

## Safeguarding Updates

| Information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Link                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <p><b>Preventing child abuse and neglect</b><br/> <b>Source:</b> NSPCC Learning<br/> <b>Date published:</b> 12 December 2024</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published new research from the NSPCC’s Together for Childhood (TfC) place-based partnership project which works to prevent child abuse and neglect in four towns and cities across the UK. The report explores the experiences of people working in paid and voluntary roles with children across the TfC areas of Glasgow (Govan), Grimsby, Plymouth and Stoke-on-Trent and captures their knowledge, behaviours and attitudes around abuse prevention. Key findings from surveys, focus groups and interviews with professionals include: a lack of understanding about what preventing child abuse means in practice; and systemic barriers to engaging in prevention activity such as complex referral pathways and lack of early help services. Recommendations call for professionals to have regular access to high-quality training and resources supporting them in preventing child abuse in their day-to-day roles.</p> | <p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">What professionals know, think and do to prevent child abuse – and how we can support them</a></p>                                                                                                     |
| <p><b>Child safeguarding incidents</b><br/> <b>Source:</b> Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel<br/> <b>Date published:</b> 12 December 2024</p> <p>The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel for England has published its 2023/24 annual report. The report analyses data and outlines learning from Serious Incident Notifications, rapid reviews, a sample of local child safeguarding practice reviews, national reviews, thematic analysis and reports. Key themes explored include: safeguarding children with mental health needs; safeguarding pre-school children with parents with mental health needs; and extrafamilial harm. The Panel also sets out its priorities for future work. NSPCC Learning will publish a CASPAR briefing summarising the learning from this report.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>Read the press release:</b> <a href="#">‘Mission-led’ government must centre vulnerable children</a></p> <p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: annual report 2023 to 2024</a></p>            |
| <p><b>Parental alienation</b><br/> <b>Source:</b> Family Justice Council<br/> <b>Date published:</b> 11 December 2024</p> <p>The Family Justice Council has created guidance on responding to a child’s unexplained reluctance, resistance or refusal to spend time with a parent and allegations of alienating behaviour for those working in the Family Justice System in England and Wales. The guidance: challenges perceptions around parental alienation; sets out steps to follow where a child is reluctant, resistant, or refusing to see a parent; tackles the issue of allegations of alienating behaviour being made alongside allegations of domestic abuse; and centralises the voice of the child.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p><b>Read the guidance:</b> <a href="#">Family Justice Council has published ‘Guidance on responding to a child’s unexplained reluctance, resistance or refusal to spend time with a parent and allegations of alienating behaviour’</a></p> |
| <p><b>Children and violence</b><br/> <b>Source:</b> YEF<br/> <b>Date published:</b> 04 December 2024</p> <p>The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) has published the next two reports as part of its annual Children, violence and vulnerability research. The YEF</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p><b>Read report three:</b> <a href="#">How do boys and girls experience violence?</a></p> <p><b>Read report four:</b> <a href="#">What do children and young people think about the police?</a></p>                                         |

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| <p>surveyed over 10,000 13- to 17-year-olds in England and Wales about their experiences of violence. The third report focuses on girls' and boys' experiences of violence. Findings include that 24% of boys and 16% of girls said they had been a victim of violence in the past year. The report highlights the importance of education and support in promoting healthy relationships among children and young people, with findings indicating that these lessons are not universally taught or consistently reaching those who need them the most. The fourth report explores what young people think about the police.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p><b>Child trafficking</b><br/> <b>Source:</b> ECPAT UK and Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner<br/> <b>Date published:</b> 10 December 2024</p> <p>ECPAT UK and the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner have published a new report providing an overview of child trafficking in the UK between 2022 and 2024. The report explores: key concerns for children at risk of and affected by trafficking; the Government's efforts to prevent child trafficking in the UK and protect those who have been trafficked; and prosecutions and convictions for child trafficking. Recommendations call for the Government to invest in long-term prevention with a cross-departmental UK-wide child exploitation strategy and to integrate a human-rights-based approach across all anti-trafficking efforts.</p> | <p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">UK Government urged to act on trafficked children's rights amid systemic failures</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b><br/> &gt; <a href="#">Protecting children from trafficking and modern slavery</a></p> |
| <p><b>Adoption</b><br/> <b>Source:</b> Research in Practice<br/> <b>Date published:</b> 04 December 2024</p> <p>Research in Practice has created a resource hub to support contact with birth relatives and important people following a child's adoption. The hub includes research briefings, practice guides, and videos looking at: the purpose of staying in touch; planning for staying in touch; and preparing for and supporting staying in touch. The resources can be used with social workers, contact supervisors, and adopters.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">Staying in touch - new resources to support contact after adoption</a></p>                                                                                                                                       |
| <p><b>Parenting support</b><br/> <b>Source:</b> Foundations<br/> <b>Date published:</b> 05 December 2024</p> <p>Foundations has published a blog post on access to effective evidence-based parenting support in the UK to help improve outcomes for children. The blog discusses an event co-hosted with Nesta which focused on scaling up parenting support. Discussions at the event highlighted key areas requiring progress including calls for: a new focus on parenting in national policy; better support for local areas to implement effective parenting programmes; and strengthening of the evidence base about what works when delivering, tailoring and evaluating parenting support programmes.</p>                                                                                               | <p><b>Read the blog post:</b> <a href="#">Now is the time for policy that is serious about scaling up effective parenting support</a></p>                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>Child welfare</b><br/> <b>Source:</b> CYPSP<br/> <b>Date published:</b> 10 December 2024</p> <p>The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) in Northern Ireland has created a resource pack for Christmas to share with children and their families. The pack includes Christmas craft and activity ideas, as</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><b>Access the resource pack:</b> <a href="#">Children and young people's resource pack – Christmas edition</a></p>                                                                                                                                       |

well as resources related to disability including tips on having an autism friendly Christmas; mental health; and bereavement support.