

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
Sexuality and gender identity Source: NSPCC Date published: 12 June 2026 The NSPCC has published a news story on contacts to Childline about sexuality and gender identity. New data shows that in 2025/2026, Childline delivered 2,457 counselling sessions to children and young people with issues or concerns around sexuality and gender identity, with coming out being the biggest worry. Other concerns included: questioning sexuality or gender identity; discrimination or prejudice; and experiencing gender dysphoria. The news story urges children and young people with worries about sexuality and gender identity issues to reach out for support.	Read the news story: Childline delivers thousands of counselling sessions about sexuality and gender identity
Loneliness Source: NSPCC Date published: 15 June 2026 The NSPCC has published a news story on Childline counselling sessions about loneliness. New data shows that in 2025/2026, Childline delivered 4,893 sessions to children and young people seeking support to cope with loneliness, an annual increase of 7%. Some cited fears of being isolated and unable to make friends when going through major life changes. The news story includes advice for adults on helping children and young people who might be experiencing loneliness.	Read the news story: Rise in children struggling with loneliness contacting Childline
Online safety: social media restrictions Source: Department for Science, Innovation and Technology Date published: 15 June 2026 The UK government has announced plans to ban social media access for under-16s to help keep children and young people safer online. The ban will cover platforms like Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X. Additional restrictions will include blocks on live streaming and strangers communicating with children under 16. In addition, the government have asked Ofcom to conduct a rapid study on effective age assurance and to review their enforcement capabilities, with a clear enforcement strategy to be published as soon as possible. Findings from the government's 'Growing up in the online world' consultation have also been published. The consultation ran from March to May 2026.	Read the press release: Social media to be banned for under-16s in landmark government move to give kids their childhood back Find out more about the consultation outcomes: Growing up in the online world: a national consultation
Online safety: sharing nude images Source: Home Office Date published: 08 June 2026 The Home Office has announced plans to block children in the UK from taking or sharing nude images on their devices to help protect them from exploitation and abuse. Technology companies will be required to activate built-in features or implement solutions on smartphones and tablets to detect and block nude images for children. The government wants Apple and Google to block nudity across devices by default, so they can only be deactivated via age assurance.	Read the news story: New plans to stop children taking, sharing or viewing nude images See also on NSPCC Learning > Preventing online harm and abuse

Multi-agency working Source: The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and IOPC Date published: 17 June 2026 The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) have published an advisory framework to guide safeguarding partners in cases where IOPC investigations coincide with Local child safeguarding practice reviews (LCSPRs) in England. It is intended for local practical use, enabling child safeguarding partners and IOPC investigation teams to share information flexibly when required to ensure timely progression of reviews. The framework aims to promote the welfare of children and improve understanding of both Local child safeguarding practice reviews and IOPC investigations, covering: how the two processes interact, how information should be shared, and the importance of meeting statutory requirements.	Access the framework: IOPC and Safeguarding Advisory Framework
Youth justice Source: YJB Date published: 18 June 2026 The Youth Justice Board (YJB) for England and Wales has published statistics on diversionary outcomes, looking at how youth justice services (YJSs) are supporting children to prevent offending. Findings for the year ending December 2025 show: diversion continues to reduce justice contact, with 43% of youth justice service outcomes resolved without youth cautions or court involvement; community resolutions are the most used diversion tool; ethnic disparities persist, with White children twice as likely to receive diversion with YJS involvement as Black children; and younger children and girls are more likely to receive diversion, while older children and boys are more likely to receive a formal caution or court outcome.	Read the press release: New youth justice diversion statistics for 2025 Read the report: The use of diversionary outcomes in England and Wales 2025
Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children Source: Refugee and Migrant Children's Consortium Date published: 16 June 2026 The Refugee and Migrant Children's Consortium has published a report on the use of Facial age estimation (FAE) technology to assess the age of unaccompanied young people seeking asylum in the UK. The briefing examines existing evidence finding that while errors have improved, use of FAE remains subject to significant margins of error. Due to the risks of the technology wrongly identifying a child to be an adult, proposed safeguards include referral to social workers for more detailed assessment, access to an appropriate adult and legal representation and the ability to legally challenge any decision. If FAE is considered, the report recommends it should be advisory only and that use of the technology must be subject to independent validation and embedded within a transparent, rights compliant procedure.	Read the report: Benchmarks and Borders: The use of Facial Age Estimation to assess the age of unaccompanied young people seeking asylum
Children and childhoods conference 2026 This conference, organised by The University of Suffolk, takes place on 15 July 2026 in Suffolk.	Find out more: University of Suffolk