

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Online safety Source: Ofcom Date published: 24 April 2025</p> <p>Ofcom has published the final version of its Protection of Children Codes and Guidance which will apply to providers of online services and platforms likely to be used by UK children. The child safety measures, designed to help protect children and young people from harmful content online, will require relevant providers of online services to complete and record children's risk assessments by 24 July 2025. From 25 July 2025, they should apply the safety measures set out in Ofcom's Codes to mitigate these risks. The safety measures include: safer feeds, with algorithms configured to filter out harmful content from children; effective age checks; and all sites and apps must have processes in place to review, assess and quickly tackle harmful content when they become aware of it. If companies fail to comply with their duties under the Online Safety Act, Ofcom has the power to impose fines and in serious cases, can apply for a court order to prevent the site or app from being available in the UK. There are five volumes setting out Ofcom's decisions, together with a number of regulatory documents and guidance.</p>	<p>Read the news story: New rules for a safer generation of children online Access the publications: Statement: protecting children from harms online</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Online harms: protecting children and young people</p>
<p>Child sexual abuse imagery Source: IWF Date published: 23 April 2025</p> <p>The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has published its annual report setting out data and insights from its work to end child sexual abuse imagery online. The report explores the intelligence gathered by the IWF in 2024 through its assessment of child sexual abuse images and videos on the internet. Of the 424,047 reports that were assessed by the IWF, 291,273 reports were confirmed to either contain criminal imagery of child sexual abuse, link to this criminal imagery or were found advertising it (a 6% increase from 2023). Findings also show increases in sexual abuse imagery of teenagers under 18 and highlight concerns around the online sexual abuse and exploitation they face.</p>	<p>Read the news story: UK teen's sex abuse imagery identified thanks to IWF analysts' pioneering work with policing database Read the report: IWF annual data & insights report 2024</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from sexual abuse</p>
<p>Youth violence Source: McPin Foundation Date published: 24 April 2025</p> <p>The McPin Foundation has published a new report on school exclusions and youth violence as part of the Peer Action Collective programme focusing on safer communities. A team of young peer researchers examined student experiences of school exclusions through interviews and focus groups with 12 to 23-year-olds in and around London. Findings revealed mainly negative emotions associated with exclusion such as anger, anxiety and stress, and the belief that exclusions may push young people towards violence. The report calls for schools to involve young people in discussions and decision-making surrounding both exclusions and youth violence.</p>	<p>Read the report: New study report explores school exclusions and youth violence</p>

<p>Care experienced children Source: A National Voice Date published: 23 April 2025</p> <p>A National Voice, the children in care council for England hosted by Coram Voice, has set out three top priorities for the Children’s Minister to focus on following a consultation involving 325 care experienced children and young people. The report calls for the government to ensure that care experienced young people have better mental health support; are involved in decisions about their lives; and are given support to build better relationships.</p>	<p>Read the news story: A National Voice send mental health message to Children’s Minister</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Children in care</p>
<p>Children in care Source: Scottish Government Date published: 22 April 2025</p> <p>The Scottish Government has published new children’s social work statistics for 2023/2024. The data shows that: on 31 July 2024, 11,844 children were looked after, this was down 2% since 31 July 2023 and down 24% since 2013-14; and during 2023-24, 967 young people aged 16 years or over ceased to be looked after and were eligible for continuing care.</p>	<p>Access the statistics: Children’s social work statistics: looked after children 2023/24</p>
<p>Kinship care conference 2025</p> <p>This conference, organised by Coram BAAF, takes place on 13 October 2025 in London.</p>	<p>Find out more: Coram BAAF</p>