

## Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p><b>Online safety</b>  <b>Source:</b> NSPCC Learning  <b>Date published:</b> 27 February 2025</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a new podcast episode exploring young people’s perspectives of online safety. The podcast features a discussion with children from the NSPCC’s Voice of Online Youth group, covering: the positive uses of online technology; the importance of content moderation; concerns around misinformation; and the impact of Generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI).</p>	<p><b>Listen to the podcast on NSPCC Learning:</b> <a href="#">Online safety - a young person’s perspective</a></p> <p><b>Listen on YouTube:</b> <a href="#">Online safety – a young person’s perspective</a></p>
<p><b>Child criminal exploitation</b>  <b>Source:</b> NSPCC Learning  <b>Date published:</b> 18 February 2025</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a key topic page about how professionals working with children can protect them from child criminal exploitation. It explores: the different forms of child criminal exploitation; the types of harm children can experience; the process of exploitation and how to recognise the signs; and how to respond to concerns that a child might be experiencing criminal exploitation.</p>	<p><b>Visit the page:</b> <a href="#">Protecting children from child criminal exploitation</a></p> <p><b>Read more:</b> <a href="#">Why language matters: how using terms like ‘recruited’ and ‘working’ minimise children’s experiences of criminal exploitation.</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>  &gt; <a href="#">Protecting children from county lines</a></p>
<p><b>Crime and Policing Bill</b>  <b>Source:</b> Home Office and Ministry of Justice  <b>Date published:</b> 25 February 2025</p> <p>The Crime and Policing Bill has been laid before Parliament. It includes provisions to introduce: new offences of child criminal exploitation and cuckooing (where a vulnerable person’s home is used by others to commit criminal activity). It aims to update the legislation around child sexual abuse material by introducing: new offences around using or promoting the use of AI to generate child sexual abuse material and moderating or administering websites that host child sexual abuse material; and a new power for Border Force officers, where reasonably suspected, to search the digital devices of individuals arriving in the UK for child sexual abuse material. It introduces a new statutory aggravating factor of grooming applicable in sentences around child sexual abuse offences, and updates the legislation around child abduction by a person connected with the child, where the child is taken out of the UK.</p> <p>The Bill introduces a new statutory duty for individuals undertaking key roles with responsibility for children and young people in England to report sexual abuse when they are made aware of it, alongside a new criminal offence of attempting to prevent someone reporting child sexual abuse. The Bill provides for a limited number of exceptions to the duty to report, which include those providing specified services (to be set out in regulations) that relate to the safety or wellbeing of children and where confidentiality is in the best interests of children. The Bill also proposes that adults working in regulated activity under supervision will be eligible for enhanced DBS checks.</p>	<p>Different parts of the Bill apply to different parts of the UK.</p> <p><b>Find out more:</b> <a href="#">Crime and Policing Bill 2025</a></p> <p><b>View the Bill:</b> <a href="#">Crime and Policing Bill</a></p>

<p><b>Domestic abuse</b>  <b>Source:</b> For Baby’s Sake  <b>Date published:</b> 26 February 2025</p> <p>For Baby’s Sake has published new data on children’s social care referrals and domestic abuse in England, looking specifically at babies and young children aged 0 to 2-years-old. The findings highlight the need for targeted interventions to break cycles of domestic abuse, to protect babies from harm and reduce the financial burden on public services.</p>	<p><b>Read the press release:</b> <a href="#">New data reveals almost 50,000 babies are referred to children’s social care each year with domestic abuse as a factor</a></p> <p><b>Read the Channel 4 news story:</b> <a href="#">Exclusive: Nearly 50,000 babies referred to social services every year due to domestic abuse</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>  &gt; <a href="#">Protecting children from domestic abuse</a></p>
<p><b>Foster care</b>  <b>Source:</b> Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman  <b>Date published:</b> 20 February 2025</p> <p>The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman has published a report looking at how councils in England can improve their services and support to foster carers and their children. The report highlights common issues and learning points related to complaints; information prior to placements; support and contact; social worker visits; foster care payments; allegations against foster carers; leaving care; immigration status considerations; and foster children with special educational needs.</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">“Just who is left to fight their corner?” – Ombudsman launches report on fostering for councils</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>  &gt; <a href="#">Children in care</a></p>
<p><b>Care-experienced young people</b>  <b>Source:</b> For Baby’s Sake  <b>Date published:</b> 20 February 2025</p> <p>For Baby’s Sake has launched a new pilot programme supporting care-experienced young people. The programme, aimed at care-experienced 16- to 25-year-olds, will provide therapeutic support to help young people with: understanding and processing trauma; improving mental health and wellbeing; and fostering healthy relationships. The For Baby’s Sake Trust is inviting bids for an Evaluation and Learning Partner to inform and evaluate the development of this new pilot programme.</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">Introducing the For My Future pilot programme</a></p>
<p><b>Youth homelessness</b>  <b>Source:</b> Ofsted  <b>Date published:</b> 25 February 2025</p> <p>Ofsted has published a new report on local authority support for homeless children aged 16 and 17-years-old in England. The report sets out evidence from inspections of local authority children’s services, focus groups and data from direct work with young people who have experienced homelessness. Findings show: only 9% of the children and young people surveyed said they had been offered an advocate; a lack of suitable placements and other resources may influence local authorities’ decisions about whether children become looked after or not; and some local authorities were still using inappropriate settings as temporary or emergency accommodation to house homeless children.</p>	<p><b>Read the press release:</b> <a href="#">Homeless children need better information and independent advocacy to help understand their rights</a></p> <p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Good decisions: supporting children aged 16 and 17 who need help when they are homeless</a></p>
<p><b>Faith-based abuse</b>  <b>Source:</b> Guardian  <b>Date published:</b> 24 February 2025</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">Thousands of children in England accused of witchcraft in past decade</a></p>

<p>The Guardian has published a news story on the prevalence of faith-based abuse in England. Figures shared by the National FGM Centre found 14,000 social work assessments linked to witchcraft accusations since 2015. 2,180 of these took place in the year ending March 2024. The news story looks at the experiences of an adult accused of witchcraft as a child and subjected to an exorcism.</p>	<p><b>Find out more:</b> <a href="#">CALFB Resources</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b> &gt; <a href="#">Safeguarding in faith communities</a></p>
<p><b>Child protection: Scotland</b> <b>Source:</b> CELCIS, Scottish Government <b>Date published:</b> 20 February 2025</p> <p>The Scottish Government has created new guides to help children, young people and families understand the child protection process in Scotland. There are separate guides for younger children, young people and parents/carers. The guides are available online as written, audio and downloadable versions.</p>	<p><b>Read the CELCIS news story:</b> <a href="#">New information guides to help children, young people and families understand child protection processes</a></p> <p><b>Visit the website:</b> <a href="#">Keeping children safe in Scotland</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b> &gt; <a href="#">Child protection system in Scotland</a></p>
<p><b>Child sexual abuse prevention</b> <b>Source:</b> Lucy Faithfull Foundation <b>Date published:</b> 19 February 2025</p> <p>The Lucy Faithfull Foundation has updated its family safety plan designed to support parents, carers and professionals to put safety measures in place to help protect children from sexual abuse. The plan sets out practical steps for preventing child sexual abuse and helps families to: recognise signs of inappropriate or concerning behaviour; and ensure good communication within the family around topics such as safety, boundaries and consent.</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">Our new family safety plan: empowering families to prevent child sexual abuse</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b> &gt; <a href="#">Protecting children from sexual abuse</a></p>
<p><b>Youth custody</b> <b>Source:</b> Children’s Commissioner for England <b>Date published:</b> 27 February 2025</p> <p>The Children’s Commissioner for England has published a new report on the educational journeys of children in secure settings, highlighting their experiences before and during custody. The report includes data on children and young people in secure settings, interviews with children and staff, and responses from The Big Ambition survey received September 2023 to January 2024. Findings show children in secure settings often had disrupted experiences of education, with many recounting a poor experience of school before entering custody. The Children’s Commissioner is calling for reforms to the youth justice system, prioritising rehabilitation and ensuring education plays a central role in helping children rebuild their lives.</p>	<p><b>Read the press release:</b> <a href="#">Children in youth custody ‘failed before they arrive’, trapping them in a cycle of disadvantage</a></p> <p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">The educational journeys of children in secure settings</a></p>