children and Young People Now Conferences</p>