

## Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p><b>Intrafamilial sexual abuse</b>  <b>Source:</b> NSPCC Learning  <b>Date published:</b> 29 January 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a Helplines insight briefing on experiences of intrafamilial sexual abuse. The briefing draws on insights from 1,042 contacts to the NSPCC Helpline where adults raised concerns about intrafamilial sexual abuse and 573 Childline counselling sessions with children and young people who discussed intrafamilial sexual abuse between April 2024 to March 2025. The briefing shares the voices of children, young people and adults as they describe the impact of sexual abuse by a family member on their lives. It also highlights their varied experiences of choosing to report including barriers such as conflicting feelings about family members and feelings of shame and guilt.</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">Contacts about child sexual abuse in the family home rise by over a fifth in a single year</a></p> <p><b>Read the briefing:</b> <a href="#">Insights on intrafamilial sexual abuse</a></p>
<p><b>Sex and relationships education</b>  <b>Source:</b> NSPCC Learning  <b>Date published:</b> 26 January 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published an evaluation of EMPOWER, a toolkit designed to help young people get involved in shaping their sex and relationships education (SRE). The toolkit was piloted with 24 secondary schools across the UK from January to July 2025. Key findings from the evaluation include: EMPOWER provides schools and educators with a useful framework for incorporating youth voice in sex and relationships education; schools should dedicate time and tailored support to create the conditions that enable meaningful youth voice; and young people value being listened to and recognise the personal and wider benefits of having their voices acted upon. The EMPOWER toolkit is now available in English and Welsh to all UK secondary education settings as part of the NSPCC's Talk Relationships service.</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">"Teachers listen to you": how to ensure youth voice is centred in sex and relationships education</a></p> <p><b>Find out more:</b> <a href="#">Talk Relationships: youth voice</a></p>
<p><b>Online harms</b>  <b>Source:</b> Resolver  <b>Date published:</b> 29 January 2026</p> <p>Resolver, an online risk consultancy, has published a report looking at online harms and the online network known as "the Com". Based on global intelligence analysis, the report explores: how decentralised online harm ecosystems form and evolve; how behaviours and subcultures intersect across platforms and digital environments; patterns of online grooming, coercion and escalation; and factors that increase exposure and vulnerability for children and young people. Evidence indicates that the Com is largely composed of young people aged 11- to 25-years-old and harms range from child sexual exploitation and abuse to suicide encouragement, self-harm and severe harassment. The report finds that many of the young people engaging with the Com have experienced adverse childhood experiences. The report also sets case studies and outlines the tactics, techniques and procedures employed by the Com.</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Weaponized loneliness: Understanding a hybrid threat to young people globally</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>  <b>&gt;</b> <a href="#">Preventing online harm and abuse</a></p>

<p>Recommendations include calls for trauma-informed support and effective signposting to prevent children from being harmed.</p>	
<p><b>Child sexual abuse material</b>  <b>Source:</b> IWF  <b>Date published:</b> 16 January 2026</p> <p>The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has published a news story about AI tools and online child sexual abuse material. The news story highlights concerns around increasing levels of photo-realistic AI child sexual abuse material. Findings from IWF data show in 2025, the IWF discovered 3,440 AI videos of child sexual abuse compared to only 13 in 2024, 65% of which were categorised as Category A, the most severe classification under UK law. The IWF is calling for the government to hasten plans to outlaw AI apps (and other tools) which digitally remove clothing or ‘nudify’ subjects of photographs.</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">AI becoming ‘child sexual abuse machine’ adding to ‘dangerous’ record levels of online abuse, IWF warns</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>  &gt; <a href="#">Protecting children from sexual abuse</a></p>
<p><b>Early years</b>  <b>Source:</b> Health and Social Care Committee  <b>Date published:</b> 22 January 2026</p> <p>The Health and Social Care Committee has published a report on service delivery in the early years in England, examining progress made since its 2019 inquiry into the first 1,000 days of life. The report draws on written submissions and evidence sessions with professionals and government officials. It focuses on areas including the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme which aims to provide joined up and enhanced services for families. The report finds that progress on proportionate universalism in the early years appears to have stalled since 2019 and many parents from low-income households are unable to access children’s centres or Family Hubs in their local area. The Committee is calling on the government to outline its plans to further expand the network of Family Hubs, recruit more health visitors and improve access to perinatal mental health care within the Hubs.</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Boost infants’ life chances with more Family Hubs, health visitors and new vaccines strategy, MPs tell Govt</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>  &gt; <a href="#">What is safeguarding in early years?</a></p>
<p><b>Homelessness and neurodivergent children</b>  <b>Source:</b> King’s College London  <b>Date published:</b> 27 January 2026</p> <p>The Sensory Lives project at King’s College London has published a report presenting key findings from a UK-wide call for evidence focused on families living in temporary accommodation with neurodivergent children. Based on insights from parents and practitioners working with families, the report describes the experiences of homeless neurodivergent children living in temporary accommodation and highlights the negative impact of these experiences on their mental wellbeing and physical health. Families reported chronic sensory distress, instability and unsafe housing environments. The report includes calls to: reform UK domestic law to require consistent consideration of children’s rights in housing and homelessness decisions; introduce mandatory training for housing officers on neurodiversity; make improvements in housing quality and suitability for neurodivergent children; and end the use of hotels and B&amp;Bs to house families.</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Neurodivergent children in temporary accommodation face “torture-like” conditions, new report warns</a></p>

**NWG child exploitation annual conference 2026**

This conference, organised by NWG Exploitation Network, takes place on March 05 2026 online.

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