

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Artificial intelligence Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 12 March 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published additional information to supplement its 2025 report exploring how Generative (Gen) Artificial Intelligence (AI) is impacting children’s safety and wellbeing online and offline. Findings and recommendations in the initial report were drawn from a range of sources, including an analysis of research on Gen AI commissioned by the NSPCC and conducted by legal technology consultancy AWO. A new report is now available to download in full on NSPCC Learning which presents the findings from the AWO research in more detail, focusing primarily on the mitigations identified by experts from a variety of sectors such as child safety, Gen AI developers and policymakers.</p>	<p>Read the report: Generative AI and child safety: what are the risks and how can we solve them?</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Online safety</p>
<p>Child sexual abuse: Wales Source: Welsh Government Date published: 11 March 2026</p> <p>The Welsh Government has published a ten-year strategy setting out how it intends to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse (CSA) in Wales. The strategy adopts a whole-system approach, built around four main objectives: preventing CSA; protecting children when there are concerns about CSA; supporting children, non-abusing parents or caregivers, siblings and family members; and supporting adults who have experienced CSA. The strategy brings together the wider evidence base, the voices of children and adults with lived CSA experience, and the values that underpin safeguarding practice in Wales. It has been developed in collaboration with organisations, including the NSPCC, and individuals with lived experience.</p>	<p>Read the strategy: Strategy for preventing and responding to child sexual abuse in Wales: 2026 to 2036</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from sexual abuse</p>
<p>Child sexual abuse: support services Source: CSA Centre Date published: 05 March 2026</p> <p>The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (CSA Centre) has published a report on support services available in England and Wales to non-abusing parents and carers of children who have been sexually abused. The report incorporates findings from two previous research studies and presents data on the 177 services supporting parents and carers towards the end of 2024. Findings include: support for parents was scarce across England and Wales, with considerable geographical variation in provision; almost half of support services were operating a waiting list or were not accepting new referrals for parents; and funding insecurity, increased staff workloads, and issues meeting the demand for support were identified as challenges by services.</p>	<p>Read the report: Support matters for parents: an overview of services supporting parents and carers of sexually abused children in England and Wales</p>
<p>Ritualistic abuse Source: NPCC and NAPAC Date published: 10 March 2026</p>	<p>Read the briefing: Witchcraft, spirit possession and ritualistic abuse (WSPRA) in serious case reviews (PDF)</p>

<p>The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and the National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC) have published a learning briefing on case reviews involving witchcraft, spirit possession and ritualistic abuse in England and Wales. The briefing summarises learning from nine case reviews and aims to support multi-agency practitioners in recognising risks and improving safeguarding responses. Key learning points in the briefing include: promote professional curiosity and avoid assumptions based on cultural norms; training is needed for professionals to sensitively explore religious and spiritual beliefs, without colluding with harmful practices; and trauma informed practice is essential, especially in culturally complex contexts.</p>	<p>Access additional resources: Ritualistic abuse</p>
<p>Domestic abuse Source: House of Commons Library Date published: 26 February 2026</p> <p>The House of Commons Library has published a research briefing on how the family courts in England and Wales address issues of domestic abuse in child arrangements cases. The briefing provides an overview of: determining child arrangements when domestic abuse is an issue; parental alienation; and government reforms in response to the Harm Panel's report in 2020. The reforms include the use of 'barring orders' under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, a reformed approach to child arrangements proceedings through the pathfinder pilot, and plans to repeal the presumption of parental involvement.</p>	<p>Read the report: Child arrangements: the family court and domestic abuse (England and Wales)</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from domestic abuse</p>
<p>Child criminal exploitation Source: ECO Date published: 09 March 2026</p> <p>Ending Coercive Offending (ECO) has launched a Diagnostic toolkit for exploited children in England. The toolkit is designed for professionals working in police and youth justice settings, children's social care, education and inclusion, and strategic partnerships. It provides a structured, evidence-informed approach to diagnosing gaps between policy and frontline practice. The toolkit draws on children's rights principles, intersectional analysis, and multi-agency practice to support local areas to: analyse how exploited children are currently identified and responded to; examine decision-making across safeguarding and justice systems; and develop local solutions to reduce the criminalisation of exploited children.</p>	<p>Access the toolkit: Diagnostic toolkit for exploited children</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from child criminal exploitation</p>
<p>Safeguarding children in the voluntary sector</p> <p>This conference, organised by Health Conferences UK, takes place on 22 April 2026 online.</p>	<p>Find out more: Health Conferences UK</p>