

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>'Disguised compliance' Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 07 March 2025</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a Why language matters blog and a Learning from case reviews briefing on the use of the term 'disguised compliance' and the implications for practice. The blog explores why the term can be misleading, unhelpful and blaming. It highlights how professionals should more clearly describe caregiver behaviour, build relationships with families and assess caregiver capacity to change.</p> <p>The Learning from case reviews briefing is based on a sample of reviews published between 2022 and 2023 where 'disguised compliance' was mentioned as a factor. It highlights that: 'disguised compliance' is used by professionals to describe a range of caregiver behaviours; concerns about caregiver engagement can divert attention away from the child's wellbeing; and professionals should work together to better understand a family's situation.</p>	<p>Read the blog: Why language matters: how using the term 'disguised compliance' can be problematic'</p> <p>Read the briefing: 'Disguised compliance': learning from case reviews</p>
<p>Child sexual abuse Source: BBC Date published: 02 March 2025</p> <p>BBC Radio 4 has released a new podcast episode sharing the voices of three people from IICSA Changemakers who have experienced child sexual abuse. The IICSA Changemakers are a group co-ordinated by the NSPCC who aim to amplify the voices of people with lived experience of child sexual abuse and ensure that the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) remains an important moment for child protection. This podcast episode challenges misconceptions that abuse only happens in certain communities and highlights the impact of institutional silence.</p>	<p>Listen to the Radio 4 podcast episode: The endemic truth</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > How to plan meaningful participation work with victims and survivors of child sexual abuse (CSA)</p>
<p>Harmful online content Source: Department for Science, Innovation and Technology Date published: 27 February 2025</p> <p>The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology has published an independent review by Baroness Bertin looking at the legislation and regulation of online pornography. It makes recommendations for government, regulatory bodies, and the sector to ensure that the harmful impacts of pornography are addressed. The report includes an examination of the harms of online pornography and child sex abuse material (CSAM) on pornography websites. It considers how pornography sites can be used as disguised gateways for accessing or inadvertently directing individuals to CSAM and outlines evidence around potential links between viewing illegal pornography and CSAM. Recommendations centre around: tackling violence against women and girls; protecting those most vulnerable to exploitation and harms; and future-proofing against tech-enabled harms.</p>	<p>Read the report: Creating a safer world: the challenge of regulating online pornography</p>
<p>Online safety Source: Internet matters</p>	<p>Read the news story: Children experiencing harm online in the UK</p>

<p>Date published: 05 March 2025</p> <p>Internet Matters has published findings from its fourth digital wellbeing survey, an annual study looking at how children are affected by their experiences online. The survey of over 1,000 families looked at the positive and negative impact of digital technology on physical, emotional, social and developmental wellbeing. Key findings include an increasingly polarised online landscape in which the Internet is becoming more essential but also more distressing for children, although the positive impacts continue to outweigh the negatives. While the majority of children reported feeling safe online (77%), this is lower than the previous year (81%) with vulnerable children less likely to feel safe than their peers.</p>	<p>remains ‘stubbornly high’</p> <p>Read the report: Children’s wellbeing in a digital world 2025</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning</p> <p>> Online harms: protecting children and young people</p>
<p>Domestic abuse</p> <p>Source: Internet Matters</p> <p>Date published: 28 February 2025</p> <p>Internet Matters has published a blog post looking at tech-facilitated abuse in teenage relationships. This includes the use of digital tools to harass, monitor, threaten or control someone. The blog sets out signs of this type of abuse and explores how it can impact teenagers. It also contains tips to share with parents and carers around protecting and supporting young people in relation to online abuse and harassment.</p>	<p>Read the blog: What tech-facilitated abuse looks like in teenage relationships</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning</p> <p>> Protecting children from domestic abuse</p>
<p>Physical punishment</p> <p>Source: BBC</p> <p>Date published: 06 March 2025</p> <p>The BBC has published a news story about the law on physical punishment in England, reporting that the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) is calling for the Government to remove the “reasonable punishment” legal defence to help protect children. The news story features the views of parents and organisations including the NSPCC and Barnardo’s. The NSPCC is campaigning for legal reforms in England and Northern Ireland to end the physical punishment of children and young people.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Doctors back total ban on smacking children in England</p> <p>Find out more about the NSPCC's campaign: End physical punishment</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning</p> <p>> Why language matters: talking about ‘equal protection from physical assault’ rather than calling for a ‘smacking ban’</p>
<p>Children’s social care</p> <p>Source: Foundations</p> <p>Date published: 04 March 2025</p> <p>Foundations has published a new report examining how data is collected by local authorities around Family Group Conferences (FGC). The project involved an assessment of previous FGC data collection work and interviews with local authority staff. Key findings show: substantial variation in the quality of FGC data and in data quality assurance processes; and local authorities were supportive of the introduction of a national standardised, routine data collection on FGCs as many felt that it could help to promote FGCs locally and nationally.</p>	<p>Read the report: Exploring local authority data and monitoring of Family Group Conferences</p>
<p>Youth justice</p> <p>Source: Ministry of Justice</p> <p>Date published: 04 March 2025</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice has published the findings from an independent</p>	<p>Read the review: Delivering the best for girls in custody</p> <p>Read the press release: Government no longer places girls in Young Offender Institutions</p>

<p>review into placements and care for girls in custody in England and Wales. The review sets out: the characteristics of girls in the criminal justice system; the needs of girls in secure settings; the suitability of current placement options; and the voices of girls in custody. Recommendations call for a safe, supportive, gender responsive placement that delivers positive outcomes for girls. Following the review, The Ministry of Justice has announced that girls sentenced to youth custody will no longer be placed in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs).</p>	<p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Children and the law</p>
<p>Serious youth violence Source: DfE Date published: 27 February 2025</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has published a new report as part of its serious violence research programme looking at how systems of support impact young people. The latest report focuses on the role of key workers in supporting children and young people affected by serious youth violence. It is based on a review of existing evidence and interviews with key workers, managers, and children and young people. Key findings include: a trusted relationship between young people and their key worker is the cornerstone to effective delivery of the key worker model; and successful key workers sit within and act as a bridge between young people and systems of support, including education, youth justice, health, community, third sector and social care.</p>	<p>Read the report: The role of key workers in supporting children and young people with experience of serious youth violence</p>
<p>Youth work Source: NYA Date published: 03 March 2025</p> <p>The National Youth Agency (NYA) has launched a survey exploring the role of youth work in protecting children and young people at risk of, or involved in, violence or crime. The NYA is looking to hear from youth workers in England and Wales to understand their support needs and the impact their work has on young people.</p>	<p>Read the NWG news story: Youth work and safeguarding review</p>