

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
Safeguarding leadership Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 15 October 2025 NSPCC Learning has designed a new online masterclass on effective safeguarding leadership. The on-demand masterclass is designed for senior safeguarding leaders and explores each element of the strategic safeguarding model, alongside real-world scenarios and reflective activities. The masterclass aims to help professionals embed a strong safeguarding culture across an organisation.	Access the masterclass: Leading safeguarding culture masterclass
Family support Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 14 October 2025 NSPCC Learning has published a new report on how communities can work together to support families and help prevent child abuse and neglect. A survey was carried out with over 6,500 adults across the UK to understand public attitudes towards ‘supportive actions’, simple acts that can help families and children cope with difficult times in life. Findings show: most participants were open to offering and receiving supportive actions; participants were more likely to offer and accept supportive actions to or from people they know well; and care and sensitivity is required when offering supportive actions to avoid causing upset or offence.	Read the report: Small acts, big impact: how communities can support families through everyday challenges
Physical punishment Source: NSPCC Date published: 14 October 2025 The NSPCC has published a news story about its campaign to end the physical punishment of children in England. Alongside the NSPCC, a coalition of public figures, professionals and organisations recently signed an open letter to the Prime Minister calling for a change in the law. The news story highlights issues with the legal defence of ‘reasonable punishment’ and discusses NSPCC Helpline contacts from adults with concerns about the physical punishment of children.	Read the news story: Leading voices urge the Prime Minister to end physical punishment against children in England
Online safety Source: Internet Matters Date published: 14 October 2025 Internet Matters has published a new report examining the impact of online news on children and young people’s wellbeing. The research included a survey of 1,000 children across the UK aged 11-17 and focus groups with children aged 13-17. Key findings show: children and young people regularly consume news on social media from a range of sources; distressing news stories, mis- and disinformation and AI-generated content impact young people’s wellbeing; and young people have developed their own support strategies when navigating this news environment. The report provides recommendations for social media companies, news outlets and the government, including the need for robust age assurance	Read the report: Understanding the impact of news on children’s wellbeing See also on NSPCC Learning > Preventing online harm and abuse

on all online platforms to ensure children are receiving an age-appropriate experience and support for schools to deliver media literacy education to every child at all key stages.	
Domestic abuse Source: Domestic Abuse Commissioner Date published: 13 October 2025 The Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales has published new research examining the family justice system and domestic abuse. The research included a review of 298 case files, observation of 95 hearings and work with domestic abuse survivors, judges, magistrates and Cafcass/Cafcass Cymru officers. Evidence of domestic abuse was present in 73% of the hearings observed and in 87% of the case files reviewed. Despite this prevalence, the Commissioner highlights that domestic abuse was frequently not recognised as an ‘active issue’ or taken seriously with regards to the type of contact children would go on to have with the abusive parent. The report explores: the prevalence of domestic abuse in private law children cases; the courts’ responses to domestic abuse; the consequences of structural barriers including the silencing of children’s voices; and next steps for the Family Courts Review and Reporting Mechanism.	Read the report: Majority of Family Court cases involve domestic abuse but system still not responding See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from domestic abuse
Parental mental health Source: For Baby’s Sake Date published: 10 October 2025 For Baby’s Sake has published new research on the mental health of parents in the UK during the first 1001 days of parenthood - from pregnancy to a child's second birthday. A YouGov poll surveyed over 700 parents of children aged 10 and under. Findings show: 50% of participants experienced a rise in mental health challenges such as stress, anxiety and depression during the first 1001 days of their child’s life; nearly 1 in 10 dads said they turned to alcohol or substances more; and 34% of parents overall reported more conflict in their relationship during the first 1001 days.	Read the news story: New research suggests that parents’ mental health is in crisis during the first 1001 days of parenthood See also on NSPCC Learning > Parental mental health problems
Child mental health Source: Youth Endowment Fund Date published: 10 October 2025 The Youth Endowment Fund has published a report looking at access to mental health support for children and young people who are involved in or are at risk of serious youth violence in England and Wales. The report draws on findings from literature reviews, data analysis, service mapping and interviews with professionals, caregivers, and young people. Key findings highlight barriers to accessing timely, appropriate, and trusted support, particularly for children with the greatest mental health needs and facing additional marginalisation. Barriers include: restrictive eligibility criteria; long waiting times; and stigma, distrust, and fear of criminalisation. The report makes calls for systemic reform around access to mental health support.	Read the report: Access to mental health support for children and young people involved in or at-risk of serious youth violence across England and Wales See also on NSPCC Learning > Child mental health: recognising and responding to concerns

Children in care Source: Audit Scotland Date published: 08 October 2025 Audit Scotland has published an evaluation of the Scottish Government’s plans to improve the experiences and outcomes of care experienced people by 2030. The report highlights that while organisations and individuals remain supportive of and dedicated to delivering The Promise Scotland, challenges include: a lack of clarity about the roles and responsibilities of new structures set up by the Scottish Government to help deliver The Promise; and the absence of an evidence-based assessment of resource requirements. Recommendations call for the Scottish Government to work with its partners to clearly set out the action that will be taken over the next five years to improve the care system.	Read the news story: Care system reform lacks clarity and accountability Read the report: Publication: improving care experience: delivering The Promise See also on NSPCC Learning > Children in care
Child development Source: iHV Date published: 13 October 2025 The Institute of Health Visiting (iHV) has launched a survey on babies’ and young children’s social and emotional development. The survey is aimed at practitioners, commissioners, policymakers and families. The iHV would like to hear views about how young children’s development is supported - including the services, people, and approaches involved.	Take the survey: Help shape future research on babies’ and young children’s development See also on NSPCC Learning > Child health and development