

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Safeguarding in the workplace Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 22 January 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has launched a new online masterclass on keeping young apprentices and workers safe. The on-demand training session explores child protection for work placements and apprenticeships, covering: what safeguarding means in the workplace; the policies and procedures that need to be in place; and practical safeguarding measures to help keep young people safe in various situations. The masterclass has been designed for employers, their staff and volunteers in all industries and sectors.</p>	<p>Take the masterclass: Safeguarding children and young people in the workplace masterclass</p>
<p>Mental health Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 19 January 2026</p> <p>Childline has launched a campaign to help children and young people look after their mental health when using social media. The 'Race to a Milli' campaign video shows TikTok stars compete to achieve one million 'likes' whilst tackling issues such as peer pressure, hateful comments and rage bait. The campaign provides talking points for professionals to use with young people in their schools, clubs and organisations. Supporting Childline data shows that between April 2024 and March 2025, 82,882 counselling sessions were delivered to young people about their mental wellbeing.</p>	<p>Read about the campaign: Help young people navigate the mental health challenges of being online Read the news story: More than half of all Childline counselling sessions support children with mental health struggles</p>
<p>Social media Source: Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and Department for Education Date published: 19 January 2026</p> <p>The UK government has launched a consultation on children's use of social media to protect young people's wellbeing and ensure safer online experiences. The consultation will seek views on various measures, including: the right minimum age for children to access social media, including a potential ban for children under a certain age; ways to improve the accuracy of age assurance for children; restrictions on addictive features of social media; and further interventions to support parents in helping their children stay safe online. Immediate action will include Ofsted checking school mobile phone policy on every inspection, with schools expected to become phone-free. The government will respond to the consultation in the summer. The NSPCC has published a response highlighting the role of social media and online communities in children's lives and calling for technology companies to be held to account.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Government to drive action to improve children's relationship with mobile phones and social media Read the NSPCC's response: A social media ban would punish teenagers for tech platform's failures</p>
<p>Domestic abuse Source: Ofsted, CQC, HMICFRS, and HMIP Date published: 21 January 2026</p> <p>Ofsted, Care Quality Commission (CQC), His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), and His Majesty's</p>	<p>Read the news story: Children not always recognised as domestic abuse victims in their own right, inspectorates warn Read the report: The multi-agency response to children who are victims of domestic abuse</p>

<p>Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) have published a joint report looking at the multi-agency response to children who are at risk from, or are victims of, domestic abuse. The report sets out key findings from six joint targeted area inspections (JTAs) in England. It focuses on unborn babies and children up to 7-years-old affected by domestic abuse, exploring: responses at the point of identification; assessment, planning and decision-making; protection and support; and prevention. The report highlights examples of good practice including support for unborn babies demonstrated by midwives and the involvement of schools and early years providers at a strategic level. However, it also finds that children's experiences are inconsistent and they are not always recognised or supported as victims of domestic abuse in their own right. The inspectorates are calling for improved multi-agency working and information sharing.</p>	<p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from domestic abuse</p>
<p>Youth violence Source: Youth Endowment Fund Date published: 20 January 2026</p> <p>The Youth Endowment Fund has published a report exploring children and young people's accounts of their involvement in violence in the UK. The systematic review brings together 25 years of research with children and young people aged 10- to 24-years-old who have been involved in, or at risk of, serious violence. The review highlights five narratives describing how young people become involved in, or move away from, serious violence: difficult lives; hypermasculinity; financial reward; blurred boundaries of 'at risk'; and towards desistance. The review identifies gaps in the evidence base, including the underrepresentation of girls and young women, some minority ethnic groups, and migrant populations.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Insights from YEF's first systematic review of UK qualitative research Read the report: Children and young people's accounts of their involvement in serious youth violence in the UK</p>
<p>Children in care Source: Committee of Public Accounts Date published: 16 January 2025</p> <p>The Committee of Public Accounts has published a report on the children's residential care system in England. The report looks at financial sustainability and examines the pressures facing the system, drawing on evidence from the Department for Education (DfE), organisations representing local government and children's home providers. The report highlights: poor outcomes for children in the existing system; the importance of using approaches other than residential care; the lack of transparency over the income and profits of children's home providers; and pressures on local authority budgets. Recommendations for the DfE include the need to set out: how it will develop a joined-up system and approach with local authorities and wider government; and the specific actions it will take to stop the use of unregistered children's homes.</p>	<p>Read the report: Financial sustainability of children's care homes</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Children in care</p>
<p>Care proceedings Source: Nuffield Family Justice Observatory Date published: 20 January 2026</p> <p>The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory has published an evaluation of a pilot intervention designed to enhance the participation of young people in care proceedings in England and Wales. The Young People's Participation</p>	<p>Read the report: Young people meeting judges: What we learnt from a pilot with young people in care proceedings</p>

<p>Pathway (YPPP) pilot ran across two local family justice board areas, involving 24 young people aged 10– to 17-years-old. The young people met with judges to discuss decisions about their future. The evaluation report explores whether direct engagement improved young people’s experiences, understanding and acceptance of court decisions. Young people reported feeling heard; developing trust in judges and the court process; and gaining a better understanding of how decisions were made. The pilot also revealed mixed views among professionals and parents, and variations in practice suggesting resourcing issues. Recommendations include co-designing meeting tools with young people and practitioners.</p>	
<p>Online safety Source: RCPCH Date published: 16 January 2026</p> <p>The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has published a new web page on screen time and online harms bringing together key resources to help inform conversations with families and guide practice. The resources include screen guidelines for children under five as well as guidance for parents on online harms.</p>	<p>Visit the page: Screen time and online harms: resources for members</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Preventing online harm and abuse</p>
<p>Children in Wales annual conference</p> <p>This conference, organised by Children in Wales, takes place on 25 March 2026 in Cardiff.</p>	<p>Find out more: Children in Wales</p>