

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Child sexual abuse material Source: NSPCC Date published: 18 February 2025</p> <p>The NSPCC has collaborated with the Marie Collins Foundation, Lucy Faithfull Foundation, Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse and Barnardo’s to send a joint letter to the Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, calling for the Government to ensure children are better protected from child sexual abuse in private messaging environments. Data gathered by the NSPCC from police forces across the UK on child sexual abuse image offences, indicates private messaging sites were involved in more crimes of this nature than any other type of platform. The letter expresses collective concern regarding Ofcom’s Illegal Harms Code of Practice, published in December 2024. It argues that only requiring illegal content to be removed where it is ‘technically feasible’ creates a loophole for service providers. The charities are calling for all private messaging services, including those using end-to-end encryption, to ensure robust safeguards are in place to protect children and for Ofcom to review and strengthen its codes of practice.</p>	<p>Read the press release: More than 100 child sexual abuse image crimes being recorded by police every day</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from sexual abuse</p>
<p>Sexual extortion Source: NSPCC Date published: 14 February 2025</p> <p>The NSPCC has published a news story about boys’ vulnerability to sexual extortion, or ‘sextortion’. Sexual extortion is a form of online blackmail that involves the threat of sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos to extort money or force someone to do something against their will. Data from Childline counselling sessions between April and December 2024 reveals that boys were more than twice as likely as girls to seek help and advice from the service for worries about sexual extortion. In response, Childline has launched a campaign aimed at encouraging boys to contact the service for support if they are affected. The news story includes tips from Childline to help young people stay safe online.</p>	<p>Read the press release: Childline data reveals boys are most vulnerable to ‘sextortion’</p> <p>Watch the campaign video: Can The Charvas work out who is REAL and who is FAKE?</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Young people’s experiences of online sexual extortion or ‘sextortion’</p>
<p>Online financial harm Source: ParentZone Date published: 14 February 2025</p> <p>ParentZone has published a report which explores UK parents’ understanding of and concerns about online child financial harms. Findings are based on data from an online survey of 2,103 parents and focus groups with 44 parents. Key findings include: over six in ten parents of children aged 7- to 18-years-old agree that financial harm online is a relevant issue for their children and family; parents’ greatest concern was child sexual abuse and exploitation; and the most common ways parents said their child was affected online were accidental purchases and subscriptions for paid-for services that they couldn’t cancel. The report highlights that parents would like to know more about a number of topics including how</p>	<p>Download the report: Six in ten parents concerned about child financial harms</p>

<p>to teach children about money, reporting scams, cryptocurrencies and trading.</p>	
<p>Adverse childhood experiences Source: Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland Date published: 19 February 2025</p> <p>The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland has published a report on the prevalence and impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in Northern Ireland. The report draws findings and recommendations from qualitative data collected from 1,200 adults on childhood adversities; conflict-related exposures; and health, behavioural and social outcomes. Key findings show: a high prevalence of ACEs and conflict-related adversities; higher ACE exposure correlated with poorer educational outcomes in childhood, including increased school exclusions and special educational needs; parental ACE exposure predicted higher ACE prevalence among their children; child sexual abuse was higher among females than males; and paramilitary threat was higher among males than females. Recommendations for interventions to address ACEs include: trauma-informed approaches; conflict-sensitive interventions; and an intergenerational focus.</p>	<p>Download the report: The prevalence and impact of adverse childhood experiences in Northern Ireland</p>
<p>Children and violence Source: Youth Endowment Fund Date published: 19 February 2025</p> <p>The Youth Endowment Fund has published a report on the representation of ethnic groups in data on violence affecting children and young people in England and Wales. The report uses data from public datasets as well as the Youth Endowment Fund's own work, including systematic reviews and research with children and young people. Findings include: children from certain ethnic groups, especially Black children and young people, are disproportionately likely to be victims of violence; children from Gypsy or Irish Traveller backgrounds are significantly over-represented in the criminal justice system; and 10- to 17-year-olds from Black Caribbean backgrounds are significantly more over-represented in arrests than children from Black African backgrounds. The report makes five recommendations to Government, including: ensure stop and search is fair and intelligence-led; monitor and improve access to psychological therapy; and deliver evidence-based support to children absent or excluded from school.</p>	<p>Download the report: Racial disproportionality in violence affecting children and young people</p>
<p>Child mental health Source: BBC Dars Date published: 16 February 2025</p> <p>Dars has produced a video helping children to deal with stress. It is aimed particularly at children and young people growing up in conflict zones. The video introduces what stress can feel like and provides some simple tools to help relaxation and stress reduction. Dars is the BBC World Service educational programme for children and young people. The programme aims to support young people who are denied or restricted from accessing education.</p>	<p>Watch the video: How to deal with stress Explore the series: BBC Dars</p>

Survey: child exploitation

Source: NWG Network

Date published: 19 February 2025

NWG Network is inviting child protection professionals to complete a survey about the definitions of various forms of child exploitation. The survey is part of the ECPAT UK research project 'More than words: how definitions impact on the UK's response to child trafficking'.

Take the survey: [Survey for professionals on the definitions of various forms of child exploitation](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning
> [Protecting children from sexual exploitation](#)