

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
Responding to child abuse Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 06 November 2025 NSPCC Learning has published the latest blog in its Why language matters series. The blog explores some of the problems with using the term ‘alleged’ in safeguarding and child protection work, highlighting how the term can imply that professionals don’t believe what a child has shared and how it can create barriers to children sharing their experiences. The blog outlines the importance of using simple, factual language when recording what a child has shared.	Read the blog: Why language matters: why we should avoid using the term ‘alleged’ when talking about child abuse and neglect
Speak out Stay safe resources Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 06 November 2025 NSPCC Learning has updated its Speak out Stay safe resources which aim to equip children with the knowledge they need to stay safe from abuse and neglect. The updates include: new toolkits for home educators and practitioners in alternative provisions; supplementary lesson plans to follow the existing programme for primary schools; and follow-up lesson plans for pupils who have additional needs.	Access the resources: Speak out Stay safe
Adults abused during childhood Source: Office for National Statistics Date published: 05 November 2025 The Office for National Statistics has published new survey data with adults in England and Wales about childhood abuse. The Crime survey for England and Wales, year ending March 2024, found that: adults who had experienced any abuse as a child reported low life satisfaction more frequently than those who did not (8.4% compared with 4.0%). And of those adults who had experienced child abuse, 15.4% said they had experienced domestic abuse in the last 12 months compared with 4.5% of those who had not experienced any abuse as a child.	View the statistics: Abuse during childhood in England and Wales: March 2024 See also on NSPCC Learning > Statistics on child abuse
Child sexual abuse and exploitation Source: National Crime Agency Date published: 05 November 2025 The National Crime Agency has published a news story about a review of previously closed investigations into group-based child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE) in England and Wales. Operation Beaconport will review cases where police forces and the Crown Prosecution Service decided to take no further action against suspects between 1 January 2010 and 31 March 2025. The review will include cases where the accounts of those who experienced group-based CSAE were not sought or recorded when crimes were reported, and cases where lines of enquiry were not followed up. Operation Beaconport will embed a trauma-informed approach throughout and will run alongside the public inquiry into group-based CSAE.	Read the news story: Operation Beaconport: hundreds of child abuse cases under review to prioritise victim and survivor voices See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from sexual exploitation

Children in need Source: Department for Education Date published: 30 October 2025 The Department for Education (DfE) has published new statistics on children in need in England for the year ending 31 March 2025. Findings show: 402,400 children were classed as in need, this is around one in every 30 children; 49,400 children were on protection plans, this is down by 500 from last year; and there were 632,800 referrals to children's social care services. The number and rate of children on protection plans fell for the third consecutive year.	View the statistics: Children in need
Online abuse Source: Ministry of Justice and Department for Science, Innovation and Technology Date published: 04 November 2025 The Ministry of Justice and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology have published a news story about new amendments to the Crime and Policing Bill covering online abuse and pornography in the UK. The amendments will criminalise the possession and publication of images depicting strangulation and suffocation, with duties on platforms to stop the proliferation of images. This follows a recommendation from Baroness Bertin's independent review, which found that pornography has contributed to establishing strangulation as a 'sexual norm', particularly among young people who may be unaware of its long-term harms. Additionally, amendments to the Crime and Policing Bill will ensure that victims of intimate image abuse will have longer to report a crime. These amendments aim to increase online protection for women and girls and break down barriers to reporting online abuse. The measures are the next step in the government's pledge to halve violence against women and girls.	Read the news story: New laws to target online abuse and pornography See also on NSPCC Learning > Talk Relationships
Family support services Source: Centre for Young Lives Date published: 05 November 2025 The Centre for Young Lives has published its second report on the provision of Best Start family hubs in England. The report highlights the range of local factors that can impact on early childhood development including access to high quality childcare and early education, wider support for families and the extent of deprivation. In partnership with local authorities and experts, the report identifies six principles for delivering a successful network of hubs, including: a single front door approach to support and an integrated local system; family support where the voices of children and families are heard; and family support that is embedded into communities. The report calls for the government to establish a statutory basis for the family hubs that brings all existing family support under one Best Start family hub legislative framework, with a duty placed on local partners to work together to support families through hubs.	Read the report: Best start: a fresh start for children and family support: part 2 report
Extrafamilial harm Source: Youth Endowment Fund Date published: 31 October 2025	Read the report: Agency Fund Collaboration Round 2: a supportive home: feasibility and pilot study report

The Youth Endowment Fund has published a report evaluating a project using multi-agency collaboration to tackle extrafamilial harm in England and Wales. Agency Collaboration Fund Round 2 (ACF2) aims to provide targeted support to children and young people aged 10- to 20-years-old who are at risk of, or experiencing, serious violence and criminal exploitation. The evaluation involved interviews and focus groups with 52 children and young people, as well as parents or carers and multi-agency stakeholders and practitioners. Key findings include: ACF2 was delivered as expected across five local authority areas; ACF2 successfully engaged and retained children and young people; and children and parents valued the inclusivity and adaptability of support and the trusted relationships with keyworkers.	
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