

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Mandatory reporting Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 02 September 2025</p> <p>NSPCC Learning is offering free mandatory reporting webinars on the proposed statutory duty to report child sexual abuse in England. As part of the Crime and Policing Bill, individuals undertaking key roles with responsibility for children and young people will be required to report sexual abuse when they are made aware of it. There will be a live webinar on 23 September ahead of the on-demand webinars, covering: who the duty will apply to; what should be reported; and the process for reporting. The webinars aim to help professionals understand the proposed duty and how it will impact them and their organisation.</p>	<p>Find out more: Mandatory reporting webinars</p>
<p>Child mental health: suicidal thoughts Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 05 September 2025</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a Helplines insight briefing on young people's experiences of suicidal thoughts and feelings. The briefing uses insights from 18,981 Childline counselling sessions in 2024/25 sharing young people's varied experiences of suicidal thoughts and feelings. In 80% of these, young people were seeking support outside of a crisis. Young people shared a wide range of experiences including; when these thoughts and feelings occur; attempts at help seeking; unhelpful responses from others; and young people's different coping mechanisms. Professionals can use these insights to consider how they might respond to and support young people if they talk about thoughts and feelings like this.</p>	<p>Read the briefing: Young people's experiences of suicidal thoughts and feelings</p>
<p>Returning to school Source: NSPCC Date published: 01 September 2025</p> <p>The NSPCC has published a news story on children's concerns about returning to school in September. Childline data shows that between 2024 and 2025, 1,812 counselling sessions were delivered to young people on this topic. Young people's concerns included worries about reactions to a change in their appearance from peers and the demands of schoolwork. The news story includes tips and advice for carers, parents and young people to support those with concerns of returning to school.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Childline expecting increase in contacts from children with concerns about going back to school</p>
<p>Suicide and self-harm Source: Children in Wales Date published: 02 September 2025</p> <p>Children in Wales has published a policy briefing examining the Welsh Government's 10-year suicide prevention and self-harm strategy. The strategy aims to address the underlying causes and risk factors, enhance support systems, and promote early intervention. The briefing sets out the strategy's key objectives and highlights early intervention and prevention among the steps being taken to support the mental health and wellbeing</p>	<p>Read the briefing: Read our latest policy briefing on the Welsh Government's understanding suicide prevention and self-harm reduction strategy</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Child mental health</p>

<p>of children. The briefing also looks at the role of children's rights within suicide prevention and self-harm reduction.</p>	
<p>Sexually coerced extortion Source: IWF Date published: 01 September 2025</p> <p>The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has published a news story about a rise in the number of children and young people reporting sexually coerced extortion. Data from the UK Report Remove service run by Childline and the IWF, shows a 72% increase in reports of sexually coerced extortion from 01 January to 30 June 2025. In 97% of cases confirmed by the IWF, children experiencing sexually coerced extortion were boys. Sexually coerced extortion can be financially motivated, with criminals trying to blackmail children and young people into sending money.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Child sexual extortion cases in the UK soar with warnings 'ruthless' criminals are still putting children and young people at risk</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Young people's experiences of online sexual extortion or 'sextortion'</p>
<p>Online safety Source: CyberSafeKids Date published: 02 September 2025</p> <p>CyberSafeKids has published a new report on children's experiences in the digital world over the 2024/25 academic year. A survey was carried out with over 9,000 children and young people in Ireland aged between 8- to 15-years-old. Findings include: 26% of 8- to 12-year-olds and 36% of 12- to 15-year-olds used chatbots for homework, friendship and information; and a quarter of the children surveyed experienced content or unsolicited contact that 'bothered' them, including exposure to horror, violence, sexual material, threats, scams, and dangerous ideas. The charity makes calls for a digital society in which children's rights are fully recognised and upheld.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Trends and usage report</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Preventing online harm and abuse</p>
<p>Secure children's homes Source: Children's Commissioner for England Date published: 03 September 2025</p> <p>The Children's Commissioner for England has published a blog post on children's experiences in secure children's homes. The Commissioner's team visited three secure children's homes and spoke with 40 children aged 13- to 16-years-old. Emerging themes include: children had previously experienced many 'placements' that had broken down; children were worried that they would be kept in secure accommodation because children's social care could not find an appropriate home for them to go to; some of the children said that the way they were moved to the secure children's home was sudden and unexplained; and some of the children shared positive views about the secure accommodation they were placed in.</p>	<p>Read the blog: Visiting children living in secure children's homes</p>