Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
Domestic abuse **Source:** NSPCC **Date published**: 24 June 2025 The NSPCC has published a news story on increasing contacts to its Helpline concerning domestic abuse. New data shows that between April 2024 and March 2025, the NSPCC Helpline handled 7,825 contacts from adults about domestic abuse, a 14% increase compared to 2023/2024. There was a 29% increase in concerns about coercive and controlling behaviour which contributed to this overall rise in contacts about domestic abuse.	**Read the news story:** Domestic abuse contacts to our Helpline reach record high
Domestic abuse homicides **Source:** Women's Aid **Date published**: 19 June 2025 Women's Aid has published its third child homicides report focusing on children who have been killed by a parent who was a perpetrator of domestic abuse, in circumstances relating to child contact in England and Wales. The report outlines the stories of 19 children following a review of child safeguarding practice reviews published between 2015 and 2024. Key themes explored in the report include: recognising children's experiences; professionals' understanding of coercive and controlling behaviour; understanding child contact as a tool to manipulate professionals; and supporting non abusive parents. The report highlights the need for a culture shift in the response to domestic abuse from professionals involved in child contact arrangements and recommendations include calls for legislative change to repeal the presumption of parental involvement.	**Read the report:** Nineteen more child homicides **See also on NSPCC Learning** > Protecting children from domestic abuse
Multi-agency work **Source:** Foundations **Date published**: 25 June 2025 Foundations has published a report evaluating how Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) in England work, who they work for and in what contexts. Researchers from University College London and Newcastle University analysed existing research about MASH from 2010-2022 and carried out work in three local authorities. The report highlights two main models of MASH: those focused on assessing risk, assessing needs and planning early support, and those mainly focused on assessing risk (with assessing needs and early support planning taking place in other parts of the children's social care system). MASH which include risk, needs assessment and service planning were more widely supported by practitioners and parents, but also more resource-intensive to deliver. Other findings include: confusion around when and how to seek parental consent for information sharing; and some groups, such as care leavers, migrant families, and fathers, may be less well served by current MASH processes. A separate paper on the implications of this study for policy and practice has also been published.	**Read the report:** Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs **See also on NSPCC Learning** > Multi-agency working

Family support services **Source:** Barnardo's **Date published**: 24 June 2025 Barnardo's has published a new report on the impact of family hubs in England. Family hubs are a community-based support service for families. Interviews were carried out with parents who have been supported by Barnardo's family hubs and practitioners. The report sets out how these hubs support parents and their children and explores their role in tackling social issues such as helping to prevent the need for entry into care and helping divert older children away from youth crime. The report calls for the government to establish a national programme and invest in creating a network of around 3,500 family hubs.	**Read the report:** Building families, building futures: the case for family hubs in every community
Children in care **Source:** Become **Date published**: 24 June 2025 The charity Become has published a report exploring educational stability and the impact of 'moves' on care experienced children and young people during their exams. Based on Freedom of Information (FOI) requests made to local authorities in England and work with care experienced children and young people, findings highlight significant instability during key exam years (Years 10 to 13). 17% of children in care in Key Stage 4 moved school at least once during the 2023/24 academic year and 13% of children in care moved home during their GCSE exam period. Young people described the emotional toll of instability, trauma of frequent moves, and the impact on their mental health. The report recommends that no child in care should have to move schools or colleges during GCSE and A-Level years except in exceptional circumstances and schools and colleges should be better equipped to support children in care who face instability.	**Read the report:** Moved during exams **See also on NSPCC Learning** **>** Children in care
LGBTQ+ children and young people **Source:** Research in Practice **Date published**: 18 June 2025 Research in Practice has published a briefing on the experiences of LGBTQ+ children and young people. The briefing looks at how practitioners can support LGBTQ+ children and young people and sets out information on: the use of language; care experienced young people and intersectionality; and messages from research and practice.	**Read the briefing:** Supporting children and young people who identify as LGBTQ+: frontline briefing (2025) **See also on NSPCC Learning** **>** Safeguarding LGBTQ+ children and young people
Engaging with fathers **Source:** Foundations **Date published**: 23 June 2025 Foundations has published a report evaluating the Improving Safeguarding through Audited Father-Engagement (ISAFE) intervention developed by the Fatherhood Institute and CASCADE to address issues around engaging fathers and other male caregivers in children's services. The report assesses the impact of ISAFE on father engagement practices by social workers. Findings include: ISAFE showed promising results suggesting improvements in participants' self-reported confidence and competence in engaging with fathers; and ISAFE was found to be a relatively low-cost	**Read the report:** Improving safeguarding through audited father-engagement

option to achieve improvements in social workers' confidence, competence and organisational practice relating to father engagement within children's services.	
AI-generated child sexual abuse imagery **Source:** BBC **Date published**: 18 June 2025 The BBC has published an article on the issue of AI-generated child sexual abuse imagery and how this is impacting on the work of police and other agencies in safeguarding children and young people. Experts from the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) discuss the growing difficulties in establishing what is and isn't AI-generated imagery and how this affects work to identify and support real children at risk.	**Read the article:** AI puts real child sex victims at risk, experts say