

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Contextual safeguarding Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 09 March 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a podcast episode on contextual safeguarding featuring Professor Carlene Firmin. The episode explores how practitioners can incorporate contextual safeguarding practices into their work with children and families. It covers: what contextual safeguarding is; how different contexts affect children’s risk of abuse; how practitioners can build partnerships that facilitate a contextual response; monitoring outcomes of contextual safeguarding response; and examples of contextual safeguarding in practice.</p>	<p>Listen to the podcast: Podcast: An introduction to contextual safeguarding Listen on YouTube: An introduction to contextual safeguarding</p>
<p>Child cruelty register Source: Home Office and Ministry of Justice Date published: 02 March 2026</p> <p>The Home Office and the Ministry of Justice have published a news story about a new register for people convicted of child cruelty offences. As a result of the new register, adults who are convicted of causing or allowing the death or serious physical harm of a child will face similar police notification requirements as registered sex offenders. These restrictions could involve having to inform police if they move house, change their identities, travel abroad, or start living with children after their sentence. The government has tabled amendments to the Crime and Policing Bill to establish the register which aims to reduce reoffending and strengthen safeguarding through increased monitoring of offenders. The news story also reports on additional non-legislative measures to protect children which are being introduced.</p>	<p>Read the news story: New register for people convicted of child cruelty offences</p>
<p>Family court proceedings Source: Cafcass Date published: 03 March 2026</p> <p>Cafcass has published a new animated film as a part of its ‘Taking me seriously’ series aiming to support children and young people who are involved in family court proceedings. Drawing on the voices of children with personal experience of family court proceedings, the episode aims to support children to feel as comfortable as possible when talking about their experiences, wishes and feelings, and encourages them to think about what they would like to discuss with their Cafcass support worker.</p>	<p>Watch the film: New animated film seeks to help children & young people who are involved in family court proceedings</p>
<p>Harmful online content Source: Channel 4 and Molly Rose Foundation Date published: 05 March 2026</p> <p>Channel 4 has aired a documentary telling the story of Molly Russell who took her own life at 14-years-old after accessing harmful online content relating to self-harm and suicide on social media. Through Molly’s story, the film highlights the broader issue of harmful online content and the role that platform design and economic business models play. The Molly Rose</p>	<p>Watch the documentary: Molly vs the Machines Access the campaign resources: Live Long & Stay Strong - Molly vs The Machines</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > The impact of harmful online content on children</p>

<p>Foundation has launched a campaign calling on the government to end algorithms that target harmful content towards young people and to take action against big tech companies to ensure they make safety and wellbeing a priority. There are also supporting resources for parents to talk to their children about Molly’s story and harmful online content.</p>	
<p>Online safety Source: BBC News Date published: 04 March 2026</p> <p>The BBC has published a news story discussing TikTok’s decision not to introduce end-to-end encryption to its direct messaging system. TikTok informed the BBC that it aims to protect young people by ensuring that police and safety teams are able to read direct messages when necessary. The story also discusses how different apps use end-to-end encryption and the reception of TikTok's decision from organisations including the NSPCC.</p>	<p>Read the news story: TikTok won't protect DMs with controversial privacy tech, saying it would put users at risk</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Online safety resources</p>
<p>Online safety consultation Source: The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology Date published: 02 March 2026</p> <p>The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology has launched a consultation on measures to prepare children for the future in an age of rapid technological change. The government is seeking views from everyone, including children and young people. The consultation will consider how children use digital technology as well as views on measures including: potential age restrictions on social media and other services; restrictions on design features that encourage excessive use, such as infinite scrolling and autoplay; the digital age of consent; and better supports for parents and families. The consultation will close on the 26th May 2026.</p>	<p>Find out more: Growing up in the online world: a national consultation</p>