

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Child neglect Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 26 February 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has launched a new online masterclass using learning and common themes from case reviews where neglect was a factor. The on-demand training explores how neglect happens, the physical and emotional signs and impact, and how neglect presents with other forms of abuse. The masterclass has been designed for professionals working or volunteering with babies, children and young people in all sectors.</p>	<p>Access the masterclass: Understanding neglect masterclass</p>
<p>Child neglect statistics Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 02 March 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published an updated statistics briefing on child neglect. The briefing looks at data and statistics about child neglect in the UK to help professionals make evidence-based decisions, covering the scale of the issue and what data tells us about children who have been neglected. Findings include: the total number of police recorded child cruelty offences is increasing, and that neglect is the most common form of abuse.</p>	<p>Read the briefing: Neglect: statistics briefing</p>
<p>Spiritual abuse Source: CPS Date published: 26 February 2026</p> <p>The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has updated its 'honour'-based abuse guidance to include harmful practices such as spiritual or ritualistic abuse linked to beliefs in witchcraft, spirit possession or demonic influence. The prosecution guidance outlines the features of this form of abuse which can include: witchcraft accusations; violent exorcisms; scapegoating children or vulnerable adults; and emotional or sexual abuse.</p>	<p>Read the guidance: Spiritual and immigration abuse included in CPS 'honour'-based abuse guidance for first time</p>
<p>Children's social care Source: DfE Date published: 26 February 2026</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has published statistics on re-referrals to children's social care services in England for the year ending 31 March 2024. Findings show: there were 621,880 referrals, of which 139,080 were re-referrals within 1 year of a previous referral; re-referrals make up over a fifth of all referrals; and children from deprived backgrounds make up a bigger share of the population of children who are re-referred.</p>	<p>Access the statistics: Children in need: a focus on re-referrals</p>
<p>Children in care Source: Swansea University Date published: 25 February 2026</p> <p>Swansea University has published findings from a review of international research on the outcomes of children in care. Researchers carried out a scoping review of 77 reviews and found some areas of children's lives, such</p>	<p>Read the study: New study maps what we do and don't know about outcomes for children in care</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Children in care</p>

<p>as mental health and placement experiences, are well documented, but areas related to identity, participation, and bullying received relatively less focus.</p>	
<p>Kinship care Source: DfE Date published: 27 February 2026</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has published a report on support for kinship families in England. Kinship care is when a child is being raised in the care of a friend or family member who is not their parent. The report summarises learning from 2024 onwards through work with kinship families, local authorities and various organisations to inform the development of kinship local offers. The report outlines the kinship landscape and looks at promising practice and challenges, such as the need to include the voices and experiences of children and young people in kinship care. The report concludes with insights for implementation, setting out the elements stakeholders consistently described as important to kinship local offer development and delivery.</p>	<p>Read the report: Improving the kinship local offer and approach to kinship care</p>
<p>Online child sexual abuse Source: Lucy Faithfull Foundation Date published: 24 February 2026</p> <p>The Lucy Faithfull Foundation has created a workbook and animated video to support teenagers of a parent arrested for online sexual offences. The workbook for young people includes creative exercises, coping strategies and space for reflection. There is also a guide to help parents and caregivers talk to and support young people impacted by the arrest of an adult they know.</p>	<p>Access the resources: What about us? A new resource for teenagers impacted by the arrest of an adult they know</p>
<p>Child and family welfare Source: DfE Date published: 26 February 2026</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has published findings from the second wave of the Children of the 2020s longitudinal study in England, measuring the circumstances and outcomes of children and their families. The report draws data from a primary caregiver survey conducted when children were two years old. It focuses on family economic circumstances; parenting; mental health and wellbeing of caregivers; screen time and digital media use; children’s language development; and emotional and behavioural outcomes. Findings include: 10% of primary caregivers reported symptoms of depression; 25% of children scored above the threshold for possible emotional or behavioural problems; and overreactive parenting, broadly defined as displaying anger or irritability in response to a child’s behaviour, was linked to children’s emotional and behavioural problems.</p>	<p>Read the report: Children of the 2020s: second survey of families at age 2</p>
<p>Children’s rights Source: Together Scotland Date published: 26 February 2026</p> <p>Together, the Scottish Alliance for Children’s Rights, has published a new report on children’s rights, looking at how the United Nations Convention</p>	<p>Read the report: State of children’s rights reports: 2026</p>

<p>on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is implemented in Scotland. The report explores case studies of organisations across Scotland and key learning relating to each of the five principles of a children’s human rights approach. These include: embedding; equality and non-discrimination; empowerment; participation; and accountability. The report finds evidence of a culture where children’s rights are understood, valued and acted upon and calls for continued collective effort.</p>	
<p>Evaluation, evidence & impact: turning insight into change</p> <p>This conference, organised by Children and Young People Now, takes place on 26 March 2026 in London.</p>	<p>Find out more: Children and Young People Now</p>