

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
Safeguarding in the health sector Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 02 October 2025 NSPCC Learning has published a new Learning from case reviews briefing on healthcare. The briefing explores key issues, learning for improved practice and reflective questions to support safeguarding and child protection in the health sector. It highlights learning from a sample of case reviews published between 2020 and 2024 including how health professionals should: consider potential safeguarding concerns when addressing children’s medical concerns; understand and follow organisational safeguarding policies and procedures; and work effectively with other professionals to share important information about a child’s condition and care needs.	Read the briefing: Healthcare: learning from case reviews
Online safety Source: NSPCC Date published: 30 September 2025 The NSPCC’s Child Safety Online (CSO) Taskforce and Baringa have published new research looking at how businesses can contribute to keeping children safe online. The report discusses society’s attitudes around child safety online, how this influences consumers’ choices and the impact of this on businesses. It sets out practical actions that companies can take to help make the online world safer for children and be more successful in the process.	Download the report: Child safety online: good for business opportunity (PDF) Find out more: Child Safety Online (CSO) Taskforce
Children in care: deprivation of liberty Source: DfE Date published: 25 September 2025 The Department for Education (DfE) has published new research exploring outcomes and support for children in care at risk of or subject to a Deprivation of liberty order in England. The research involved an evidence review; an analysis of social work case files for 21 children across four local authorities; and interviews and focus groups with professionals at three case study residential homes. Key findings include: an escalating use of Deprivation of liberty orders with over 2,500 children deprived of their liberty in response to mental health, safeguarding and welfare concerns in 2023-24; a lack of appropriate placement options and specialist provision across residential children’s homes; and insufficient early help.	Read the report: Improving outcomes for looked-after children in complex situations See also on NSPCC Learning > Children in care
Children in care: support services Source: DfE Date published: 25 September 2025 The Department for Education (DfE) has published early findings from an evaluation of the family finding and befriending and mentoring programme in England. Delivered across 45 local authorities, the programme provides care experienced children and young people with opportunities to build positive relationships and networks. The report	Read the report: Family finding and befriending and mentoring programme: year 1 early findings

focuses on perceptions of the programme based on data collected from participants and professionals. Key findings include: it took time for professionals to build trust with participants; most local delivery teams reported that the voices of children and young people informed how the programme was delivered; and reported benefits included children feeling less lonely, having an enhanced sense of identity, and having improved confidence and independence. The report highlights that while data suggests positive findings during the programme's first year, further evaluation is needed.	
Child health Source: Department of Health (Northern Ireland) Date published: 25 September 2025 The Department of Health has published a framework for promoting and protecting the health of children aged 0- to-19-years-old in Northern Ireland. The Healthy Child, Healthy Future framework covers areas including: a whole child health approach; relationship building and continuity of carer; parenting support and positive parenting; and an increased focus on vulnerable families, and babies and children with additional health or social needs. It also outlines principles for safeguarding children, including: child protection as a shared responsibility; supporting care experienced children and young people; and identifying domestic abuse, intimate partner violence, and hidden harm. The framework includes professional guidance and service pathway flowcharts.	Read the framework: Healthy child, healthy future See also on NSPCC Learning > Child health and development
Infant welfare Source: Children in Wales Date published: 25 September 2025 Children in Wales has published the Early Years Action Group (EYAG) manifesto for babies and young children ahead of the Senedd Election in 2026. The group is calling on all political parties to: ensure children's rights are applied from birth; invest in early support for families; and place babies and young children at the centre of policy making.	Read the manifesto: Early Years Action Group launches manifesto calling for babies and young children to be put at the heart of Welsh policy
Youth violence: services Source: DfE Date published: 25 September 2025 The Department for Education (DfE) has published two new reports from the serious violence research programme in collaboration with the Youth Endowment Fund. The first report examines how schools in England identify and respond to serious violence and knife crime, based on interviews and focus groups with school leaders, teachers and other staff. The second report explores how children and young people's experiences with services in England, such as education, health and social care, influences their identity formation and vulnerability to violence. Findings include that children's identity-shaping experiences with services can influence their involvement in or protection from violence.	Read the reports: Serious youth violence research programme
Youth violence: knife crime Source: Youth Endowment Fund Date published: 25 September 2025	Read the blog post: Fewer children hospitalised by knife attacks: what the new data shows

The Youth Endowment Fund has published a blog post on the number of knife crime related hospitalisations in England. Key findings from data published by NHS Digital shows 409 0- to 17-year-olds were hospitalised due to knife assault between April 2024 and March 2025, a 20% decrease from 2023-24. The blog post highlights the importance of evidence-based violence prevention in supporting children affected by and in fear of violence.	
Online reporting Source: SWGfL Date published: 25 September 2025 SWGfL, part of the UK Safer Internet Centre, has launched a survey exploring young people’s perspectives and experiences of reporting online harm. The anonymous survey is for UK 13- to-24-year-olds and aims to deepen understanding of how young people view and respond to harmful online behaviour. Results from the survey will help inform: the design of support services for children, young people, and families; the development of tools and reporting systems that respond effectively to harmful online behaviour; and the creation of policies that ensure safer, more supportive online spaces for all.	Read the news story: New young people’s survey: understanding the challenges of online reporting Share the survey: Young people's survey See also on NSPCC Learning > Preventing online harm and abuse
NOTA Cymru conference 2025 This conference, organised by NOTA, focuses on understanding multi agency thresholds, decision making and the wider implications for practice. It takes place in Cardiff on 27 November 2025.	Find out more: NOTA