

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
Public inquiries Source: Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Date published: 22 July 2026 The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has published a briefing on managing public inquiries and high-profile incidents, drawing on learning from the Southport Inquiry and previous safeguarding inquiries and reviews. The briefing provides guidance to local safeguarding children partnerships to help them respond to public inquiries and high-profile incidents with confidence, transparency and a commitment to learning. The government response to phase 1 of the Southport Inquiry was recently published, agreeing with all the recommendations including those on online harms, social care and education. Phase 2 of the Southport Inquiry is now under way assessing the adequacy of multi-agency arrangements in England and Wales for managing the risk posed by ‘violence fixated individuals’.	Read the Panel's briefing: Public inquiries and high-profile incidents Read the government's response to the Southport inquiry: Southport Inquiry phase 1: government response See also on NSPCC Learning > Summary of the Southport inquiry: phase 1 report
Grooming gangs Source: Criminal Cases Review Commission Date published: 22 July 2026 The Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) has published a news story on the Crown Court's decision to quash the convictions of a woman who was groomed and sexually exploited as a child. This was the first case referred by the CCRC in light of the findings in Baroness Casey's review on group-based child sexual exploitation and abuse in England and Wales, which highlighted institutional failures to protect children from ‘grooming gangs’. The CCRC is actively investigating cases where victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) were treated as offenders instead of being protected as victims.	Read the news story: Grooming gang victim's convictions quashed following CCRC referral See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from sexual exploitation
Child sexual abuse Source: CSA Centre Date published: 16 July 2026 The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA Centre) has published a report on the scale and nature of child sexual abuse in England and Wales. The report includes an analysis of official data for 2024/25, data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, and an overview of international developments. The report highlights the need to improve the identification of and response to child sexual abuse to help close the gap between the estimated scale of child sexual abuse, and the number of victims and survivors who receive help and support from professionals. Recommendations call for: improvements in the knowledge, skills and confidence of professionals including the need for high-quality supervision to support reflective practice and to challenge assumptions; and a dedicated survey of older children and young adults to better understand the scale and nature of child sexual abuse.	Read the report: Scale & nature of child sexual abuse: review of evidence See also on NSPCC Learning > Protecting children from sexual abuse
AI-generated child sexual abuse material Source: The Survivors Trust	Watch the film: AI-generated abuse: close to home

Date published: 15 July 2026 The Survivors Trust has launched a new film on AI-generated child sexual abuse material. It highlights the prevalence of the problem and the impact it has on young people and their families, looking at how online harm can lead to real-world grooming, coercion and abuse. The film is part of a campaign to encourage people to start talking openly about online harms, grooming and child sexual abuse.	
Children in care Source: Become Date published: 09 July 2026 The charity Become has published a report on the experiences of girls in care placed far from their local area and support networks. The report highlights the voices of eight care-experienced young women in England and explores the risks and harms they faced when having to move far from their local areas. Findings include: the voice of young people was often lost during distance moves; losing contact with familiar people led to isolation and loneliness; and some women highlighted being placed in unsuitable accommodation. Things that helped included having the stability of one person to rely on such as a key worker, social worker or teacher. Recommendations for national and local government include: develop and publish national and local strategies to increase the provision of care placements closer to home; and produce and publish action plans to better support children living far away.	Read the report: How being moved far away puts care-experienced girls at risk See also on NSPCC Learning > Children in care
Adolescent suicide Source: Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Date published: 23 July 2026 The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has published a briefing paper on adolescent suicide in England. The paper collates learning from serious child safeguarding incidents relating to adolescents who died by suicide. The paper sets out key facts and figures and highlights common issues from the reviews such as: escalating risk over time; ongoing and repeated service involvement; and mental health needs and ongoing distress. This briefing has been published in the Panel's new learning hub on adolescent suicide which features local reviews, statistics and learning resources including a slide pack for professionals.	Read the briefing: Adolescent suicide: the child behind the story: understanding cumulative harm through lived experience Visit the Learning Hub: Adolescent suicide
Child exploitation and abuse online Source: Guardian Date published: 20 July 2026 The Guardian has published a news story on cases of 'sadistic online exploitation' of children. This type of abuse involves coercing victims into producing child sexual abuse material (CSAM), harming themselves and others, or attempting suicide. Featuring experts from child safety organisations, the news story looks at how children are targeted and the increase in activity of these online networks.	Read the news story: Experts warn of rise in sadistic online exploitation of vulnerable children
Online harms: eating disorder content Source: Center for Countering Digital Hate Date published: 14 July 2026	Read the report: New report shows YouTube still recommends eating disorder content to children despite

The Center for Countering Digital Hate has published a new report on harmful eating disorder content on YouTube. Using simulated accounts registered as 13-year-old girls, researchers tested the safety changes made by YouTube since the introduction of the UK’s Online Safety Act. When compared with tests conducted in 2024, findings show YouTube has improved but it still recommends harmful eating disorder content that breach its policies.	safety improvements See also on NSPCC Learning > Preventing online harm and abuse
Nagalro Autumn 2026 conference: “Institutional racism: a pandora’s box that keeps being ignored” This conference, organised by Nagalro, takes place on 16 October 2026 in London.	Find out more: Nagalro