

Good childhood report



The Children's Society has published its fifth in-depth report on children's wellbeing.

Recommendations include:

- ◆ the Government should introduce a legal requirement for schools and further education colleges across England to provide mental health and well-being support, including appropriate funds;
- ◆ local authorities across the UK should develop a process to make sure that children have a voice in decision making about their local areas.

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Young Victims Pathfinder Service

**catch
22**

Community-based and outreach support for young people in Essex who have been victims of crime.

For further information, download a referral form as well as the facebook link —use the links below:

[Click to open link](#)

[Click to open Facebook link](#)

FGM films for healthcare professionals



The Department of Health has published a set of films about female genital mutilation (FGM) for healthcare professionals.

Topics covered include:

- ⇒ the impact of FGM on mental health; mandatory reporting;
- ⇒ personal experiences of FGM and how healthcare professionals can support victims.

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You & Co : Victim Support's Youth Programme



Helps young people cope with the impact and effects of crime.

You do not have to report the crime to the police to get support from us.

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Protecting children in Calais



The Children's Commissioner for England met with representatives of the European Commission in Brussels, the French Commissioner, members of the European Parliament and other senior EU officials to discuss the protection of children in the Calais refugee camp before its closure. **Recommended urgent actions include:**

- ◆ all unaccompanied children in camp should be accommodated;
- ◆ children with rights to come to the UK should be given a place in specialist centres;
- ◆ clear plans should be put in place for all children after camp closure.

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Don't forget – you can send us items for inclusion at any time. Items can be emailed using the following link:
MECCG.SCCN@nhs.net

Child protection thresholds

Community Care discusses the challenges of setting child protection thresholds and the differences between the 'child in need' and 'child protection' categories.

Research by Northumbria University found that children deemed below child protection thresholds, but at the upper ends of children in need, could see their cases drift due to the divide between the two categories.

One unnamed authority has established a 'Complex Child In Need' category to help bridge the gap.

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www.parliament.uk

Fostering in England inquiry

The Education Committee has launched an inquiry into fostering in England.

Issues which will be addressed include:

- ♦ recruitment and retention of foster carers; stability of foster care placements;
- ♦ foster care for young people with specific or challenging needs and its relationship with residential care;
- ♦ the involvement of young people in their care. Deadline for written submissions is Friday 25 November 2016.

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National Audit Office

Children in need of help or protection

The National Audit Office has published a report on the actions taken by the Department for Education (DfE) to improve the quality of child protection services in England since 2010.

Key findings include:

- ♦ the quality of help and protection for children across England is unsatisfactory and inconsistent, and quality of service is not related to the amount spent on each child;
- ♦ many local authorities demonstrate good practice, however, social workers and others do not find it easy to find out what works.

Recommendations for the DfE include:

- ♦ develop better indicators to monitor outcomes for children and families who are, or have been, in contact with the child protection system, and hold local authorities to account for their performance;
- ♦ use lead indicators to anticipate and act on failing services before they fail.

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Children and Social Work

Children England has published a briefing on the progress of the Children and Social Work Bill during the summer recess of 2016.

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Demonstrating the benefits of early intervention



The Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) highlights the importance of using programme evaluations such as Foundations for life, its evaluation of what works to support parent child interaction in the early years, to demonstrate the benefits of early interventions.

Key points include:

- ◆ those who commission services need a positive, evidence-based reason to invest in programmes that address issues at key stages;
- ◆ the evaluation can be used as a benchmark for improvement, enabling programmes with a weaker evidence base to be developed.

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Review of access to school nurses in England



The Children's Commissioner for England has published review of children's access to school nurses.

Key points include:

- ◆ safeguarding and child protection processes have become a substantial part of school nurses' work, with nurses attending one case conference a week on average;
- ◆ 21% of school nurses felt that the time needed to make a referral, fill out paperwork and carry out follow ups was limiting their capacity to perform other activities.

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FGM prevention



The Home Affairs Committee has published a report about Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Recommendations include:

- Government should introduce stronger sanctions for professionals who fail to record FGM data;
- FGM Unit should be a joint effort between the Home Office, the Department of Health and the Department for Education;
- FGM Unit should link with police and Border Force officers to provide intelligence and guidance on countries at high risk of FGM;
- Government should conduct research into why FGM takes place.

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Strategies of online groomers

Research carried out by the University of Swansea into how online groomers communicate and interact with their victims.



Findings include:

- ⇒ groomers do not always pose as children and a large percentage are honest about their age;
- ⇒ it can take a very short time for some predators to arrange to meet their victim and this can involve the use of sophisticated, persuasive, language-based strategies to build trust rapidly.

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Serious Case Review

Sunderland Safeguarding
Children Board has



published executive summaries of serious case reviews into the deaths of two adolescent girls and an accompanying thematic report considering wider issues around services for vulnerable teenagers.

Key issues include:

- ♦ complex and difficult family lives, risk taking behaviour, risk of sexual exploitation, and bullying at school and through social media.

Recommendations for the Board include:

- * have oversight of all risk assessment tools;
- * make sure all children and young people known to be at risk of going missing, being sexually exploited or trafficked are having their needs effectively addressed;
- * and make sure all professionals are given the opportunity to develop their awareness of the use of the internet and all forms of social media.

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NICE guidance on harmful sexual

NICE National Institute for
Health and Care Excellence

behaviour in children

This guideline covers children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour, including those on remand or serving community or custodial sentences.

This guideline includes recommendations on:

- multi-agency approach and universal services;
- early help assessment;
- risk assessment for children and young people referred to harmful sexual behaviour services;
- engaging with families and carers before an intervention begins;
- developing and managing a care plan for children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviour;
- developing interventions for children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviour;
- supporting a return to the community for 'accommodated' children and young people.

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'Time to listen'

a joined up response to child sexual exploitation and missing children

GOV.UK

This report summarises the findings from the 'deep dive' element of five joint targeted area inspections (JTAs) conducted by Ofsted, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMI Probation).

The deep dive aspect of the inspection evaluated the experiences of children and young people at risk of, or subject to, child sexual exploitation. It also looked at children missing from home, care or education.

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Support for parents worried about radicalisation

NSPCC

The NSPCC has published a short film encouraging parents to use its helpline to talk through any concerns they may have about their child being radicalised.

Warning signs include:

- talking as if from a scripted speech;
- unwillingness or inability to discuss their views;
- a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others;
- increased secretiveness, especially around internet use. However, these signs do not necessarily mean a child is being radicalised.

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Violence against women and girls crime report

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has published its annual assessment of prosecution performance on crimes that have been classified as violence against women and girls (VAWG) in England and Wales.



The report covers child abuse, domestic abuse, forced marriage, harassment, honour-based violence, human trafficking, pornography, prostitution and sexual offences.

Key findings include:

- the volume of child abuse referrals from the police increased to 13,282 in 2015-16 from 12,840 in 2014-15;
- the volume of successful outcomes of child abuse cases rose to 8,439 in 2015-16 from 7,469 in 2014-15 - the highest volume ever recorded.

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Seeking help to stop viewing child abuse images online



Stop it Now! reports that in the last year, over 13,500 people have made contact seeking help to stop viewing sexual images of children online.

This includes 1,615 people calling the confidential helpline with concerns about their online behaviour and 12,057 who visited the Stop it Now! Get-Help website to access self-help resources.

Callers and web visitors reported taking steps to control their behaviour as a result of the advice they received.

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Online sexual abuse

NSPCC

The NSPCC is putting online sexual abuse in the spotlight to ensure children are given the same protection in the online world as they are offline.

Two new reports have been published: the first explores how Childline, the NSPCC helpline and O2 are responding to children's and parents' concerns about content online; the second reviews current research around children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour online.

The NSPCC is also calling on the government to expand the powers of the age verification regulator relating to pornographic sites as part of the Digital Economy Bill. [Click to open](#)

Tackling peer-on-peer abuse



The University of Bedfordshire International Centre, funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the Samworth Foundation and Trust for London, has published a report of the findings and resources generated by the MsUnderstood Partnership (MSU)'s local site work.

MSU was formed in 2013 to support the development of responses to peer-on-peer abuse and young people's experiences of inequality.

Findings from the partnership include:

- ◆ extra-familial issues that present a risk to the well-being and safety of young people are contextual and complex;
- ◆ contextual approaches developed by local practitioners require strategic authorisation in order to make them a viable, consistent and sustained response.

Click to open links below:

[MsUnderstood website](#)

[Towards a Contextual Response to Peer-On-Peer Abuse](#)

Modern slavery



The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner has published his first annual report, setting out the work undertaken in 2015-16.

Key achievements include:

- developing awareness raising and training for local authorities and the health sector;
- providing recommendations to protect vulnerable children and adults from traffickers amid the refugee and migrant crisis.

Priorities for 2017 include:

continue to engage with the Home Office and relevant NGOs to ensure that the new model of Independent Child Trafficking Advocates is implemented with the best interests of the child at the forefront. The inter-departmental ministerial group (IDMG) on modern slavery in the UK has also published its 2016 report.

Click to open links below:

[Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner](#)

[Modern Slavery: inter-departmental ministerial group publications](#)