

## Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p><b>Safe adults</b>  <b>Source:</b> NSPCC Learning  <b>Date published:</b> 19 March 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published the latest blog in its Why language matters series. The blog explores why children might struggle to understand and identify who the “trusted adults” in their life are; and why the term “safe adult” provides a clearer alternative.</p>	<p><b>Read the blog:</b> <a href="#">Why language matters: why we talk about ‘safe’ rather than ‘trusted’ adults</a></p>
<p><b>Multi agency working</b>  <b>Source:</b> DfE  <b>Date published:</b> 18 March 2026</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has updated Working together to safeguard children, its statutory guidance on multi-agency working to safeguard children in England. The guidance applies to all organisations and agencies in England who have functions relating to children, setting out how they can work together to support and protect children. Changes include: identifying, understanding and challenging racism and discrimination; recognising the specific needs and experiences of babies; understanding the impact of domestic abuse on children and families; information on Operation Encompass; consideration of children experiencing simultaneous harms or multiple harms; strengthened inclusion of children in care; and guidance on Family Help. The DfE has also updated its supporting information for local areas on embedding Working together to safeguard children and its statutory Children’s social care national framework for those who work in local authority children’s social care. NSPCC Learning will publish a CASPAR briefing summarising the changes.</p>	<p><b>Read the guidance:</b> <a href="#">Working together to safeguard children</a>  <b>Read the supporting information:</b> <a href="#">Improving practice with children, young people and families</a>  <b>Access the framework:</b> <a href="#">Children’s social care national framework</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>            &gt; <a href="#">Multi-agency working</a></p>
<p><b>School attendance</b>  <b>Source:</b> DfE  <b>Date published:</b> 18 March 2026</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has published new guidance looking at how social workers and other practitioners can help improve the school attendance of children with a social worker in England. The guidance looks at some causes and effects of school absence and how social workers are well placed to identify concerns early and collaborate with schools and local authority teams. The guidance also sets out how practice supervisors and senior leaders can work with schools to promote attendance and virtual school heads to tackle barriers.</p>	<p><b>Read the guidance:</b> <a href="#">Improving the attendance of children with a social worker</a></p>
<p><b>Children in care: schools</b>  <b>Source:</b> Ofsted  <b>Date published:</b> 12 March 2026</p> <p>Ofsted has published new research examining how schools and colleges support children in care in England. The research involved surveys and focus groups with inspectors as well as research visits to schools and colleges. Findings show: flexible, inclusive approaches helped leaders to</p>	<p><b>Read the research:</b> <a href="#">How schools and colleges support the academic and personal progress of children in care</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>            &gt; <a href="#">Children in care</a></p>

<p>support the individual needs of children in care effectively; effective communication between home and school or college helped children in care make consistent progress; moving to new carers or leaving care disrupted educational progress; and differences in local authority processes created frustrations for schools and colleges. Ofsted is calling for ongoing, specialist training for staff and early transition planning, with clear pathways to education, employment or training.</p>	
<p><b>Children in care: permanence</b>  <b>Source:</b> AFKA  <b>Date published:</b> 19 March 2026</p> <p>The Association for Fostering, Kinship &amp; Adoption (AFKA) Scotland has published good practice guides to support and safeguard the wellbeing of children and young people moving towards permanent family settings of kinship care, foster care and adoption. The guides, commissioned by the Scottish Government, focus on contact, supporting birth families, and supporting families in permanence. They are aimed at social workers and members of adoption and permanence panels but are also likely to be useful to any practitioner involved in supporting children to live permanently with kinship carers, foster carers and adoptive parents.</p>	<p><b>Access the guides:</b> <a href="#">Good practice in permanence guides</a></p>
<p><b>Family justice</b>  <b>Source:</b> Nuffield Family Justice Observatory  <b>Date published:</b> 16 March 2026</p> <p>The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory has published a briefing setting out potential ways success could be measured in the family justice system in England and Wales. The measures of success include: a system focused on children’s outcomes; court as an effective gateway to positive changes in life; children and families are treated fairly and equitably; and children’s participation in decision-making processes.</p>	<p><b>Read the briefing:</b> <a href="#">Developing measures that matter in the family justice system</a></p>
<p><b>CAMHS national summit 2026: transforming mental health services for children &amp; young adults</b></p> <p>This conference, organised by Healthcare Conferences UK, takes place on 17 September 2026 online.</p>	<p><b>Find out more:</b> <a href="#">Healthcare Conferences UK</a></p>