

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Voice of the child Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 31 October 2024</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a suite of resources exploring the importance of hearing and facilitating the voice of the child. The resources include: an evidence snapshot summarising findings from research published between 2016 and 2023 about the voice of the child in social work practice; a series of practice points designed to help social workers identify and facilitate the child’s voice; and four expert insight films featuring contributions from professionals and young people. The resources highlight how hearing the voice of the child helps professionals to understand children’s experiences, identify risk factors and better meet their needs.</p>	<p>Read the evidence snapshot: Hearing the voice of the child: evidence snapshot</p> <p>Read the practice points: How can we hear and facilitate the voice of the child?</p> <p>Watch the films: The voice of the child: expert insights</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > The voice of the child: learning from case reviews</p>
<p>Online harm statistics Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 31 October 2024</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a new statistics briefing on online abuse and harm. This briefing looks at the available data and statistics, as well as Freedom of Information requests to the Home Office, about online abuse and harm to help professionals, and the organisations they work for, make evidence-based decisions. Findings include: over 9,000 child sexual abuse offences involved an online element in 2022/23; and under 18-year-olds were the subject of around a quarter of reported offences of online blackmail.</p>	<p>Read the briefing: Online harm and abuse: statistics briefing</p>
<p>Children’s online experiences Source: Children’s Commissioner for England Date published: 29 October 2024</p> <p>The Children’s Commissioner for England has published a new report on children’s online experiences. The report draws on the responses of children and adults to the Commissioner’s The Big Ambition consultation. Findings highlight children’s vulnerability to online harms and outline children’s concerns, exploring: child sexual abuse material; exposure to highly sexualised content; abusive content and bullying; and suicide, self-harm, and eating disorder content online. The report also presents children’s views on the role of tech companies, government, parents and schools in keeping them safe online. The Commissioner makes recommendations on legislation and guidance, as well as system reform.</p>	<p>Read the report: “I’ve seen horrible things”: children’s experiences of the online world</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Online safety resources</p>
<p>Online safety: age assurance Source: The International Journal of Children's Rights Date published: 24 October 2024</p> <p>New research evaluating age assurance checks to help protect children online has been published in The International Journal of Children's Rights. The research takes a children’s rights perspective and focuses on European law, policy and practice. It examines the legal and practical considerations</p>	<p>Read the University of Exeter news story: Age assurance online needs to be child rights respecting, new study says</p> <p>Read the research: Children’s rights and online age assurance systems (open access)</p>

<p>surrounding online age assurance measures and how children’s rights are affected. The paper discusses: protecting children from inappropriate content, goods and services online; ensuring children are not excluded from digital services of value to them; and designing age assurance measures that respect children’s rights.</p>	
<p>Children leaving care Source: Become Date published: 29 October 2024</p> <p>Become, a charity for care experienced young people, has published a new report on children and young people leaving care in England. The report looks at the support available and challenges young people leaving care face when transitioning to adulthood and accessing housing. Findings were informed by an analysis of Government data; the views and experiences of care experienced young people; and Freedom of Information requests sent to local authorities. The report finds that many young people who have left care face homelessness. Recommendations for Government include providing greater continuity of care and increasing access to safe, appropriate homes for all young people leaving care.</p>	<p>Read the report: Support every step of the way: end the care cliff report</p>
<p>Children in need Source: DfE Date published: 31 October 2024</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has published new statistics on children in need in England for the year ending 31 March 2024. Findings show: 399,460 were classed as in need; 49,900 children were on protection plans; and there were 621,880 referrals to children’s social care services.</p>	<p>View the statistics: Children in need</p>
<p>Tackling county lines digital conference</p> <p>This conference, organised by Westminster Insight, takes place on 31 January 2025 online.</p>	<p>Find out more: Westminster Insight</p>