

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Domestic abuse: case reviews Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 04 February 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has updated its Learning from case reviews briefing on domestic abuse. The briefing’s key themes and learning come from a sample of case reviews published by local safeguarding partnerships between 2022 and 2025 where domestic abuse was a key factor. The learning from these reviews highlights that professionals should: speak to children alone where appropriate; gain an understanding on how different communities and cultures may perceive domestic abuse; be able to navigate denial or minimisation of abuse; and explore where any barriers to reporting may come from.</p>	<p>Read the briefing: Domestic abuse: learning from case reviews</p>
<p>Domestic abuse: male experiences Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 09 February 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a podcast episode on male experiences of domestic abuse. Drawing on practice experience from the NSPCC Helpline and Childline, this episode explores the challenges of working with male perpetrators of domestic abuse; the barriers facing male survivors of abuse when coming forward; and the effects of domestic abuse on parent-child relationships. The discussion also covers: harmful and unhealthy expressions of masculinity; the influence of the online world on young people’s expressions of masculinity; and the role of services in helping individuals make sense of their experiences of abuse and access appropriate support.</p>	<p>Listen to the podcast: Podcast: Male experiences of domestic abuse Listen on YouTube: Male experiences of domestic abuse</p>
<p>Domestic Abuse Recovering Together (DART) programme Source: NSPCC Date published: 03 February 2026</p> <p>The NSPCC has launched a call for evidence as part of its review of the Domestic Abuse, Recovering Together (DART) programme. DART is a 10-week intervention for children aged 7- to 14-years-old who have experienced domestic abuse and their non-abusing parent. It is designed to strengthen the parent–child relationship, build emotional resilience and support recovery from trauma through structured group work. Led by Solid Consultancy Ltd, this review aims to gather professional insights about recovery work with children and parents after domestic abuse to help strengthen DART and inform its future development. The deadline for submissions is Friday 20 February 2026.</p>	<p>Find out more about the review: DART programme review: information sheet Take the survey: NSPCC Domestic Abuse Recovering Together (DART) programme: call for evidence Find out more about DART: Domestic Abuse, Recovering Together (DART)</p>
<p>Safeguarding apprentices and young workers Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 02 February 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a blog and guidance on how employers can support and safeguard young people joining the workplace as apprentices. The blog shares insights on what young people have told Childline about</p>	<p>Read the blog: What young people tell Childline about apprenticeships Read the guidance: Safeguarding apprentices and young workers</p>

<p>apprenticeships. Between April 2024 and March 2025, Childline recorded over 400 counselling sessions that mentioned apprenticeships, with young people sharing concerns about communicating with managers and colleagues; managing the stress of workloads; and navigating the workplace independently. Guidance on NSPCC Learning outlines simple steps to make the workplace a safe and welcoming environment for young people. These include: assigning a safeguarding lead; assessing the risks; reviewing safeguarding policies and procedures; creating codes of conduct; and getting support and training.</p>	
<p>Serious youth violence Source: Youth Endowment Fund Date published: 28 January 2026</p> <p>The Youth Endowment Fund has published practice guidance on how to reduce children and young people’s involvement in violence in England and Wales. The guidance sets out eight evidence-based recommendations for local funders and commissioners of youth work, including local authorities, violence reduction units, and housing associations. The recommendations include: targeting support where the risk of violence is highest; increasing access to youth clubs; raising the standard and reach of mentoring; and equipping youth workers to safeguard children and young people.</p>	<p>Download the guidance: Youth work and violence prevention</p>
<p>Adoption and special guardianship Source: DfE Date published: 29 January 2026</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has published a report on the needs, experiences and outcomes of young people aged 12-to-25-years-old growing up in adoptive and special guardianship families in England. The report is the second in a series of reports drawing on interviews with 74 families and young people. It examines the circumstances and experiences that impact the wellbeing, health and outcomes of young people in adoptive and special guardianship families. Key findings include: families often felt uninformed about children’s backgrounds and the challenges faced by birth parents, which affected their understanding of future support needs; support for adoptive and special guardianship families who were struggling was often difficult to access; parenting support and trauma-informed training was valued by many families; and despite high levels of need, access to mental health support was limited. The report also identifies risk and protective factors.</p>	<p>Download the report: Family routes: exploring needs, experiences and outcomes among young people growing up in adoption and special guardianship</p>

Criminal justice system

Source: Ministry of Justice

Date published: 05 February 2026

The Ministry of Justice has launched a consultation on its plans to create a new Victims' Code to ensure victims of crime across England and Wales know their rights and get the support and information they need. The government will work with children to create a child-friendly version of the Victims' Code which will set out a child's rights as a victim in age-appropriate language. This includes the right to be referred or self-refer to support services. Other proposals include more direct contact with police and probation officers alongside parents for those aged 12 and up and training for agencies across the justice system to deliver a higher standard of communication with victims. The consultation closes on 30 April 2026.

Read the news story: [Children to get swifter justice thanks to renewed Victims' Code](#)

Find out more: [A new Victims' Code](#)

Foster care

Source: DfE

Date published: 04 February 2026

The Department for Education (DfE) has launched a consultation on proposed changes to assessment and handling of allegations of abuse in foster care in England. The DfE is seeking views from professionals working in fostering and people with lived experience to inform improvements to the foster care system. The consultation is accompanied by a policy paper setting out the challenges in the fostering system and the government's vision and action plan for the future of fostering. The DfE has also launched a call for evidence asking for innovative ideas and views on further possible reforms. The consultation and call for evidence close on 17 March 2026.

Find out more: [Fostering reform: proposed changes to assessment and handling allegations of abuse](#)