

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Infants and unborn babies Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 19 February 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a CASPAR briefing summarising the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel’s national review into the broader safeguarding issues raised by the death of baby Victoria Marten. The national review sets out learning for safeguarding partners in England. The learning highlights the need for: earlier and stronger pre-birth safeguarding; better trauma-informed practice when working with families; clearer arrangements and multi-agency planning when families move frequently; and better engagement with and support for parents before and after care proceedings.</p>	<p>Read the briefing: Summary of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel’s national review into the death of baby Victoria Marten: CASPAR briefing</p>
<p>Online harm and abuse Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 19 February 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published an updated statistics briefing on online abuse and harm. This briefing looks at the available data and statistics, as well as Freedom of Information requests to the Home Office, about online abuse and harm to help professionals, and the organisations they work for, make evidence-based decisions. Findings include: over 9,000 child sexual abuse offences involved an online element in 2023/24; and under 18-year-olds were the subject of around a quarter of reported offences of online blackmail.</p>	<p>Read the briefing: Online harm and abuse: statistics briefing</p>
<p>Social media Source: NSPCC Date published: 16 February 2026</p> <p>The NSPCC has published a news story setting out actions for the government to take to ensure technology companies keep children and young people safe online. These actions include: ensure tech companies keep under 13s off social media and enforce their existing age restrictions; stop tech companies from designing their platforms to keep teenagers addicted; and make full use of the law to ensure social media platforms, devices and AI tools are safe for children.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Government must stand up to big tech or under 16s social media ban is coming, warns NSPCC CEO</p>
<p>Online safety Source: UK Government Date published: 15 February 2026</p> <p>The UK government has published a press release announcing changes to keep children safe online. The new measures include tackling illegal content created by AI and closing legal loopholes that put children at risk. New powers, to be tabled in the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill, will enable the government to introduce targeted actions following the upcoming children’s digital wellbeing consultation.</p>	<p>Read the press release: PM: “No platform gets a free pass”: Government takes action to keep children safe online</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Preventing online harm and abuse</p>
<p>Child sexual abuse Source: NCA</p>	<p>Read the news story: Child sexual abuse is increasing in severity, complexity and</p>

<p>Date published: 17 February 2026</p> <p>The National Crime Agency (NCA) has published a news story about the scale and prevalence of the child sexual abuse threat across the UK. The news story highlights a range of concerns such as the misuse of generative AI creation tools, financially motivated sexual extortion and harmful online communities known as Com networks. New data shows that the NCA and policing partners across the UK are arresting an average of 1,000 potential offenders each month and safeguarding approximately 1,200 children.</p>	<p>accessibility, say policing leads</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from sexual abuse</p>
<p>Youth violence Source: Research in Practice Date published: 11 February 2026</p> <p>Research in Practice has published a podcast episode looking at youth violence through a public health lens. The podcast explores: how services can work together; listening to young people's voices; and building safer communities.</p>	<p>Listen to the podcast: Understanding youth violence</p>
<p>Childhood trauma Source: For Baby's Sake Date published: 11 February 2026</p> <p>For Baby's Sake has published an article looking at trauma in children and adults. The article explores the impact of trauma on children and how childhood maltreatment can affect brain development, including attachment issues, behaviour problems, and an inability to self-regulate.</p>	<p>Read the article: Spotting trauma in children and adults: breaking down the signs</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > How childhood trauma affects child brain development</p>
<p>Violence against women and girls conference: delivering the national strategy</p> <p>This conference, organised by Healthcare Conferences UK, takes place on 06 May 2026 online.</p>	<p>Find out more: Healthcare Conferences UK</p>