

CASPAR news update



CASPAR: current awareness service for practice, policy and research

Welcome to the latest CASPAR alert from NSPCC Knowledge and Information Services for week commencing Monday 25 July 2016

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Developing a framework for harmful sexual behaviour

The NSPCC's Impact and evidence insights series features a blog by Pat Branigan, Development Manager at the NSPCC, who discusses the role of co-production in developing a working framework for harmful sexual behaviour.

Source: [NSPCC](#) **Date:** 25 July 2016

Consultation on mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect

The Home Office and Department for Education are seeking views on the possible introduction of one of 2 statutory measures: either a mandatory reporting duty or a duty to

act for certain practitioners who know or have reasonable cause to suspect that abuse or neglect is taking place. The consultation is open until 13 October 2016.

Source: [Home Office](#) **Date:** 21 July 2016

Further information: [Reporting and acting on child abuse and neglect: government consultation \(PDF\)](#)

Female genital mutilation statistics

The Health and Social Care Information Centre has published the first ever annual statistical publication for female genital mutilation (FGM). Findings from data collected by healthcare providers in England include: 5,702 newly recorded cases of FGM were reported during the year April 2015 - March 2016; 106 girls were reported as being aged under 18 at the time of their first attendance for FGM; of cases where the age FGM was carried out was known, the most frequent age range was between 5 and 9 years old.

Source: [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) **Date:** 21 July 2016

Further information: [Female genital mutilation \(FGM\) - April 2015 to March 2016, experimental statistics](#)

Harmful sexual behaviour framework

The NSPCC with Research in Practice has published an operational framework to help local areas respond to children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviour. This aims to deliver clear policies and procedures and refresh local practice guidelines and assessment tools, and its production has involved a large number of national organisations and subject experts.

Source: [NSPCC](#) **Date:** 25 July 2016

Further information:

[Harmful sexual behaviour framework \(PDF\)](#)

[Harmful sexual behaviour framework audit tool \(PDF\)](#)

UK's response to child trafficking and sexual exploitation

ECPAT has published an expert paper on developments in the UK's response to child trafficking and child sexual exploitation (CSE). Key recommendations include: strengthened multi-agency international cooperation; mandatory reporting and recording of child sexual

abuse offences in the UK and abroad; the establishment of a national investigation unit to tackle extraterritorial child sexual abuse.

Source: [ECPAT](#) **Date:** 12 July 2016

Further information: [Developments in the UK's response to child trafficking and child sexual exploitation \(PDF\)](#)

Foster care book group

The Guardian features an article on the Foster Care Co-operative's book group, which meets three times a year via an online forum to enable agency staff and foster carers to share learning about fostering through popular non-fiction. A suggested reading list is included.

Source: [Guardian](#) **Date:** 20 July 2016

Further information: [FCC reading list](#)

Parents' concerns about sexting

The PSHE Association reports on a YouGov survey which highlights parents' worries about sexting. Findings from a poll of 4,127 adults of which 1,159 were parents of children aged 18 or under indicate that 78% were either fairly or very concerned about sexting, compared to 69% who were concerned about alcohol misuse and 67% who were concerned about smoking.

Source: [PSHE Association](#) **Date:** 20 July 2016

Debate on prevention of online child abuse

A Westminster Hall debate on the subject of prevention of online child abuse took place on Wednesday 20 July 2016. The member in charge of this debate was Sarah Champion MP.

Source: [House of Commons Library](#) **Date:** 18 July 2016

Further information: [They work for you](#)

Protecting babies in Wales from abuse and neglect

Children and Young People Now features a blog by Des Mannion, National Head of Service for NSPCC Wales, on preventing babies from being neglected and abused. Key issues

include: health practitioners such as GPs, midwives and health visitors are crucial and need to be equipped to spot the signs of abuse and neglect; Wales needs an enhanced health visiting service outside Flying Start areas to ensure babies are protected from harm and ensure they have the best possible start in life.

Source: [Children and Young People Now](#) **Date:** 19 July 2016

Recognising the signs of child sexual abuse and exploitation

The Children's Society and Department of Health have launched a free e-learning course and video to help NHS staff recognise the signs of child sexual abuse or exploitation and understand how to make children feel able to speak about what is happening to them. Although the training focuses on staff working in the health service, it is freely available to anyone who works with children.

Source: [Children's Society](#) **Date:** 20 July 2016

Further information: [Seen and heard](#)

Children at home alone during the summer holidays

The NSPCC reports that between July and September 2015, its helpline received 453 calls and emails from adults concerned about children being left unattended. The ChildLine service also delivered 273 counselling sessions to children and young people who were worried about being left home alone. Advice is offered to parents who are deciding in which situations they may leave their children home alone.

Source: [NSPCC](#) **Date:** 20 July 2016

Further information: [Home alone guide](#)

Appointment of Ofsted Chief Inspector

The Department for Education has announced the appointment of Amanda Spielman as the next Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (HMCI). She will take over the role from Sir Michael Wilshaw when his term of appointment ends.

Source: [Department for Education](#) **Date:** 19 July 2016

Safeguarding disabled children

The National Working Group on Safeguarding Disabled Children (NWGSDC) has published a

report on how well Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are meeting the Ofsted requirements to protect disabled children. Recommendations include: LSCBs, future key local partners and other relevant agencies should recognise disabled children as a key risk group and ensure they have mechanisms in place to address their specific safeguarding needs.

Source: [NSPCC](#) **Date:** 19 July 2016

Further information: [Safeguarding disabled children in England: how Local Safeguarding Children Boards are delivering against Ofsted requirements to protect disabled children: findings from a national survey \(PDF\)](#)

Impact of the internet inquiry

The House of Lords Communication Committee is calling for evidence for its inquiry looking at the impact of the internet on children. This explores the benefits, risks and dangers of the internet, and how children's use of the internet is governed and regulated. The deadline is 26 August 2016.

Source: [House of Lords Communication Committee](#) **Date:** 18 July 2016

Further information: [Call for evidence: children and the internet \(PDF\)](#)

Tackling homophobia in schools

Stonewall has published its Education equality index for 2016. This shows how well local authorities are celebrating difference across the community and tackling homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in schools. Includes a section on what a local authority with good performance in preventing and tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying looks like.

Source: [Stonewall](#) **Date:** 18 July 2016

Further information: [Stonewall education equality index 2016 \(PDF\)](#)

Care application statistics

Cafcass has published its care application statistics for June 2016. Key figures include: in June 2016, Cafcass received a total of 1,265 care applications, which is a 13% increase compared to those received in June 2015.

Source: [Cafcass](#) **Date:** 18 July 2016

Refresh your child protection knowledge

The NSPCC is offering 10% off its online training for people who would like to refresh their child protection knowledge this summer. Simply enter the code 'CASPAR16' when buying one of our flexible, expert-led courses.

Source: [NSPCC](#) **Date:** 18 July 2016

Supporting male victims of child sexual exploitation

Barnardo's Cymru has published a report on supporting sexually exploited boys and young men in Wales. Key findings include: boys' routes into sexual exploitation are complicated and difficult to identify, as they are often closely aligned to criminal behaviour and/or substance misuse; there is evidence that sexual stereotypes often play a part in the interpretation of boys' behaviour, with negative behaviour being taken at face value and not explored, or understood, as a potential response to trauma.

Source: [Barnardo's Cymru](#) **Date:** 15 July 2016

Further information: '[I never spoke about it'... supporting sexually exploited boys and young men in Wales \(PDF\)](#)

Sexual abuse & mental health - reducing the impact of abuse on mental health

This event, organised by Healthcare Conferences UK, takes place on 20 September 2016 in London.

Source: [Healthcare Conferences UK](#)

Child protection reform - service delivery, multi-agency arrangements and the future of the social work profession

This event, organised by Westminster Education Forum, takes place in London on 23 February 2016.

Source: [Westminster Education Forum](#)

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