

## Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p><b>Children's services</b>  <b>Source:</b> ADCS  <b>Date published:</b> 15 January 2025</p> <p>The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) has published the latest report in its safeguarding pressures series looking at changes in demand for, and the provision of, children's social care services in England. The research covers the period from April 2022 to March 2024 and examines data and surveys from local authorities in England and interviews with children's services leaders. The report identifies changes in safeguarding activity related to the impact of Covid-19, housing concerns and poverty. The research also highlights that poor parental mental health overtook domestic abuse as the most common factor in children's social care assessments during this period and three quarters of survey respondents reported an increase in safeguarding demand over the last two years due to children's mental health.</p>	<p><b>Read the press release:</b> <a href="#">ADCS safeguarding pressures P9 report</a>  <b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Safeguarding pressures</a></p>
<p><b>Family courts</b>  <b>Source:</b> Cafcass  <b>Date published:</b> 14 January 2025</p> <p>Cafcass has created a new animated film explaining family court proceedings to children and young people. Made in collaboration with young people who have experiences of family court proceedings, the latest Taking Me Seriously film explains to children and young people what court recommendations are and why it is important that they are understood clearly. While aimed at young people, the film is also useful for professionals to help develop an understanding into what it's like for children to go through court proceedings.</p>	<p><b>Watch the film:</b> <a href="#">Cafcass emphasises the importance of explaining decision making to children in new animated film</a></p>
<p><b>Online safety: age checks</b>  <b>Source:</b> Ofcom  <b>Date published:</b> 16 January 2025</p> <p>Ofcom has published a statement and guidance on age assurance and children's access assessments, outlining what online services must do under the Online Safety Act to help prevent children from encountering pornography and other harmful content. Online providers must take action to start to comply with these new rules. Services that allow pornography must introduce processes to check the age of users by July 2025. In addition, all user-to-user and search services, must carry out a children's access assessment to establish if their service is likely to be used by children by 16 April. Once the Protection of Children Codes and guidance are finalised in April 2025, platforms likely to be used by children will need to assess the risks and take appropriate action – which may include using age assurance. Ofcom has also announced an age assurance enforcement programme which will involve reaching out to adult services to inform them of their obligations under the Online Safety Act.</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">Age checks to protect children online</a></p>
<p><b>Digital media</b>  <b>Source:</b> Springer Nature Link</p>	<p><b>Download the book:</b> <a href="#">Handbook of children and screens: digital media,</a></p>

<p><b>Date published:</b> 31 December 2024</p> <p>Springer has published a free eBook on the impact of digital media on infants, children and adolescents. With each chapter written by different academics and experts, the book explores current research on the cognitive, physical, mental and psychosocial impacts on children and how digital media influences relationships, family, culture, and society. Chapters include: cognition and brain development; cyberbullying; social media and youth mental health; gaming disorders among children and adolescents; dysregulated use of smartphones; digital wellbeing and social connectedness; and adolescents' experiences of sharing nude images. This eBook is open access and each chapter is freely available to download as a PDF.</p>	<p><u>development, and well-being from birth through adolescence</u></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b></p> <p>&gt; <u>Online safety</u></p>
<p><b>Maternal support</b></p> <p><b>Source:</b> Community Care</p> <p><b>Date published:</b> 13 January 2025</p> <p>Community Care has published a blog post on maternal deaths and social care involvement in the UK. The blog explores the deaths of women who died in pregnancy or shortly after giving birth and were known to social services, and looks at: rates of social care involvement; mental health-related deaths; infant care proceedings; and supporting mothers to navigate complex systems. The blog calls for the creation of a joint national health and social care pathway for women at risk of, or experiencing separation from their baby.</p>	<p><b>Read the blog:</b> <u>'We are failing women who have their newborn babies removed: that needs to change'</u></p>
<p><b>Child sexual abuse and exploitation</b></p> <p><b>Source:</b> Lucy Faithfull Foundation</p> <p><b>Date published:</b> 14 January 2025</p> <p>The Lucy Faithfull foundation has published a blog post on preventing child sexual abuse and exploitation. The blog discusses the different forms child sexual abuse can take and looks at factors that can aid prevention such as: knowledgeable parents and carers; high-quality Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education for children and young people; and professionals having a good understanding of the warning signs.</p>	<p><b>Read the blog:</b> <u>To get serious about protecting children, we need to talk about prevention</u></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b></p> <p>&gt; <u>Protecting children from sexual abuse</u></p>
<p><b>Digital safeguarding conference</b></p> <p>This conference, organised by the Safeguarding and Child Protection Association (SACPA), takes place on 12 February 2025 online.</p>	<p><b>Find out more:</b> <u>SACPA</u></p>