

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Parental substance misuse Source: NSPCC Date published: 10 February 2025</p> <p>The NSPCC has published a news story on contacts to its helplines concerning parental substance misuse. Figures show: the NSPCC Helpline received an average of 31 contacts a day in 2023/24 by UK adults worried about the impact of a parent or carer’s substance misuse on a child; and Childline delivered 440 counselling sessions in 2023/24 with children and young people who were worried about their parent’s substance misuse. The news story also includes advice for children living with alcohol or substance misuse.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Our Helpline is contacted more than 30 times a day about parental substance misuse</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Parents with substance use problems</p>
<p>Parenting support Source: Foundations Date published: 07 February 2025</p> <p>Foundations has published a new practice guide on parenting support for families facing adversity. The guide sets out key principles and recommendations for supporting parents of children aged 10 and under, whose circumstances include challenges such as poverty, substance misuse, intimate partner violence and mental health problems. Key principles are grouped into three themes: working with families, programme design and local system integration. Case studies and systematic reviews of the evidence underpinning the practice guide are also available.</p>	<p>Access the guide: Parenting through adversity</p>
<p>Foster care Source: The Fostering Network Date published: 11 February 2025</p> <p>The Fostering Network has published its State of the Nations’ Foster Care report examining foster care across the UK. Findings from the 2024 survey, completed by over 3,000 current and former foster carers and 114 fostering services, include: 58% of foster carers said they have experienced burnout or poor wellbeing because of their fostering role; 53% of foster carers said at least one of the children they foster receives additional support with their learning, a decrease from 64% in 2021; and 45% of foster carers said at least one child they foster is either receiving mental health or wellbeing support or is on a waiting list for support. Recommendations include: improving support for foster carers, including therapeutic, peer, and out-of-hours support; introducing a register in each nation to increase foster carers’ status and support matching of children with foster carers; and increase allowances to ensure foster carers can afford to look after children in their care.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Huge instability for children and young people in care as foster carers report significant burnout</p> <p>Read the report: State of the Nations' Foster Care</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Children in care</p>
<p>Online safety Source: UK Safer Internet Centre Date published: 11 February 2025</p> <p>The UK Safer Internet Centre has published a report on children and young</p>	<p>Read the news story: Almost half of 8 to 17-year-olds have been scammed online</p> <p>Read the report: Safer Internet Day research report 2025</p>

<p>people’s exposure to online scams. The report draws data from a survey carried out with 2,013 children aged 8- to 17-years-old and their parents. Findings show: 79% of children are coming across scams online at least once a month; 27% of parents and carers say their child has been the victim of an online scam; and 26% of children who had been scammed said they blamed themselves. The report highlights the emotional impact on children and a culture of victim-blaming surrounding online scams.</p>	
<p>Online financial scams Source: Digital Futures for Children centre Date published: 10 February 2025</p> <p>The Digital Futures for Children centre has published a blog post on online financial scams. The blog sets out existing research and ways children can be targeted online, exploring: deceptive design features; technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse; artificial intelligence (AI) related manipulation; and online games.</p>	<p>Read the blog: The many faces of online scams – four key deceptions targeted at children</p>
<p>Digital technologies Source: EU Kids Online Date published: 10 February 2025</p> <p>EU Kids Online has published a report looking at the effects of digital technologies on the wellbeing of adolescents. The report examines 15 research studies carried out over six years exploring how smartphones, social networks, and online gaming influence adolescents' psychological, social, and physical wellbeing. Overall findings indicated that the impacts of technology vary significantly according to individual characteristics such as age, gender, media use frequency, and use patterns. While some adolescents experienced positive outcomes, others faced negative consequences, highlighting the complexity of the relationship between technology use and wellbeing. The report also highlights the need to avoid broad generalisations and to adopt a more nuanced understanding of how digital technologies interact with adolescents' characteristics and usage patterns.</p>	<p>Read the press release: Tech & teens: insights from 15 studies on the impact of digital technology on wellbeing</p> <p>Download the report: Tech & teens: insights from 15 studies on the impact of digital technology on well-being</p>
<p>Youth homelessness Source: Centrepont Date published: 10 February 2025</p> <p>Centrepont has published a new report into the scale of youth homelessness across the UK. The report sets out data collected by local authorities in 2023-2024 on 16-24 year olds in England. Information from devolved nations is also included to provide a picture of youth homelessness across the UK. Findings indicate that in 2023-2024: 1 in 62 young people in the UK faced homelessness, an increase on the previous year; and the primary causes of young people becoming homeless included family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate them, and domestic abuse. Centrepont is calling on the UK Government to provide ring-fenced funding for local authorities to tackle youth homelessness.</p>	<p>Read the report: Hidden in plain sight: understanding youth homelessness in the UK</p>
<p>Children and violence Source: Youth Endowment Fund Date published: 12 February 2025</p>	<p>Read the blog post: Beyond the headlines update: a data-driven look at the rise in fatal stabbings</p>

<p>The Youth Endowment Fund has published a blog post on the scale of knife crime in England and Wales. The blog post looks at: young people's concerns about knife crime; the rates of knife-enabled crimes over the past decade; and how children and young people have been affected. It highlights the need to focus on the reasons why children use knives, and on interventions and strategies, such as psychological therapies and focussed deterrence, that can have a positive impact on reducing children's involvement in violence.</p>	
<p>County lines & child criminal exploitation conference</p> <p>This conference, organised by the National County Lines Coordination Centre, takes place on 05 March 2025 in London.</p>	<p>Find out more: National County Lines Coordination Centre</p>