

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
<p>Access to healthcare Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 28 April 2026</p> <p>NSPCC Learning has published a Helplines insight briefing exploring young people’s experiences of healthcare waiting lists, drawing on over 1,200 Childline counselling sessions and more than 700 NSPCC Helpline contacts in 2024/25. The briefing highlights how extended delays for mental health, neurodevelopmental and physical health support can worsen young people’s conditions, lead to harmful coping strategies, disrupt education, and put a strain on personal relationships. It also emphasises the importance of recognising early signs of distress and ensuring that young people waiting for specialist treatment have access to ongoing interim support.</p>	<p>Read the briefing: Young people’s experiences of waiting lists</p>
<p>Child neglect Source: Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Date published: 27 April 2026</p> <p>The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has published a thematic analysis examining multi-agency responses to child neglect in cases of serious harm or death in England. The paper draws on a literature review, and analysis of 100 rapid reviews and 34 child safeguarding practice reviews. It explores the prevalence and impact of neglect; how definitional ambiguity delays interventions and contributes to fragmented responses; systemic barriers; the relationship between poverty and neglect; and children’s lived experiences. The literature review looks at the nature and impacts of child neglect, exploring neglect across the childhood spectrum, as well as protective and risk factors. The Panel has also produced an animation highlighting key learning from the analysis.</p>	<p>Read the thematic analysis: Child neglect: a thematic analysis Watch the animation: Neglect: video explainers</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from neglect</p>
<p>Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 Source: DfE and Community Care Date published: 30 April 2026</p> <p>The Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026 and has now become law. The Act primarily applies to England with some measures extended to Wales. Key measures introduced to strengthen safeguarding include: statutory multi agency child protection teams in each council area; a system of Single Unique Identifier numbers for children across services to assist information sharing; access to family group decision-making meetings for all families with children at risk of entering the care system; and registers of ‘children not in school’ in each local authority.</p>	<p>Read the press release: Families to save up to £1,000 as children’s reforms become law Read the Community Care news story: Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill becomes law</p>
<p>Crime and Policing Act 2026 Source: Home Office Date published: 30 April 2026</p> <p>The Crime and Policing Bill received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026 and has now become law. Measures introduced in the new Act to protect children</p>	<p>Read the news story: Biggest shake up in decades to tackle local crime Find out more: Crime and Policing Act 2026</p>

<p>and young people include: the introduction of a new duty to report child sexual abuse; a standalone offence of child criminal exploitation; and criminalising the making, adapting, supplying or offering to supply AI ‘nudification tools’. Different parts of the Act apply to different parts of the UK.</p>	
<p>Safeguarding incidents Source: Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Date published: 29 April 2026</p> <p>The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has published its annual report on serious child safeguarding incidents in England. Drawing on evidence from rapid reviews and the Panel’s national programme of work, the report aims to provide a system wide picture of where children are most at risk, the complex circumstances many families face, and the improvements needed to strengthen safeguarding practice. The report examines learning from serious incidents notified to the Panel between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 involving 360 children who died or were seriously harmed due to abuse or neglect. Of the 274 rapid reviews considered, 47% involved the death of a child, 60% included neglect as a factor and 51% included domestic abuse. Key themes identified include: babies under one were most affected; many children faced complex, overlapping challenges; and strong multi agency working is critical to reducing risk.</p>	<p>Read the report: Annual report 2024 to 2025</p>
<p>Child exploitation Source: Research in Practice Date published: 20 April 2026</p> <p>Research in Practice has refreshed the Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Support Programme’s multi-agency practice principles to support professionals in tackling child exploitation. The principles are designed to support local areas in strengthening effective, child-centred responses. A new resource on child sexual exploitation has also been created to support professionals to apply the principles across agencies and at different levels.</p>	<p>Read the news story: Tackling child exploitation: refreshed multi-agency practice principles</p>
<p>Children in care Source: DfE Date published: 30 April 2026</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has published statistics on the stability of children in care on 31 March 2025 in England. The statistics focus on placement, school and professional support. Figures show: 10% of children in care in 2025 experienced high placement instability; 8% experienced high school instability; and 24% of children experienced high social worker instability, with children under one experiencing the highest social worker instability.</p>	<p>Access the statistics: Stability measures for children looked after in England: 2025</p> <p>See also on NSPCC Learning > Children in care</p>
<p>Social media Source: House of Commons Library Date published: 23 April 2026</p> <p>The House of Commons Library has published a briefing looking at the debate surrounding proposals to ban social media for children. The briefing explores arguments for and against a ban and discusses the government’s</p>	<p>Read the briefing: Proposals to ban social media for children</p>

<p>open consultation on social media use which launched in March 2026. The briefing also collates headline statistics around social media use amongst children and young people.</p>	
<p>Children's rights and wellbeing: Wales Source: Children in Wales Date published: 23 April 2026</p> <p>Children in Wales has published a briefing analysing the election manifestos of political parties relating to babies, children and young people, ahead of the Senedd elections in May 2026. The briefing summarises each party's proposed plans and priorities and how these align with the rights and wellbeing of babies, children and young people in Wales.</p>	<p>Read the briefing: New briefing summary: what wales' political parties are promising babies, children & young people</p>