

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Parenting support Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 19 May 2025</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published new research on the Graded Care Profile 2 Antenatal (GCP2A) tool used to help professionals support expectant and new parents and identify issues that could cause harm to the unborn baby or lead to safeguarding concerns post-birth. The research tested the acceptability, validity and reliability of the tool through two phases. These involved surveys and interviews with practitioners and further testing. Key findings include: practitioners highlighted that GCP2A was a much-needed tool and could have a big impact if it was more widely adopted; practitioners felt GCP2A supports better communication with families; and families found their assessments with GCP2A helpful and said they learned new things.</p>	<p>Read the report: Testing the Graded Care Profile 2 Antenatal tool</p>
<p>Safeguarding practice reviews Source: Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Date published: 22 May 2025</p> <p>The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has published a new report exploring learning and improvement from serious child safeguarding incidents and the local child safeguarding practice review process in England. A review of the literature and policy review was followed by interviews with safeguarding partnerships, families and professionals. Findings include: there is minimal infrastructure to support safeguarding professionals and independent reviewers to enact a systems approach, which focuses on a deeper understanding of why professionals have acted in the way they have. The Panel sets out six priorities for change including actions for the government, safeguarding partnerships and the Panel.</p>	<p>Read the report: Child safeguarding learning support and capability project</p>
<p>Family courts Source: National Audit Office Date published: 21 May 2025</p> <p>The National Audit Office (NAO) has published a report reviewing the government's approach to improving family court services for children in England and Wales. The report highlights concerns around the timeliness of family courts and discusses how delays in resolving cases can lead to increased risk of harm to children. The report also finds that responsibilities for family justice are dispersed across several government bodies, leading to weak accountability for overall performance and a lack of joined-up data. Recommendations include: an overall strategy for family justice improvements including clear and measurable objectives for better serving children and families; and a review of the available support for families through court proceedings.</p>	<p>Read the report: Improving family court services for children</p>

<p>Youth justice Source: Nuffield Foundation and University of Bedfordshire Date published: 13 May 2025</p> <p>The Nuffield Foundation and University of Bedfordshire have published new research examining racial disparities in diversion from the youth justice system. The research looked at the decisions made when a child came to police attention and whether they were diverted through informal measures such as community resolution and avoided criminalisation, or they received a formal charge or caution. Based on a literature review and a survey of Youth Justice Teams in England and Wales, findings show: ethnic disparities in outcomes increases with the intensity of the youth justice interventions; the offences committed by minoritised children are treated more severely, resulting in comparatively more intensive diversionary outcomes; and Black and Mixed Heritage children are the most likely to be over-represented at all stages of the youth justice system. Recommendations call for the police and youth justice services to review recording and reporting practice regarding disproportionality and diversion.</p>	<p>Read the research: Exploring racial disparity in diversion from the youth justice system</p>
<p>Child mental health Source: Children’s Commissioner for England Date published: 18 May 2025</p> <p>The Children’s Commissioner for England has published a new report into mental health care for children. The report analyses NHS data to explore children’s access to mental health services in England during 2023-24. Findings show: demand for mental health support has increased since the previous year; anxiety was the most common primary referral reason; and there was an increase in children referred for being in crisis in 2023-24, compared with the previous year. The Commissioner is calling for early access to mental health support for children through their schools and communities; greater investment in children’s mental health services to reduce waiting times; and legislative reform to offer better protection for those under 16-years-old.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Children’s Commissioner calls for urgent action to tackle waiting times and inequality in mental health care for children</p> <p>Read the report: Children’s mental health services 2023-24</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Child mental health</p>
<p>Infant welfare Source: Children in Wales and Swansea University Date published: 20 May 2025</p> <p>Children in Wales has launched its Pledge for Babies in Wales focusing on the First 1000 Days of a child’s life. The Pledge, developed alongside Swansea University and in its first stage, calls on professionals and the public to centre the rights and needs of babies in decision-making.</p>	<p>Read the news story: New Pledge for Babies in Wales launched at CREYN conference</p>
<p>Preventing suicide in young people and children</p> <p>This conference, organised by Healthcare Conferences UK, takes place on 12 November 2025 online.</p>	<p>Find out more: Healthcare Conferences UK</p>