

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Children who have disabilities Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 14 November 2024</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a Why language matters blog on using child-first language when talking about children who have disabilities. The blog explores how shifting language can help professionals to: see the child and not just the disability; understand how disability can be an important part of a child’s identity; and recognise and respect how children prefer to talk about their additional needs.</p>	<p>Read the blog: Why language matters: putting the child first – why we say children who have disabilities rather than disabled children</p> <p>Listen to the blog: Why language matters: why we say 'children who have disabilities' rather than 'disabled children'</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Safeguarding d/Deaf children and children who have disabilities</p>
<p>Children's social care Source: DfE Date published: 18 November 2024</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has announced Government reforms to children’s social care in England aiming to improve outcomes and help deliver a secure life for children. Measures which will be set out in Parliament include: the requirement for greater financial transparency by children’s placement providers and limits on their profits; Ofsted to be given new powers to issue civil fines to placement providers to ensure quality and safety; the requirement for all councils to have multi-agency child safeguarding teams, including schools and teachers; the introduction of a consistent identifier for every child, to promote better information sharing between professionals; and a new duty for parents to get local authority consent to home educate if their child is subject to a child protection enquiry or on a child protection plan. Further plans for funding for children’s social care, including investment in preventative services, are due to be laid out in the upcoming Local Government Finance Settlement.</p>	<p>Read the press release: Biggest overhaul in a generation to children’s social care</p>
<p>Children in care Source: DfE Date published: 14 November 2024</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has released statistics providing information on looked after children in England in 2023/2024. The number of children looked after by local authorities in England on 31 March 2024 was 83,630 compared to 83,840 in 2023, a decrease of 0.5%.</p>	<p>View the statistics: Children looked after in England including adoption: 2023 to 2024</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Children in care</p>
<p>Drug testing in family courts Source: Birth Companions Date published: 09 November 2024</p> <p>Birth Companions, MSB Solicitors and barristers from 4PB chambers have written an open letter to the Family Division and Family Justice Board calling for a review of hair strand drug testing in family courts. Hair strand drug testing can be used to find out about drug and alcohol use and these results can be factored into decisions in child protection court proceedings. The letter discusses concerns about how hair strand evidence is interpreted and reported, calling for a review to include: consideration</p>	<p>Read the letter: Taking a strand</p>

<p>around how the tests are treated and requirements for additional forms of testing.</p>	
<p>Child exploitation and abuse Source: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Taskforce Date published: 14 November 2024</p> <p>The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Taskforce has created guidance on appropriate language for multi-agency professionals to use when talking about child exploitation and abuse. The guide sets out: the impact of victim blaming language; key considerations when speaking with people who have experienced exploitation and abuse; and terms that should be avoided. The guide is also available in Welsh.</p>	<p>Read the guide: Appropriate language guide</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Why language matters: how using terms like ‘recruited’ and ‘working’ minimise children’s experiences of criminal exploitation</p>
<p>Child sexual abuse material Source: IWF Date published: 14 November 2024</p> <p>The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has published an article on the impact of new technology to help tackle child sexual abuse material online. A new ‘multi-child’ feature integrated into the IWF’s systems to identify and grade child sexual abuse images, is enabling information about all children seen in sexual abuse images to be counted and recorded. This has led to 60,604 additional children being incorporated into the IWF’s dataset which is used by tech companies and law enforcement agencies to protect children around the world. Previously, if a sexual abuse image featured more than one child, limited information was recorded to help reduce delays in the removal of the online image. The new technology aims to provide vital intelligence to the tech industry, policy makers and police, helping them to fully understand the scale of online child sexual abuse.</p>	<p>Read the article: New tech enables thousands of additional child victims to be counted in sexual abuse images for the first time</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from sexual abuse</p>
<p>CAMHS national summit 2024: transforming mental health services for children & young adults</p> <p>This conference, organised by Healthcare Conferences UK, takes place on 06 December 2024 in London.</p>	<p>Find out more: Healthcare Conferences UK</p>