

## Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p><b>Child abuse</b>  <b>Source:</b> NSPCC  <b>Date published:</b> 05 December 2025</p> <p>The NSPCC has published a news story highlighting the risks that some children face at home during the Christmas holidays and how Childline can help. The news story explores findings from a YouGov survey analysing UK adults' perceptions of the risks children could face at Christmas. Findings show one in eight adults have had concerns for the safety of a child they know over the festive period and two thirds believe children face an increased risk of abuse during the holidays. Concerns identified about abuse during this period included: financial pressures at home; substance misuse at home; and food insecurity.</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">Two thirds of UK adults believe the risk of children being abused increases over Christmas</a></p>
<p><b>Child neglect</b>  <b>Source:</b> NSPCC  <b>Date published:</b> 10 December 2025</p> <p>The NSPCC has published a news story on contacts to its Helpline by neighbours concerned about child neglect. New figures show in the year ending March 2025, the NSPCC Helpline handled 4,515 contacts from community members and neighbours about child neglect, a 32% increase on the previous year. The data also shows that 49% of these contacts required a referral to local safeguarding agencies. The NSPCC is calling on the government to ensure robust local support is in place to support children and families where neglect is a concern.</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">Neighbours report thousands of child neglect cases to the NSPCC Helpline, revealing crisis behind closed doors</a></p>
<p><b>Child protection</b>  <b>Source:</b> DfE  <b>Date published:</b> 11 December 2025</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has launched a consultation on the creation of a new national body to improve child protection in England. The Child Protection Authority (CPA) will aim to provide national leadership and oversight, use data and intelligence to spot risks early, and advise on policy at local and national level. The consultation is seeking views on the CPA's proposed functions, governance and interaction with existing bodies. Responses are invited from children and families with lived experience of the child protection system, frontline practitioners, local authorities, inspectorates, professional bodies, and voluntary, community and statutory organisations involved in safeguarding. The consultation closes on 5 March 2026.</p>	<p><b>Read the statement:</b> <a href="#">Child protection</a>  <b>Find out more:</b> <a href="#">Establishing the Child Protection Authority in England</a></p>
<p><b>Child sexual abuse and exploitation</b>  <b>Source:</b> DfE  <b>Date published:</b> 11 December 2025</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has published new data on children in England whose social care assessments recorded that they had been affected by child sexual abuse (CSA) or sexual exploitation (CSE). The analysis explores the children's characteristics and journeys through social care for the year ending 31 March 2025. Key findings show: 29,560 children were assessed as having been affected by CSA; 12,120 children were assessed as having been affected by CSE; girls were over-represented</p>	<p><b>View the statistics:</b> <a href="#">Children in need: A focus on sexual abuse and exploitation</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>  &gt; <a href="#">Protecting children from sexual abuse</a></p>

<p>in the assessments; and children assessed as having been affected by CSE had one of the highest re-referral rates while children assessed as having been affected by CSA had one of the lowest re-referral rates. The analysis also highlights considerable local and regional variation in the recording of CSA and CSE assessment factors, likely to be driven by differences in local authority recording and practice.</p>	
<p><b>Youth support</b>  <b>Source:</b> DCMS  <b>Date published:</b> 10 December 2025</p> <p>The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has launched a National Youth Strategy to tackle challenges faced by young people in England. Co-produced with over 14,000 young people, the strategy aims to centre their voices and priorities over the next decade. The government's work will include: ensuring young people have access to trusted adults; helping young people develop positive social connections in schools and colleges, in their communities, and online; and involving young people in decisions that affect them. A State of the Nation report has been published alongside the strategy exploring the experiences of children and young people over the age of 10. Drawing on primary and secondary research, the report highlights key priorities for children and young people including: community, collection and belonging; physical, mental and digital wellbeing; and safety and security.</p>	<p><b>Read the press release:</b> <a href="#">Government unveils ambitious plan to tackle youth isolation crisis and deliver real life opportunities</a></p> <p><b>Access the strategy:</b> <a href="#">Youth Matters: Your National Youth Strategy</a></p> <p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Youth Matters: State of the Nation</a></p>
<p><b>Children and violence</b>  <b>Source:</b> Youth Endowment Fund  <b>Date published:</b> 09 December 2025</p> <p>The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) has published the next report from its annual Children, violence and vulnerability research. The report focuses on mental health and experiences of violence and draws on a survey of nearly 11,000 13- to 17-year-olds in England and Wales. Findings show: teenage children affected by serious violence face a higher risk of mental health problems with over a quarter of research participants reporting high or very high levels of mental health difficulties; most teenage children experiencing violence and mental health issues said they aren't receiving treatment; and more than half (53%) of the adolescents in the study said they have used at least one form of online mental health support and a quarter have turned to AI chatbots for help.</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Mental health and experiences of violence</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>  &gt; <a href="#">Child mental health: recognising and responding to concerns</a></p>
<p><b>Bullying</b>  <b>Source:</b> King's College London  <b>Date published:</b> 09 December 2025</p> <p>King's College London has published new research examining links between cyberbullying and mental health conditions in adolescents in the UK. Based on longitudinal data, the study looked at the mental health of 2,066 British 18-year-olds and their experiences of cyberbullying and offline forms of victimisation between the ages of 12 and 18. One in five adolescents reported being "moderately" or "severely" cyberbullied and findings show that they were more likely to have mental health conditions at age 18 compared with those not cyberbullied. However, it was only in anxiety disorder that the evidence suggests a potential direct causal link. The research highlights how cyberbullying usually occurs alongside other offline harms in young people's lives and calls for policymakers to consider both online and offline challenges when addressing young people's mental health.</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">Debates about bullying need to look beyond online safety say researchers</a></p> <p><b>Read the study:</b> <a href="#">Cybervictimisation and mental health conditions in young people: findings from a nationally representative longitudinal cohort</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>  &gt; <a href="#">Protecting children from bullying and cyberbullying</a></p>

<p><b>Child poverty</b>  <b>Source:</b> Welsh Government  <b>Date published:</b> 02 December 2025</p> <p>The Welsh Government has published a progress report summarising its work to tackle child poverty through the objectives set out in the Child Poverty Strategy for Wales in 2024. The Government highlights its work around: prioritising income maximisation and reducing food costs; delivering targeted support to families in the early years; supporting children in poverty with mental health and well-being needs and building cohesive communities; and giving children and young people a voice.</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Child Poverty Strategy for Wales: progress report 2025</a></p>
<p><b>Preventing suicide in young people &amp; children</b></p> <p>This conference, organised by Healthcare Conferences UK, takes place on 16 April 2026 online.</p>	<p><b>Find out more:</b> <a href="#">Healthcare Conferences UK</a></p>