

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Generative Artificial Intelligence Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 28 January 2025</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published new research on Generative (Gen) Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on children’s safety and wellbeing. Gen AI is a form of AI used to produce new content such as text and images. The report draws findings and recommendations from an analysis of NSPCC-commissioned research, available data and children’s views. Child safety risks highlighted around Gen AI include sexual grooming, sexual extortion and exposure to harmful content. The report looks at how these risks could spread and sets out potential solutions. The NSPCC is calling for the Government to adopt four key actions: adopt a duty of care for children’s safety and ensure Gen AI companies prioritise the safety, protection and rights of children in the design and development of their products and services; embed this duty of care in legislation; ensure children’s needs and experiences are central to decisions about Gen AI; and develop the research and evidence base on Gen AI and child safety.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Over three quarters of the UK public want child safety checks on new generative AI products</p> <p>Read the report: Viewing Generative AI and children’s safety in the round</p>
<p>Child mental health Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 03 February 2025</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a podcast episode about the use of mental health first aid kits to help young people manage their mental health if they are struggling. The episode features a discussion with a practitioner in the Childline Online Services team and members of the NSPCC’s Young People’s Board for Change, covering: what a mental health first aid kit is and what it is useful for; recognising when a young person would benefit from using one; and supporting a young person with the creation of their kit.</p>	<p>Listen to the episode: Podcast: mental health first aid kits</p> <p>Listen on YouTube: Mental health first aid kits NSPCC Learning podcast</p>
<p>Sexually coerced extortion Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 28 January 2025</p> <p>Childline has launched a new campaign, Behind the Screen, raising awareness of the sexually coerced extortion of boys and young men. Sexually coerced extortion or ‘sextortion’ is a form of online blackmail involving a threat to share intimate or explicit images or videos to extort money or get someone to do something against their will. The campaign resources include a new film aimed at young people which involves an AI generated image challenge and a guide for professionals which looks at what sexually coerced extortion is and how to support young people.</p>	<p>Find out more: Childline: Our latest campaign - Behind the Screen</p> <p>Watch the film: Leng or liar? Can you spot the fake?</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Young people’s experiences of online sexual extortion or ‘sextortion’</p>
<p>Family courts Source: Courts and Tribunals Judiciary Date published: 27 January 2025</p> <p>The Courts and Tribunals Judiciary has published a news story about new open reporting provisions in family courts in England and Wales, applicable</p>	<p>Read the news story: Open reporting provisions extended to all family courts in “watershed moment for family justice”</p>

<p>from 27 January 2025. Journalists and legal bloggers can now report on what they see and hear whilst attending any family court, if a transparency order is granted. There is a presumption that a transparency order, protecting the anonymity of the children and their families, is granted, unless there is a legitimate reason not to. This extension of open reporting to all family courts in England and Wales follows on from a successful pilot which started in January 2023. The changes aim to increase public understanding and awareness of the family courts.</p>	
<p>Youth justice Source: Children’s Commissioner for England Date published: 28 January 2025</p> <p>The Children’s Commissioner for England has published a report about young people involved in the summer 2024 riots in England. The report hears from 14 children charged in connection to the riots and looks at data from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC). Findings show: children’s involvement was largely spontaneous and unconsidered; many children spoke strongly about their hatred of the police, describing previous bad experiences and community mistrust; and children’s experience with the youth justice system and their outcomes depended on where they lived. The Commissioner concludes that the primary objective of youth justice should be rehabilitation and highlights the need for child-centred policing that builds trust and fosters positive relationships.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Press notice: deep distrust of the police and lack of opportunity as drivers in children’s motivation to take part in last summer’s riots</p> <p>Read the report: Children’s involvement in the 2024 riots</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Children and the law</p>
<p>Youth custody Source: Alliance for Youth Justice Date published: 29 January 2025</p> <p>Alliance for Youth Justice has published a policy briefing exploring the impact of the Government’s decision to raise the age young people transferred from youth custody to adult prisons from 18 to 19-years-old. The temporary policy, put in place between November 2022 and October 2024, resulted in an increase in the number of young people over the age of 18 held in young offender institutions. The report raises concerns about the ‘adultifying’ of children’s youth custody services and deteriorating conditions for young people such as limited education and rehabilitation opportunities. Recommendations call for the children’s secure estate to be restricted to the care of under 18s, other than on a case-by-case basis to ensure a child centred approach.</p>	<p>Read the briefing: Adultifying youth custody: learning lessons on transition to adulthood from the use of youth custody for young adults</p>
<p>Care proceedings Source: Guardian and Nuffield Family Justice Observatory Date published: 25 January 2025</p> <p>The Guardian has published a news story about the number of newborn babies subject to care proceedings in England. Findings shared with the Guardian from analysis of government data by the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory show that in 2022-23 nearly 3,000 newborn babies were subject to care proceedings. This is an increase of nearly 20% since 2012-13. The news story examines some of the reasons behind these cases and explores the experiences of parents and professionals. The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory has also recently published research about parents</p>	<p>Read the news story: ‘I can’t sleep, I’m terrified’: the rise in mothers having their babies taken away within days of giving birth in England</p> <p>Read the report: Babies in care proceedings: What do we know about parents with learning disabilities or difficulties?</p>

<p>with learning disabilities or difficulties involved in care proceedings concerning their babies.</p>	
<p>Child sexual abuse Source: BBC Date published: 28 January 2025</p> <p>The BBC has published a news story on reports of child sexual abuse in hotels in England. Data shared with the BBC by the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) shows that of the 504 offences recorded in hotels in 2023, 92% involved physical contact with a child, while 40% were recorded as rape. The news story discusses child sexual exploitation and signs to look out for.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Children raped and abused in hotels, police data suggests</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from sexual abuse</p>
<p>Online safety Source: Guardian Date published: 24 January 2025</p> <p>The Guardian has published guidance on talking to children and young people about violent material online. The guidance looks at how parents can address the risks by: being proactive; establishing ground rules around online safety; and finding out more about the online communities their children are engaged with.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Talking about extreme online violence with young people: advice for parents</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Online harms: protecting children and young people</p>
<p>Evaluation, evidence & impact: advancements in children's services</p> <p>This conference, organised by Children and Young People Now, takes place on 25 March 2025 in London.</p>	<p>Find out more: Children and Young People Now</p>