Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
Safeguarding in schools **Source:** NSPCC Learning **Date published**: 20 November 2025 NSPCC Learning has launched a new online refresher course to help people who work in schools, academies and colleges refresh their safeguarding knowledge. The course explores the key principles and updates in safeguarding and child protection, covering: roles and responsibilities; how to respond appropriately to concerns; and how to create a safer school environment.	**Take the course:** Safeguarding refresher course for schools
Online blackmail **Source:** NSPCC Learning **Date published**: 24 November 2025 NSPCC Learning has published new research on parents' and carers' knowledge of the online blackmail of children and young people. Based on a survey of 2,558 UK parents and carers, the report explores knowledge of online blackmail, steps taken to keep children safe, and information and support needs. Findings include: 1 in 10 parents and carers have supported their child with online blackmail; most parents and carers feel responsible for protecting their children from online blackmail but face challenges in talking to or supporting their child; and two thirds of parents and carers think the government and technology companies are ineffective in preventing online blackmail. The report calls for the development of further resources for parents and carers, and for more to be done to prevent online blackmail and support children and young people.	**Read the report:** A collective concern: parent and carer views on the online blackmail of children and young people
Child protection plans **Source:** NSPCC Learning **Date published**: 27 November 2025 NSPCC Learning has updated the England factsheet in its collection of statistics that look at children who are the subject of a child protection plan or on a child protection register for each UK nation. The factsheets set out: the number of children who are the subject of a child protection plan or on a child protection register; the reasons children are the subject of a plan or on a register; and the age and gender of children who are the subject of a plan or on a register.	**Access the factsheet:** Child protection plan and register statistics
Online safety: women and girls **Source:** Ofcom **Date published**: 25 November 2025 Ofcom has published new guidance setting out actions for technology companies to take to improve women and girls' online safety. The guidance focuses on harms disproportionately affecting women and girls and highlights how these can inhibit their safety and participation in online spaces and normalise misogynistic attitudes and behaviours. The nine areas of action centre around taking responsibility, designing services to prevent harm and providing support to users. Actions include: ensure governance and accountability processes address online gender-based harms; conduct abusability evaluations and product testing; and enable users who experience online gender-based harms to make reports.	**Read the guidance:** Statement and guidance: a safer life online for women and girls **See also on NSPCC Learning** > Preventing online harm and abuse

Violence against women and girls **Source:** CPS **Date published**: 25 November 2025 The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has launched its five-year strategy for tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) in England and Wales. The strategy is centred around CPS priorities, setting out plans to increase casework quality when handling VAWG cases and increase trust in the CPS handling of VAWG cases. The CPS's VAWG strategy includes crimes of child sexual abuse and exploitation; 'honour'-based abuse, forced marriage, and child marriage; and female genital mutilation (FGM) and other harmful practices. Work will include: developing and rolling out new VAWG training modules for staff; reviewing and updating guidance on 'honour'-based abuse and VAWG prosecution guidance; and piloting an improved service to all victims of crime who have their case charged by the CPS.	**Read the news story:** Complex layers of abuse provide a new prosecution challenge in tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) **Read the strategy:** Violence against women and girls strategy 2025-2030
Children and violence **Source:** Youth Endowment Fund **Date published**: 24 November 2025 The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) has published a new report exploring children's experiences of violence in England and Wales as part of its annual Children, violence and vulnerability research. The YEF surveyed nearly 11,000 13- to 17-year-olds about their experiences. Findings include: physical assault was the most common type of violence experienced; while half of the teenagers in the survey said they had witnessed violence in person, even more said they had encountered it online with 70% seeing real-world violence shared on social media in the past year; and 82% reported seeing social media posts about harming specific groups such as migrants or people of certain ethnicities or sexualities. The report includes calls for social skills training, mentoring and sports programmes to help reduce violence in the real world and help children navigate content online.	**Read the news story:** Posting, protests and polarisation: the divisive content filling teens' feeds **Read the report:** The scale of violence affecting children
Children in care: trafficked and unaccompanied children **Source:** ECPAT UK **Date published**: 24 November 2025 Every Child Protected Against Trafficking (ECPAT UK) and Missing People have published a new report on unaccompanied and trafficked children going missing from care in the UK. The report looks at the scale of the issue and draws data from Freedom of Information (FOI) requests issued to local authority children's services. Findings show that trafficked children continue to be one of the groups who are most at risk of going missing with nearly 2 in 5 going missing from care in 2024. Unaccompanied children also remain at greater risk of going missing with a rate of 13% compared to 10% of the looked after child population in England. These children remain at high risk of going missing from care, a persistent finding over the last decade which the report highlights as a continuing and significant failure in safeguarding. Recommendations include calls for local authorities and police forces to ensure new arrivals to the UK are supported and focus on preventing children from going missing.	**Read the report:** Until harm ends: an update report on trafficked and unaccompanied children going missing from care in the UK **See also on NSPCC Learning** > Protecting children from trafficking and modern slavery

Artificial Intelligence **Source:** UK Safer Internet Centre **Date published**: 19 November 2025 The UK Safer Internet Centre has created new educational resources on the safe and responsible use of AI ahead of Safer Internet Day 2026. The resources have been designed for use with children and young people of different age groups from 3 to 18-years-old. The resource packs, available in Welsh and English, include presentation slides and activities.	**Access the resources:** Launching brand new resources on AI for safer internet day 2026 **See also on NSPCC Learning** **>** Online safety and schools
CAMHS national summit 2026: transforming mental health services for children & young adults This conference, organised by Healthcare Conferences UK, takes place on 27 February 2026 online.	**Find out more:** Healthcare Conferences UK