## **Safeguarding Updates**

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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.

## Child criminal exploitation

Source: AYJ

Date published: 10 September 2025

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.

Best beginnings: the power of early years to equip children for school

This conference, organised by Nursery World, takes place on 04 November 2025 in London.

Read the briefing: Exploited to exploiter?

Preventing the unjust criminalisation of victims of child criminal exploitation in the transition to adulthood

## See also on NSPCC Learning

> <u>Protecting children from child criminal</u> <u>exploitation</u>

Find out more: Nursery World