

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Multi-agency working and information sharing Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 21 January 2025</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a suite of resources exploring how safeguarding professionals can successfully work together and share information within and between agencies. The resources include: an evidence snapshot summarising findings from research published between 2014 and 2023 about multi-agency working and information sharing in children’s social work; a series of practice points designed to help social workers focus on the actions that support good multi-agency working and information sharing; and three expert insight films. The resources highlight the importance of multi-agency working and information sharing in achieving the best outcomes for children and their families.</p>	<p>Read the evidence snapshot: Effective multi-agency working and information sharing: evidence snapshot</p> <p>Read the practice points: What helps to support effective multi-agency working and information sharing?</p> <p>Watch the films: Multi-agency working and information sharing: expert insights</p>
<p>Perinatal support Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 22 January 2025</p> <p>The NSPCC is resuming its Baby Steps service, a perinatal education programme designed to support parents-to-be. Currently being redeveloped to enhance the programme, Baby Steps will be delivered as a year-long pilot through NSPCC hubs and external partner organisations from Summer 2025. The programme teaches parenting skills and sessions cover baby development, giving birth, and how new parents can look after themselves and their baby.</p>	<p>Visit the page: Baby Steps</p>
<p>Online child sexual abuse material Source: IWF Date published: 22 January 2025</p> <p>The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has published a news story on child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online. New data from the IWF found that in 2024, they acted to remove child sexual abuse material or links to CSAM content on 291,273 webpages, the highest number of webpages since IWF records began in 2014. The IWF is calling for the Government to introduce stronger legislation and to ensure a more robust interpretation of the Online Safety Act by regulator Ofcom to help prevent the spread of child sexual abuse imagery online. The IWF has also announced a partnership with Hive, an artificial intelligence (AI) company, that will integrate IWF datasets into its content moderation services to help stop child sexual abuse online.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Call for Prime Minister to intervene as IWF uncovers record levels of online child sexual abuse imagery</p> <p>Read the partnership announcement: Hive partners with IWF to reduce the spread of child sexual abuse imagery online</p>
<p>AI and child mental health Source: Oxford Internet Institute Date published: 21 January 2025</p> <p>The Oxford Internet Institute has published a research paper outlining recommendations for studying the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on young people’s mental health. The paper includes a brief review of recent research on the effects of technology on children’s mental health and</p>	<p>Read the news story: Oxford researchers outline recommendations for studying the impact of artificial intelligence on young people’s mental health</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Online harms: protecting children and young people</p>

<p>makes proposals for improving research methods when studying AI and children’s wellbeing. The researchers call for a collaborative evidence-based framework for AI research.</p>	
<p>Online child sexual exploitation Source: WeProtect Global Alliance Date published: 17 January 2025</p> <p>WeProtect Global Alliance has released a new film exploring how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being used to exploit children online. The film discusses the use of generative AI technologies to create fake yet convincing sexually explicit images and child sexual abuse material (CSAM). The film also highlights the need for governments, technology companies, and society to work together to address these issues.</p>	<p>Watch the film: New film exposes AI’s role in online child sexual exploitation and calls for urgent global action</p>
<p>Child mental health Source: UCL Date published: 23 January 2025</p> <p>UCL has published new research into child admissions to medical wards for mental health concerns in England. Researchers examined data on admissions of 5- to 18-year-olds to medical wards in England from 2012 to 2022 and found: annual acute admissions for mental health concerns increased by 65% over a 10-year period; mental health concerns in females aged 11–15 years now make up nearly a third of all admissions in this age group; and children and young people admitted with mental health concerns are also staying longer in hospital.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Significant rise in mental health admissions for young people in last decade</p> <p>Read the study: Admission to acute medical wards for mental health concerns among children and young people in England from 2012 to 2022: a cohort study</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Child mental health</p>
<p>Fathers and safeguarding Source: Future Men Date published: 16 January 2025</p> <p>Future Men has released a podcast episode looking at how to engage fathers in safeguarding practice and involve them in support for children and young people. The episode explores current research, engagement strategies and the impact this can have on children, families and communities.</p>	<p>Listen to the podcast: Effectively engaging fathers in safeguarding practice podcast</p>
<p>Harmful sexual behaviour conference</p> <p>This conference, organised by the Safeguarding and Child Protection Association (SACPA), takes place on 11 March 2025 online.</p>	<p>Find out more: SACPA</p>