

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
Early years statutory framework Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 17 July 2026 NSPCC Learning has updated its CASPAR briefing summarising the Department for Education's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework, setting out requirements for learning and development, assessment and safeguarding and welfare in early years settings in England. The 2026 edition includes new and updated information on the following areas: sleeping arrangements; concerns about children's safety and welfare; suitable people; and children's screen use. The 2026 edition of the framework is effective from 01 September 2026.	Read the briefing: Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework 2026: summary of requirements
Early years safeguarding training Source: Department for Education and NSPCC Date published: 17 July 2026 The Department for Education (DfE) has produced a free online Early Years Safeguarding training package in collaboration with the NSPCC. The training covers sections one and two of the safeguarding training Annex C in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework. Designed for those working with children from birth to five, the training provides early years educators with the foundations they need to identify signs of abuse to children in their care and to create a positive safeguarding culture.	Access the EYFS framework and take the online course: Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework See also on NSPCC Learning > Safeguarding and child protection in the early years
Body image Source: NSPCC Date published: 13 July 2026 The NSPCC has published a news story on children contacting Childline about body image and related concerns over the summer. There were almost 1,000 Childline counselling sessions across June, July and August 2025 about body image issues and eating disorders. In total, Childline delivered 3,364 counselling sessions to young people about these concerns from April 2025 to March 2026. The news story shares insights based on Childline service users and tips on encouraging a healthy body image in children and young people.	Read the news story: Childline is here this summer to support children on body image issues and eating disorders
Safeguarding babies Source: Department for Education Date published: 15 July 2026 The Department for Education (DfE) has published the government's response to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's national review into the death of baby Victoria Marten published in February 2026. The response sets out how the government intends to implement all eight of the Panel's recommendations to help safeguard babies in England. It focuses on: preventing babies dying by identifying and responding earlier to risk; reducing babies entering care by preventing repeat removals and strengthening family support; building the evidence base on effective and	Read the response: Protecting all vulnerable babies better: a government response See also on NSPCC Learning > CASPAR briefing on the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's report Protecting all vulnerable babies better

promising practice; and facilitating consistency in national guidance on babies and pre-birth support for pregnant women in safeguarding and child protection. The response also highlights the need for coordinated action across health, social care, education, justice, policing and wider public services.	
Online safety: age assurance Source: Department for Science, Innovation and Technology Date published: 17 July 2026 The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) has published research examining how children aged 11- to 17 experience age assurance online, common ways children get around age checks and what motivates children to use virtual private networks (VPNs). The research included a survey of over 2,000 children and data was weighted to be representative of UK children aged 11- to 17. Findings show: around a quarter of children use a VPN, and use rises sharply with age; most children have encountered some form of age check; pretending to be older is the most common method of bypassing age checks; and many children are encountering harmful content after bypassing age checks.	Read the press release: New social media curfews and crackdown on addictive features to better protect 16- and 17-year-olds online Read the report: Children's circumvention behaviours online See also on NSPCC Learning > Preventing online harm and abuse
Online safety: age assurance Source: Ofcom Date published: 15 July 2026 Ofcom has published a report looking at how sites and apps are using age assurance to help protect children in the UK from online harm. The report examines the impact of age assurance on children's online experiences; identifies areas where progress has been made; and highlights where further action is needed to strengthen protections for children online, particularly in the context of the proposed social media restrictions for under 16s. Findings include that highly effective age checks work when implemented properly, but social media companies have failed to enforce their minimum age requirements effectively and need to do more to strengthen protections for children and young people online.	Read the news story: Age checks helping make online experiences safer for UK children, but 'job not done' and tech industry must act to strengthen protections Read the report: Use of age assurance report 2026
Youth custody Source: Ministry of Justice Date published: 07 July 2026 The Ministry of Justice has published an independent rapid review of safeguarding in youth custody in England and Wales, alongside the government's response. The review examines whether decision making, primarily in relation to allegations against staff, and the arrangements in place to support this, are sufficient to help ensure that children are protected. It includes recommendations on the management of allegations, safeguarding roles and responsibilities, and the professional development of, and support to, staff. The government response sets out how it plans to take forward the recommendations in the review and strengthen safeguarding arrangements across the youth custodial estate. Priorities will include: addressing how allegations against staff are handled; improving the quality and consistency of safeguarding data; and ensuring that complaints and advocacy arrangements meet children's needs across all sites.	Read the review and the government response: Trowler review into youth custody safeguarding

Youth violence statistics Source: Youth Endowment Fund Date published: 15 July 2026 The Youth Endowment Fund has published a report looking at key trends and data on violence affecting children in England and Wales. The report looks at data on homicides, knife crime, justice system involvement and other indicators including a new indicator focused on violence against young women and girls. Findings from data for 2024/25 indicate: serious violence affecting children and young people is falling; more boys are being arrested for sexual offences; tech-facilitated abuse is growing; policing and youth justice showed some improvements; and fewer children were persistently missing school and taken into care.	Read the report: Beyond the headlines 2026 summary
Youth violence prevention Source: Youth Endowment Fund Date published: 08 July 2026 The Youth Endowment Fund has created new policy guidance on preventing children and young people’s involvement in violence in England and Wales. The guidance outlines recommendations for policymakers and sector leaders, focusing on: reforming youth sector funding, shaping the rollout of existing policy commitments and strengthening youth workers’ role in safeguarding from extra-familial harm.	Read the news story: Youth workers shut out of keeping children safe, new report warns Read the guidance: Youth sector policy and violence prevention
Child health Source: Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Date published: 15 July 2026 The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has published a report looking at child health and wellbeing in the UK. The report brings together evidence across 12 indicators of child health including early childhood development, mental health, and emotional health and wellbeing. The report highlights: significant inequalities in the levels of development among children starting school; widespread and increasing mental health problems among children and young people; and a lack of access to emotional health support. The recommendations focus on three themes around: improving the quality, collection and sharing of child health data; establishing national targets across all indicators to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities; and introducing a Children’s Health Investment Standard and delivering a funded, long-term child health workforce strategy.	Read the report: Introducing state of child health 2026 - president's update
Deprivation of liberty Source: Department for Education Date published: 08 July 2026 The Department for Education (DfE) has published guidance on how regional care cooperative local authorities in England and their partners can apply to deliver the Home Again programme. The programme tests and embeds an integrated, multi-agency approach to supporting children who are at risk of, or experiencing, deprivation of liberty. The guidance provides information on the programme, how to apply and the requirements.	Find out more: Home Again: guidance for regional care cooperatives and partners

