

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Perinatal support Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 16 January 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published four new case studies to help practitioners learn more about using the Graded Care Profile 2 Antenatal (GCP2A). GCP2A is an evidence-based assessment tool which helps professionals working with expectant and new parents to identify areas of parenting strength and areas where families may benefit from support. The case studies demonstrate how GCP2A can be used to: strengthen parenting capacity; support midwives to explore concerns; inform decision-making; and show parenting strengths.</p>	<p>Read the case studies: Graded Care Profile 2 Antenatal (GCP2A)</p>
<p>Child protection Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 15 January 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has launched a new online training course to help anyone working or volunteering with children and young people to refresh their safeguarding knowledge. The course covers: what safeguarding and child protection mean; how to recognise the signs and indicators of abuse and neglect; what steps you must take to respond to safeguarding concerns; how and when to report a concern; and how to keep clear and detailed records. This course is designed for those who have previously completed child protection training, providing a concise overview and key updates in safeguarding and child protection practice.</p>	<p>Take the course: Safeguarding refresher training</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Introduction to safeguarding and child protection training</p>
<p>Puberty and learning disabilities Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 13 January 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has updated its resources on navigating puberty and sexual development for children and young people who have a learning disability. The resources include a guide for parents on navigating puberty, and a series of symbolised booklets exploring bodies and behaviours. New content includes a guide for parents and carers on humping and thrusting behaviour to help them understand and respond to this behaviour in a supportive, non-shaming and proactive way.</p>	<p>Access the resources: Navigating puberty and sexual development</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)</p>
<p>Online safety Source: Internet Matters Date published: 13 January 2026</p> <p>Internet Matters has published a briefing on the differences between girls' and boys' online experiences. The report draws on data from Internet Matters' annual UK survey of 1,000 9-to-16-year-olds and their parents. Key findings include: boys' and girls' online activity is becoming more similar, as they spend the same amount of time on activities including chatting to friends and browsing social media; both genders are broadly positive about their time online; 69% of girls and 66% of boys report having at least one negative online experience; girls are more likely to be</p>	<p>Read the report: The gender gap: understanding and responding to girls' and boys' online experiences</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Online safety: expert insight videos</p>

<p>contacted by strangers and to receive abusive and upsetting messages from people they know; and while girls are more likely to speak to someone when they experience harm online, boys are more likely to take steps on the platform on which harm is encountered. Recommendations to government include: mandate robust age assurance; and support schools and teachers in delivering media and digital literacy.</p>	
<p>Children in care: mental health Source: The Guardian Date published: 14 January 2026</p> <p>The Guardian has published an article on the elevated risk of mental health problems amongst care-experienced young people. The article reports on data from 19,000 people born in the UK between 2000 and 2002, analysed by the UCL Centre for Longitudinal Studies. Key findings include: one in four 17-year-olds who have lived in foster or residential care have attempted to take their own life, compared with one in fourteen 17-year-olds with no experience of being in care; almost six in ten teenagers with experience of foster care have self-harmed, compared with under a quarter of those with no care experience; and teenagers with foster experience are more than twice as likely to report high levels of depression than those without care experience.</p>	<p>Read the news story: One in four UK teenagers in care have attempted to end their lives, study says</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Child mental health: recognising and responding to concerns</p>
<p>Children in care: unregistered children's homes Source: Children's Commissioner for England Date published: 11 January 2026</p> <p>The Children's Commissioner for England has published a new report on children placed in illegal unregistered children's homes. Data from local authorities in England shows that 669 children were living in unregistered children's homes on 1 September 2025, a decrease of 12% from 2024. Key findings include: over half of children in unregistered placements were 16-to-17-years-old; 30% of children in unregistered placements had a least one missing episode, in comparison to 11% of all children in care; and 61% of children had been placed outside of their local authority area. Recommendations include: a clear service specification for accommodation, including accommodation which may restrict liberty, set out by the government; and a duty on local authorities to notify Ofsted within 24 hours of placing a child in an unregistered setting.</p>	<p>Read the press release: Rise in 'million-pound placements' as vulnerable children with additional needs are housed illegally in caravans, holiday camps and AirBnBs</p> <p>Read the report: Children living in illegal children's homes</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Children in care</p>
<p>No safe place? Rethinking child sexual abuse and exploitation across contexts</p> <p>This conference, organised by Nagalro, takes place online on Monday 9 March 2026.</p>	<p>Find out more: Nagalro</p>