

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Safeguarding in multi-academy trusts Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 09 Sept 2025</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a podcast episode discussing safeguarding in multi-academy trusts, featuring experts from the NSPCC and Lift Schools, a multi-academy trust (MAT). The episode covers: the safeguarding roles and responsibilities of a multi-academy trust; the importance of Designated Safeguarding Leads sharing their experiences to support and learn from each other; harnessing collective knowledge across teams; and the benefits and challenges of Lift Schools' regional approach.</p>	<p>Listen to the podcast: Podcast: Safeguarding in a multi-academy trust Listen on YouTube: Safeguarding in a multi-academy trust</p>
<p>Child sexual abuse Source: Ofsted Date published: 10 September 2025</p> <p>Ofsted, alongside the Care Quality Commission (CQC), HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP), have published guidance for joint targeted area inspections (JTAs) of the multi-agency response to child sexual abuse in the family environment in local authority areas in England. This second round of thematic inspections will focus on how agencies work together to: respond at the point of identification; assess, plan and make decisions in response to notifications and referrals; provide support; and prevent children from becoming victims of child sexual abuse in the family environment.</p>	<p>Read the press release: Joint targeted area inspections to focus on child sexual abuse in the family environment</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from sexual abuse</p>
<p>Children in care Source: NAO Date published: 12 September 2025</p> <p>The National Audit Office (NAO) has published a new report examining the Department for Education's (DfE) response to challenges faced by local authorities in placing looked-after children in residential care in England. The NAO drew on a range of evidence sources including interviews with DfE officials, document reviews and an analysis of published statistics. Findings include: many placements fail to meet children's individual needs, especially those with complex needs; local authorities report placing an increasing number of children in unregistered homes; and children are sometimes being placed far from their original home, with variations across regions. The NAO is calling on the DfE to make changes to establish a productive and resilient residential care market and address why looked after children are not always placed in the most appropriate care setting.</p>	<p>Read the press release: Government needs better oversight to tackle market failures in children's residential care</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Children in care</p>
<p>Family courts Source: Public Accounts Committee Date published: 12 September 2025</p> <p>The Public Accounts Committee has published a report on its inquiry into improving family court services for children in England and Wales. The Committee received written evidence from various professionals, legal</p>	<p>Read the report: Family court backlogs: children and families let down amid lack of urgency from govt</p>

<p>representative bodies and voluntary sector organisations. Key issues highlighted include: children and families are experiencing long delays when waiting for family courts to resolve their cases; there is poor accountability for service improvement and overall performance in the family justice system; and there are inefficiencies in systems and processes that worsen experiences and outcomes for children and families. The Committee is calling on the government to set out how they plan to reduce delays and take steps to improve efficiency in family justice systems and processes.</p>	
<p>Child criminal exploitation Source: AYJ Date published: 10 September 2025</p> <p>The Alliance for Youth Justice (AYJ) has published a briefing looking at the criminal justice response to exploited young people as they transition to adulthood in England and Wales. The briefing drew on an evidence review, a consultation session with professionals and meetings with practitioners. Issues highlighted include: safeguarding and support often ends at 18-years-old for young people who have been criminally exploited; and a lack of transitional safeguarding and support for young people who are more vulnerable to criminal exploitation, such as those with care experience, special educational needs and disabilities, and Black and mixed heritage children, risks further criminalising young people from these groups. The briefing calls for safeguarding and support for criminally exploited young people to extend beyond 18; a cross-governmental taskforce to tackle criminal exploitation; and more support for police, prosecutors and courts to recognise young adults' continued vulnerability.</p>	<p>Read the briefing: Exploited to exploiter? Preventing the unjust criminalisation of victims of child criminal exploitation in the transition to adulthood</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from child criminal exploitation</p>
<p>Best beginnings: the power of early years to equip children for school</p> <p>This conference, organised by Nursery World, takes place on 04 November 2025 in London.</p>	<p>Find out more: Nursery World</p>