

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Sibling sexual harm and abuse Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 14 November 2024</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published an analysis of research around sibling sexual harm and abuse, highlighting good practice principles for professionals working with children and families. The review looks at the prevalence, nature and dynamics of sibling sexual abuse and different risk factors for children and families. Key findings include: sibling sexual abuse is complex and professionals can find it hard to identify, understand and respond to it; and families need to receive holistic support with consideration for the wider family dynamic.</p>	<p>Read the report: Understanding and responding to sibling sexual harm and abuse</p>
<p>Poverty and early childhood services Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 04 December 2024</p> <p>The NSPCC and UNICEF UK have published new research exploring access to early childhood services for low income families across the UK. The report is based on findings from an evidence review, interviews with professionals, and a focus group and online survey with parents and carers. Findings show that families living on low incomes experience barriers preventing them from accessing and positively experiencing early childhood services at an interpersonal, service and systemic level. Recommendations for the UK Government include: the UK-wide Child Poverty Strategy should set measurable goals to improve access to early childhood services for families on low incomes; a clear plan to rebuild and reform early childhood services should be designed and implemented; and early childhood services should act as a gateway to support and advice for families experiencing poverty.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Families living in poverty struggling to access early childhood services</p> <p>Read the report: Opening doors: access to early childhood services for families impacted by poverty in the UK</p>
<p>Poverty Source: Action for Children Date published: 05 December 2024</p> <p>Action for Children has published new research examining the impact of the cost of living crisis in the UK. The charity carried out surveys with nearly 3,000 11-to 21-year-olds and over 100 frontline workers. The research found: 35% of young people think their family will be worse off financially this Christmas compared to last year; 21% worry that their parents won't have enough money to pay household bills; and 18% worry their parents won't have enough money to keep their house warm.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Three quarters of 11–21-year-olds fear parents' cashflow crisis will mean anxious family Christmas</p>
<p>Child criminal exploitation Source: Children, Young People and Education Committee Date published: 05 December 2024</p> <p>The Children, Young People and Education Committee in Wales has published a report into child criminal exploitation and abuse. The report sets out 23 recommendations and focuses on: missing and criminally exploited children; themes relevant to marginalised children; and risk</p>	<p>Read the report: ‘When no one’s interested in us, the gangs take their chance’</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from county lines</p>

<p>factors for marginalisation. Recommendations for the Welsh Government include: work with local authorities and police forces to take action to ensure that data published relating to children missing from care is accurate and reliable; and work alongside health boards, police forces and other relevant agencies to develop a pan-Wales child criminal exploitation risk assessment tool for use by frontline staff, including in healthcare settings.</p>	
<p>Children’s social care Source: Ofsted Date published: 05 December 2024</p> <p>Ofsted has published its annual report for the academic year 2023 to 2024, looking at the areas it inspects including children’s social care in England. The report draws on evidence from inspections and findings from Ofsted’s research. The report finds that: the number of children’s homes registered with Ofsted has increased; many children are being placed in unregistered homes without regulatory oversight; and the number of children subject to court-imposed deprivation of liberty (DoL) orders has increased over the last couple of years.</p>	<p>Read the press release: Ofsted annual report: education and social care serving most children well, but system pressures bite for most disadvantaged</p> <p>Read the report: Ofsted annual report 2023/24: education, children’s services and skills</p>
<p>Adultification bias Source: IOPC Date published: 27 November 2024</p> <p>The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) has updated its guidelines on handling allegations of discrimination. The guidance outlines different types of discrimination and the types of allegations that may arise. The guidance includes a section on adultification, a form of bias where children from Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic communities are perceived as being more ‘grown up’ and less vulnerable than other children. The guidelines explain that this can lead to the safeguarding and welfare of a child not being appropriately considered. A case study related to the adultification of a young person in police custody is included.</p>	<p>Read the guidance: Guidelines for handling allegations of discrimination</p> <p>Read the Guardian news story: Watchdog calls for end to ‘adultification’ of black children by police in England and Wales</p>
<p>Social media Source: Guardian Date published: 30 November 2024</p> <p>The Guardian has published a news story on research into harmful content on social media. The research, carried out by Digitalt Ansvar, examined whether Meta has improved its processes for moderating and removing harmful content. The researchers created a private self-harm network on Instagram and found that no images were removed in the month-long experiment. The study highlighted issues around the Instagram algorithm and the spread of self-harm networks.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Instagram actively helping spread of self-harm among teenagers, study finds</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Online harms: protecting children and young people</p>
<p>Online safety Source: Guardian Date published: 29 November 2024</p> <p>The Guardian has published a news story on the effects of online beauty filters on teenagers. The article discusses the number of people using beauty filters to alter their appearance on social media apps and explores the impact on teenagers’ mental health and wellbeing. The article also</p>	<p>Read the news story: ‘Teenage girls are feeling vulnerable’: fears grow over online beauty filters</p> <p>Read the news story about TikTok: TikTok to block teenagers from beauty filters over mental health concerns</p>

looks at restrictions on the use of beauty filters by young people recently announced by TikTok.	
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