

## Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p><b>Children’s social care reform</b>  <b>Source:</b> DfE  <b>Date published:</b> 18 November 2024</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has published a policy statement outlining the Government's commitment to reforming the children’s social care system in England. The report sets out reforms aiming to help keep families together and children safe, such as offering family group decision making to all families and introducing measures to strengthen multi-agency child protection, including plans for greater involvement of the education sector. It also outlines reforms to make the care system child-centred and to tackle profiteering amongst placement providers through greater regulation, transparency and caps placed on profits. Other proposals include better support for kinship carers, foster carers and families with children who have disabilities; improved support for care leavers up to the age of 25; and the introduction of a Single Unique Identifier for children to help improve multi-agency information sharing.</p>	<p><b>Read the policy statement:</b> <a href="#">Keeping children safe, helping families thrive: breaking down barriers to opportunity</a></p>
<p><b>Children in care who have disabilities</b>  <b>Source:</b> DfE  <b>Date published:</b> 18 November 2024</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has published an update on safeguarding children who have disabilities in residential settings in England. In a letter to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, the DfE outline progress and plans for reform. The letter focuses on three themes: ensuring children who have disabilities and complex health needs have their needs met in the right high-quality setting; ensuring they are supported by the right professionals with the right skills; and improving multi-agency working. Progress includes plans to enhance Ofsted’s powers so that they are better able to identify and respond to poor practice in settings where children with complex health needs and disabilities may be living.</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Safeguarding children with disabilities in residential settings: progress report</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>  &gt; <a href="#">CASPAR briefing: Safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings</a></p>
<p><b>Online safety: government priorities</b>  <b>Source:</b> Department for Science, Innovation and Technology  <b>Date published:</b> 20 November 2024</p> <p>The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology has announced new online safety priorities for Ofcom as it continues its work to implement the Online Safety Act. Ofcom will have to report back to the Secretary of State on what action it has taken against the priorities. The draft Statement of strategic priorities for online safety focuses on five key areas: implementing safety by design; increasing transparency and accountability of online platforms; maintaining regulatory agility to keep pace with changing technology and behaviour; building an inclusive and resilient online society of well-informed users; and supporting continued innovation in safety technologies. The Government has also announced plans for a new research project looking at the effects of smartphones and</p>	<p><b>Read the press release:</b> <a href="#">New online safety priorities for Ofcom and launch of study into effects of social media on children</a></p> <p><b>Read the paper:</b> <a href="#">Draft statement of strategic priorities for online safety</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>  &gt; <a href="#">Online safety</a></p>

<p>social media on children to help build the evidence base around online harms.</p>	
<p><b>Online safety: parental controls</b>  <b>Source:</b> Guardian  <b>Date published:</b> 18 November 2024</p> <p>The Guardian has published a news story on the introduction of new measures on Roblox aiming to improve protection for children on the online gaming platform. Updates include greater parental controls allowing parents to monitor their children’s activity on the platform; adjustments to built-in limits around how children under 13-years-old can communicate with others; and changes to content warning labels.</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">Roblox to give parents more control over children’s activity after warnings over grooming</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>  &gt; <a href="#">Online safety resources</a></p>
<p><b>Adolescents in care</b>  <b>Source:</b> Article 39  <b>Date published:</b> 18 November 2024</p> <p>Article 39 has published a news story calling for the Government to protect and respect the rights of adolescents in care in England. The news story includes a timeline of legal and policy developments from 1998 to 2024 focusing on 16- and 17-year-olds in and leaving care. The charity’s recommendations to the Government include amending The Children’s Homes (England) Regulations 2015 to make provision for homes specialising in the care of children aged 16 and 17.</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">Government urged to end the wilful neglect of teenagers in care</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>  &gt; <a href="#">Children in care</a></p>
<p><b>Children with complex needs</b>  <b>Source:</b> Children’s Commissioner for England  <b>Date published:</b> 18 November 2024</p> <p>The Children’s Commissioner for England has published a report detailing the experiences of children with complex needs who have been deprived of their liberty. Interviews were carried out with 15 children with experience of living under a Deprivation of Liberty (DoL) order. Key themes include: all children had experienced significant instability and struggled to get appropriate support before a DoL order was put in place; most children felt there were limited opportunities to have their voices heard and be involved in decisions while living under the order; and most children were in solo placements and were socially isolated. Recommendations include that all children deprived of their liberty should benefit from a statutory framework guaranteeing their rights and setting out the responsibilities of others to promote their welfare.</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Children with complex needs who are deprived of liberty: interviews with children to understand their experiences of being deprived of their liberty</a></p>
<p><b>Youth violence</b>  <b>Source:</b> Ofsted, Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire &amp; Rescue Services and HM Inspectorate of Probation  <b>Date published:</b> 20 November 2024</p> <p>Ofsted, Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire &amp; Rescue Services and HM Inspectorate of Probation have published a report looking at the multi-agency response to serious youth violence in England. The report sets out findings from six joint targeted area inspections (JTAs) undertaken between September 2023 and March 2024 and examines the experiences of hundreds of children across these inspections. Findings show: in some localities in the areas inspected,</p>	<p><b>Read the press release:</b> <a href="#">Serious youth violence more far-reaching than many realise</a></p> <p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Multi-agency responses to serious youth violence: working together to support and protect children</a></p>

<p>carrying a knife is the norm for some children; not all local partnerships are sufficiently focused on serious youth violence or identify it as a safeguarding issue; and there is a significant risk of serious youth violence for children with special educational needs and/or who have disabilities.</p>	
<p><b>Children in custody</b>  <b>Source:</b> HM Inspectorate of Prisons  <b>Date published:</b> 13 November 2024</p> <p>HM Inspectorate of Prisons has published a review of the experiences of children living in young offender institutions and secure training centres in England and Wales in 2023-24. The report explores the characteristics of children in custody, safety, and issues relating to children on remand. Findings include: 15% of children felt unsafe at the time of the survey, compared to 7% in 2022-23; children spent most of their time locked in cells, with minimal exercise or human interaction; and there was often conflict and violence when children were able to mix.</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Children in custody 2023–24: an analysis of 12–18-year-olds’ perceptions of their experiences in secure training centres and young offender institutions</a></p>
<p><b>Youth clubs</b>  <b>Source:</b> IFS  <b>Date published:</b> 12 November 2024</p> <p>The Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) has published a working paper on the effects of community based after-school programmes on youth education and crime in London. The paper draws on Freedom of Information requests on youth club locations, longitudinal survey data of young people aged 10-15-years-old, Department for Education data and crime data from the Metropolitan Police to compare neighbourhoods affected by closures of youth clubs to those unaffected. Findings include: in areas affected by closures, educational performance in national exams at age 15-16-years old was 4% lower and young people aged 10-17-years-old became 14% more likely to commit crimes. The report concludes that the closure of youth clubs in the study was not cost-effective and that they provided key support, particularly to teenagers from low-income backgrounds.</p>	<p><b>Read the paper:</b> <a href="#">The effects of youth clubs on education and crime</a></p>
<p><b>Tackling child sexual abuse and exploitation digital conference</b></p> <p>This conference, organised by Westminster Insight, takes place on 05 December 2024 online.</p>	<p><b>Find out more:</b> <a href="#">Westminster Insight</a></p>