

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Intrafamilial child sexual abuse Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 03 July 2025</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has launched new online training on preventing child sexual abuse within the family environment. The series of six practice-based courses aim to help frontline professionals recognise, understand, respond to and prevent sexual abuse, covering: adults who pose a risk to children; working with non-abusing family members; the voice of the child; professional confidence and competence, capacity and curiosity; and risk assessment and safety planning.</p>	<p>Take the course: Intrafamilial child sexual abuse training</p>
<p>Child criminal exploitation Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 03 July 2025</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a podcast episode which discusses child criminal exploitation (CCE) with the Service Head of the NSPCC's Helpline and a police detective from an exploitation team in England. The episode covers what CCE is; signs of CCE that professionals working with children should look out for; why early intervention is so important and what that may look like; and how the police can respond to CCE. Since the recording of the episode, the Crime and Policing Bill has been introduced into Parliament, which would introduce a new specific criminal offence of child criminal exploitation. This would target the adult as the primary offender in causing harm to the child by exploiting them to commit criminal activity.</p>	<p>Listen to the podcast: Child criminal exploitation and the importance of early intervention Listen on YouTube: Child criminal exploitation and the importance of early intervention</p>
<p>Physical abuse Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 04 July 2025</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published an updated statistics briefing on physical abuse. The briefing looks at data and statistics about physical abuse in the UK to help professionals make evidence-based decisions, covering the scale of the issue and what data tells us about children who have been physical abused.</p>	<p>Read the briefing: Physical abuse: statistics briefing</p>
<p>Loneliness Source: NSPCC Date published: 01 July 2025</p> <p>The NSPCC has published a news story about children and young people experiencing loneliness, particularly during the summer months. New data from Childline shows that in 2024/25, there were 4,564 counselling sessions in which young people mentioned loneliness, with a higher than average amount taking place in July and August. The news story sets out tips to support young people who may be experiencing loneliness.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Childline prepares for a rise in children reaching out about loneliness this summer</p>

<p>Online safety Source: Ofcom Date published: 26 June 2025</p> <p>Ofcom has published three reports on the online lives of children in the UK. The reports cover: children's online spending and potential financial harm; passive measurement of children's internet use; and platform design and user behaviour. The reports look at different activities and themes that contribute to children's experiences of the online world, including children's internet use, children's online spending and potential financial harm, and platform design and user behaviour. Selected findings include: UK child internet users aged 8-14-years-old spent an average of 2 hours and 59 minutes a day online with girls spending more time online than boys; there is a steep growth in take up of popular social media services during the age range of 10-12-years-old; over half of children (58%) said they spent money online in the past month; and there are minimal differences between child and adult accounts across services.</p>	<p>Read the reports: Top trends from our latest look at UK children's online lives</p>
<p>AI generated child sexual abuse material Source: IWF and NCA Date published: 27 June 2025</p> <p>The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and the National Crime Agency (NCA) have created guidance for professionals working with children and young people on understanding and responding to artificial intelligence (AI) generated child sexual abuse material. The guide aims to enable practitioners to: stay informed about the ways AI can be misused to create child sexual abuse imagery; understand the law and legal implications of AI-child sexual abuse material; provide an effective response through step-by-step guidance on how to respond to incidents; and provide support for victims. Tailored versions of the guidance are available for the four nations.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Professionals working with children given 'vital guidance' to tackle threat of AI-generated child sexual abuse material</p> <p>Download the guides: Professional guides: understanding and responding to AI-generated child sexual abuse material</p>
<p>Harmful sexual behaviour Source: Lucy Faithfull Foundation Date published: 26 June 2025</p> <p>The Lucy Faithfull Foundation has published a new report on the Everyone's Safer project, a three-year project supporting schools across the UK to prevent harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). The Foundation worked with schools, including staff, students and parents, to identify strategies for tackling HSB and creating safer school environments. Key findings from schools involved in the project include: sexualised bullying and language were routine, especially in Years 8 to 10; online coercion and image sharing were major concerns; and students feared reporting due to shame, disbelief, or lack of action. Recommendations include the need for more training, resources and support for safeguarding leads to manage HSB and a whole-school, public health approach to prevention.</p>	<p>Read the report: Keeping everyone safer in schools: what we've learnt from working with more than 240 schools to prevent harmful sexual behaviour</p> <p>Find out more about the project: Everyone's Safer schools project</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Problematic and harmful sexual behaviour</p>

<p>Children in police custody</p> <p>Source: Guardian and All-Party Parliamentary Group on Children in Police Custody</p> <p>Date published: 02 July 2025</p> <p>The Guardian has published a news story on the findings of two reports published by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Children in Police Custody, exploring the treatment of children and young people in police custody in England and Wales. The APPG heard from children and young people, police forces, practitioners, volunteers and experts in a year-long inquiry. APPG recommendations for reform include making police detention the last resort for a child and a full review of the appropriate adult safeguard. Alongside the main inquiry report, there is an accompanying report 'Hearing young voices on strip search' which calls for changes to the law to introduce a presumption against the strip search of children, unless there are exceptional circumstances.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Children should not be strip-searched or detained unless a last resort, say MPs</p> <p>Read the APPG reports: Making children's rights a reality in police custody</p>
<p>Fighting grooming gangs and youth exploitation conference</p> <p>This conference, organised by Healthcare Conferences UK, takes place on 14 October 2025, online.</p>	<p>Find out more: Healthcare Conferences UK</p>