

## Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p><b>Multi-agency working</b>  <b>Source:</b> NSPCC Learning  <b>Date published:</b> 27 March 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a CASPAR briefing summarising the changes to the Department for Education’s (DfE’s) statutory guidance for England, Working together to safeguard children 2026. Key additions to the guidance include: understanding and challenging racism and discrimination; recognising the specific needs and experiences of babies; understanding the impact of domestic abuse; awareness of children experiencing simultaneous harms or multiple harms; strengthened inclusion of children in care; and the link between online harm and harm experienced in person.</p>	<p><b>Read the briefing:</b> <a href="#">Key changes introduced in Working together to safeguard children 2026</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>            &gt; <a href="#">Multi-agency working</a></p>
<p><b>Online safety</b>  <b>Source:</b> NSPCC Learning  <b>Date published:</b> 25 March 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a news story about the launch of Childline’s ‘Where We Stand’ videos. ‘Where We Stand’ is a four-part YouTube series showing how Childline can help young people navigate the online world. Influencers predict what teenagers really think about online life, covering issues such as AI, screen time and online safety. Professionals are encouraged to share the resources and start a conversation with young people about their views and experiences of online life.</p>	<p><b>Read the news story:</b> <a href="#">Start a conversation about online life with new Childline videos</a></p> <p><b>Watch the videos:</b> <a href="#">‘Where We Stand’ on Childline’s YouTube channel</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>            &gt; <a href="#">Online safety</a></p>
<p><b>Child sexual abuse and exploitation</b>  <b>Source:</b> DfE  <b>Date published:</b> 24 March 2026</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has published a report about child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE) recording practices and serious incident reporting in England. The report presents findings from interviews with practitioners in six local authorities and examines: causes of under recording and variation in CSAE recording practices; discrepancies between police and social care data; and the factors driving these differences. Key findings include: practitioners consistently describe CSAE as a significant safeguarding concern; and structural, cultural and system-level factors shape the visibility of CSAE within statutory data. The findings highlight that addressing the under-recording of CSAE requires sustained attention to workforce confidence, system design, and national consistency.</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Child sexual abuse and exploitation: recording practices in children’s social care and serious incident reporting</a></p> <p><b>See also on NSPCC Learning</b>            &gt; <a href="#">Protecting children from sexual abuse</a></p>
<p><b>Child sexual abuse material</b>  <b>Source:</b> IWF  <b>Date published:</b> 24 March 2026</p> <p>The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has published a report revealing the scale of AI-generated child sexual abuse material (AI CSAM) found online. The report includes the views of IWF analysts, insights from the IWF hotline, and excerpts from dark web offender communities. It looks at: how AI CSAM is generated; AI CSAM harms; developments in AI CSAM;</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Harm without limits: AI child sexual abuse material through the eyes of our analysts</a></p>

<p>nudify apps; and chatbots. Key insights on AI CSAM include that it is widespread and growing; increasingly extreme and sophisticated; and is highly gendered, most frequently depicting girls. The report concludes that governments, technology companies and institutions must recognise the harm of AI CSAM. Recommendations include that AI CSAM should be treated as seriously in criminal law as other forms of child sexual abuse material.</p>	
<p><b>Family group conferences</b>  <b>Source:</b> Foundations  <b>Date published:</b> 23 March 2026</p> <p>Foundations has published research on the experiences of families in England who are offered a family group conference (FGC). The research involved a rapid review of existing evidence; data collection from local authorities; and interviews and focus groups with practitioners, experts, and parents/kinship carers. Findings include: FGC services are widespread but not universal; the number of referrals across the country is relatively low; and there are differences in access and take-up identified by age, ethnicity, and disability. Recommendations for further research include improving understanding of equity of access and take-up. Foundations has also published an accompanying practice briefing for local authorities.</p>	<p><b>Download the report:</b> <a href="#">Family group conferences: service design and family experience (PDF)</a></p> <p><b>Download the briefing:</b> <a href="#">Family group conference access and uptake: learning from families (PDF)</a></p>
<p><b>Children’s wellbeing</b>  <b>Source:</b> Internet Matters  <b>Date published:</b> 23 March 2026</p> <p>Internet Matters has published its annual ‘Digital wellbeing index’ report for children in the UK. The report evaluates and tracks the impact of digital technology on children’s physical, social, emotional, and developmental wellbeing. Results are based on a survey of 1,270 children aged 9- to 16-years-old, and their parents. Key findings include: time spent online continues to rise, with children spending on average 23 hours a week online; children are finding it hard to disconnect and regulate their time online; children are increasingly turning down real-world social opportunities to stay online; and positive and negative online experiences are rising in parallel.</p>	<p><b>Read the report:</b> <a href="#">Children's wellbeing in a digital world: year five index report 2026</a></p>
<p><b>Children’s services: inspection</b>  <b>Source:</b> Ofsted  <b>Date published:</b> 20 March 2026</p> <p>Ofsted has published updates to the framework for inspecting local authority children's services in England. The updated inspection framework places greater emphasis on family networks, multi-agency working, and ending the use of unregistered children’s homes. Changes to the framework also include the removal of a headline judgement. The updates align inspections with children’s social care reforms and revised statutory guidance, including Working together to safeguard children. The updates will come into effect on inspections carried out from 1 April 2026.</p>	<p><b>Read the press release:</b> <a href="#">Ofsted announces changes to inspections of local authority children's services</a></p>