

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Child sexual abuse Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 13 January 2024</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has updated its statistics briefing on child sexual abuse in the UK. This briefing looks at data and statistics about child sexual abuse to help professionals, and the organisations they work for, make evidence-based decisions.</p>	<p>Read the briefing: Child sexual abuse: statistics briefing</p>
<p>Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill Source: DfE and Action for Children Date published: 08 January 2025</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has published a press release on the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill being debated in Parliament. The press release outlines how the new measures in the Bill will help protect children and young people from exploitation, grooming and abuse. The Children’s Charities Coalition, made up of five charities including the NSPCC, has published a response to the Bill. The response outlines the need for the Bill and welcomes the child protection measures it sets out.</p>	<p>Read the DfE press release: Children’s bill to keep children safe from exploitation Read the Children’s Charities Coalition response: CEOs from the Children’s Charities Coalition respond to The Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill</p>
<p>Child sexual abuse and exploitation Source: Home Office Date published: 07 January 2025</p> <p>The Home Office has published a statement made by the Home Secretary to Parliament outlining the Government’s commitment to tackling grooming and child sexual abuse. The statement discusses recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) and commits to setting up a victims and survivors panel to help shape new proposals and plans on child sexual abuse and exploitation. It confirms that the Government will act on three key IICSA recommendations: making it an offence to fail to report or to cover up child sexual abuse, with professional and criminal sanctions; legislating to make grooming an aggravating factor in the sentencing of child sexual offences; and making reforms related to the information and evidence gathered on child sexual abuse and exploitation, including a new performance framework for policing.</p>	<p>Read the statement: Tackling child sexual abuse</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from sexual abuse</p>
<p>Child sexual abuse inquiry Source: BBC Date published: 09 January 2025</p> <p>The BBC has published a news story exploring the 20 recommendations that were set out by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) in October 2022. The Inquiry investigated abuse in churches, schools, custodial institutions and other settings. The news story looks at what progress has been made. Proposals included: a mandatory duty for people working with children to report child abuse; improvements to data collection, analysis and use; the creation of Child Protection Authorities for England and Wales; and calls for platform providers to pre-screen material</p>	<p>Read the news story: The 20 child abuse inquiry proposals - what has happened so far?</p>

<p>for child sexual abuse images. The Government says it is committed to all the recommendations.</p>	
<p>Youth custody Source: Guardian Date published: 06 January 2025</p> <p>The Guardian has published a news story about children and young people in custody in England. An investigation carried out by the Guardian found that more than 1 in 10 young people in custody are held at least 75 miles from their home. The news story also discusses some of the challenges experienced by children in youth custody and plans to close young offender institutions and replace them with smaller secure schools.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Record numbers of children in England jailed many miles from their families</p>
<p>Youth homelessness Source: Action for Children Date published: 07 January 2025</p> <p>Action for Children has published a blog post on children affected by homelessness in the UK. The blog discusses the scale of the issue and the main causes of youth homelessness including: family breakdown; leaving care; and mental health problems. It also highlights minority groups who are at higher risk of youth homelessness due to discrimination or disadvantage and looks at the impact of homelessness on children and young people.</p>	<p>Read the blog post: What is the extent of youth homelessness in the UK?</p>
<p>Homeless adolescents Source: Coram Institute for Children Date published: 28 December 2024</p> <p>The Coram Institute for Children has published a report on local authority support for homeless 16- to 17-year-olds in England. The report is based on interviews with children, legal staff and an analysis of case management and safeguarding alert data. The report identifies seven key barriers to homeless 16- and 17-year-olds receiving appropriate entitlements and support. It highlights incomplete national data on homeless children and young people and a need for earlier support for children at risk of homelessness and those who are homeless. Coram is calling for the Government and local authorities to: collect and publish local authority level data on the number of homeless 16- and 17-year-olds; invest in early help and prevention; and ensure they have sufficient safe and suitable accommodation for homeless 16- and 17-year-olds.</p>	<p>Read the report: The door is still closed</p>
<p>Parent advocacy Source: Community Care Date published: 06 January 2025</p> <p>Community Care has published an article looking at the use of parent advocates to support families involved with children's social care. The article discusses how parent advocacy can help to rebalance power dynamics and bridge the gap between parents and professionals. It also briefly looks at the evidence base on the effectiveness of peer to peer parent advocacy.</p>	<p>Read the article: ‘How parent advocacy can rebalance the power dynamics of the children’s social care system’</p>