



Safeguarding Children Newsletter for Healthcare Staff



DECEMBER 2016 EDITION NO. 11

New fact sheet on local authority support for children with immigration status issues



This factsheet provides information about legal issues relating to children in care whose immigration status is uncertain.

There have been several recent cases in which local authorities have been fined for failing to address a child's immigration status issue in time, and before the child turned 18. This fact sheet outlines what a local authority's duties are and how they should best be undertaken.

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www.parliament.uk

Mental health support for children in care

In a debate about the Children and Social Work Bill, it was announced that the Department for Education (DfE) will be testing new approaches to assessing the mental health of children in care, in pilots which will be launched by May 2017.

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Young people's experiences of being in care

Ofsted has published slides on the experiences of children and young people in children's homes and foster care between January and April 2016.



Key messages include:

- ⇒ children need to understand why they came into care;
- ⇒ children find it helpful if they are given information about their new home before moving;
- ⇒ children who go missing can find it helpful when carers try to understand the reasons why and discuss what they can do to help.

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Make 2017 Year of Safer Sleep for Babies

The busy Christmas period is well under way but could you spare a second to click your support for an important campaign? Southend, Essex and Thurrock are re-launching the Safer Sleep for Babies campaign for 2017.

There has been a recorded increase in the last two years of SUDI's (Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy) in Essex and Thurrock, so we're keen to reinforce messages on safer sleeping habits, which can hugely reduce the risk.

To kick off the New Year, ESCB will be blasting out a one-time message on **3rd January 2017 at 11am GMT** using Thunderclap. Think of it as a social media flash mob or a massive scheduled social post.

All you have to do is click on this link to sign up: **[2017: #YearofSaferSleep](#)**

However, the message will only be blasted out if we reach our supporter goal. All we ask is that you sign up **before** 3rd January 2017. The more supporters we have, the more people that will share and see our message.

Click on the picture below to share the Thunderclap link and spread the word. We encourage you to get involved in the campaign, even if just for a minute. You can 'donate' a social media post. Follow ESCB on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) in the run up to Christmas and New Year to share the Safer Sleep posts.

We can work together to beat our supporter goal and raise as much awareness as we can about Safer Sleep for 2017.



Early education and children in care



The University of Oxford and Family and Childcare Trust have published a report on narrowing the achievement gap between children in care and their peers.

Key findings from the research, which was funded by the Nuffield Foundation, include:

- ♦ high quality early education vastly improves outcomes for disadvantaged children;
- ♦ many local authorities are effectively promoting the educational needs of school-age looked after children, but practice is not yet consistent for those under the age of five;
- ♦ there may be a considerable gap between government aspiration and on-the-ground experiences for children in care.

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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

Report on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

The House of Commons Home Affairs Committee has published a short report on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).



Key findings include:

⇒ the work of IICSA is vital but confidence in its ability to deliver its objectives has been seriously diminished by recent problems.

Recommendations include:

⇒ IICSA should prioritise appointing a new counsel to the Inquiry at the earliest opportunity;
⇒ as part of the process of the Chair's review of the Inquiry, IICSA could consider dividing its work into two separate elements: one to establish the truth about past institutional abuse, and the other looking at thematic and compliance issues around child protection and safeguarding procedures within institutions today.

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Film about child sexual exploitation

Fixers has published a short film, created by teenagers, about what child sexual exploitation means and the ways that children and young people can get caught up in it.

Advice is also offered about where they can get help if they need it.

[Click to open \(Fixers.org\)](#)

[Click to open \(You Tube\)](#)



Guidance for police dealing with sexting



The College of Policing has published guidance for police officers responding to cases where young people are producing and sharing sexual images of themselves or others (sexting).

Advice includes: where young people are voluntarily creating and sharing images with each other, police may use the recently introduced 'outcome 21' recording code to record that a crime has been committed but that it is not considered to be in the public interest to take criminal action against the people involved.

This will reduce stigma and distress for children and help to minimise the long term impact of the situation.

[Click to open](#)

Young people challenging gender based and sexual violence

Cardiff University with NSPCC Cymru/Wales, Welsh Women's Aid, the Children's Commissioner for Wales and Welsh Government have launched the UK's first national online tool-kit to support young people in raising awareness of gender-based and sexual violence.

Developed with young people and for young people, it features: activities to help young people express what matters to them; ideas for change; where to go for advice and support.

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Raising awareness of child sexual exploitation in the night-time economy

Barnardo's has published an independent evaluation of Nightwatch, a pilot designed to increase awareness of child sexual exploitation (CSE) among businesses of the night-time economy (NTE) by providing advice, support, training and guidance.

Findings include: localised approaches were shown to be effective in increasing awareness of CSE; adopting a friendly, non-judgemental, strength-based approach results in 'buy-in' from NTE workers; support structures for practitioners dealing with unexpected disclosures from NTE workers are needed.

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Licence to practise for child sexual abuse investigators



The College of Policing will trial a licence to practice for police officers who investigate child sexual abuse (CSA) in England and Wales.

This will ensure they have the most up to date skills and should only begin working in the role once they are accredited, in a similar way to those working in firearms and public order.

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Who Cares? Trust rebranding

The Who Cares? Trust, a charity supporting children in care and care leavers, has rebranded and is now called 'Become'.

Become will continue to provide help, support and advice to children in care and young care leavers and ensure that their voices are heard at the highest levels of government and policymaking.

[Click to open](#)

Online safety resources for children aged 8 - 10



CEOP's Thinkuknow has published Play Like Share.

A three-episode animated series and accompanying resource pack to help eight-to-ten year olds learn how to stay safe from online sexual abuse and exploitation and think about issues they might encounter online.

The resource pack includes some targeted extension sessions, designed to be delivered to small groups of particularly risk-taking or vulnerable children.

Click to open (teachers)

Click to open (You Tube)

Violence against women and girls insight pack



The Home Office has updated its Violence against women and girls (VAWG) communications insight pack, which gives information about issues related to VAWG.

Topics covered include:

- ⇒ domestic violence and sexual violence;
- ⇒ teenage relationship abuse;
- ⇒ teenage rape prevention;
- ⇒ sexting/cyber abuse;
- ⇒ female genital mutilation (FGM);
- ⇒ forced marriage.

Sources of information and support are highlighted including Childline's Zipit app and CEOP's Thinkuknow. **Click to open**

Child abuse linked to faith or belief

The Victoria Climbié Foundation UK has published a report on child abuse linked to faith or belief. Findings from an online survey of 1,361 professionals and members of community and faith-based organisations include:

- ◇ 61% of respondents were confident they could define child abuse linked to faith or belief;
- ◇ 33% were confident they could identify indicators of this form of abuse and 52% of respondents were confident they could respond professionally to it;
- ◇ 25% had received training on the issue.

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Child protection inspection of Metropolitan Police Service



Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary

(HMIC) has published a report on its inspection of child protection in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) which took place from February to May 2016.

This is part of a rolling programme of inspections of all police forces in England and Wales.

Recommendations for MP's include:

- ◆ put clear structures in place to monitor child protection practices and begin to develop a performance management framework to support consistent standards of service;
- ◆ put in place an action plan to improve practice in cases of children who go missing from home, including staff training and raising staff awareness;
- ◆ develop and improve responses to and investigation of child abuse, child sexual exploitation and missing children, so that children are protected at an earlier stage.

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Memorandum of understanding between Ofsted and DfE



Ofsted and the Department for Education (DfE) have published a Department memorandum of understanding for Education (MoU) detailing how they will share information on notifiable safeguarding incidents in England. **Click to open**

Increasing the capacity and diversity of children's social care services in England



The Department for Education (DfE) has published an independent report on the potential for increasing the capacity and diversity of children's social care services in England, and the government's response to the report.

Independent Research Report

Government Response to Laing Buisson's Report

Revised SET Procedures

Certain chapters in the SET (Southend, Essex and Thurrock) Child Protection Procedures have been updated this year to reflect current practice and changes in legislation. **Click to open**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)



The Home Office has made updates to its documents about female genital mutilation (FGM).

These include:

- ◆ the statement opposing FGM;
- ◆ the procedural information for mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation;
- ◆ the factsheet on FGM protection orders.

Statement opposing FGM

Mandatory reporting of FGM: Procedural Information

FGM Protection Orders: Factsheet

The Home Office has published a response to the Home Affairs Select Committee's 2016 follow-up report on female genital mutilation (FGM).

Key issues include:

- ◆ the government recognises that there is more to do to strengthen multi-agency working, but this is not an issue unique to FGM;
- ◆ the government has no current plans to legislate further in this area but will keep the matter under review, and continue to consider methods/good practice in other countries which aid both the prevention and prosecution of FGM.

FGM: Abuse Unchecked

Government Response to FGM: Report Published

FGM; mandatory reporting; the impact of FGM on support victims.

Attitudes towards type IV female genital mutilation



Africans Unite Against Child Abuse (AFRUCA) has published a report on attitudes towards Type IV female genital mutilation (FGM) in the African community across Greater Manchester, specifically looking at the practice of labia elongation.

Key findings include:

- ⇒ participants acknowledged this practice as a cherished cultural norm and did not perceive it to be mutilation, indicating that FGM involved cutting of the female sexual organs only.

Recommendations include:

- ⇒ there should be greater awareness of labia elongation, the psychological effects of the practice and its impact on children and young people;
- ⇒ services already in place to support victims of other forms of FGM should also focus on victims of labia elongation.

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FGM resources for healthcare professionals

The Department of Health have produced a set of four films about female genital mutilation (FGM) for healthcare professionals.

Topics covered include: personal experiences of mental health and how healthcare professionals can

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Coping with crying training

The NSPCC has launched the UK's first tested programme to support new parents with their baby's crying and reduce the risk of non-accidental head injury.



Online training for health visitors, midwives and children's centre staff covers: the risks associated with babies that cry excessively; advice and guidance on how to support parents and keep babies safe; guidance on how to effectively implement Coping with crying and show the film to parents.

Once completed, practitioners will have access to resources that will enable them to implement and deliver the programme.

[Click to open](#)

Adolescent neglect

The Children's Society has published a report on the links between parenting and adolescent neglect.



Key findings include:

- neglected young people were significantly more likely to behave in ways which risked their health or jeopardised their future opportunities;
- teenagers who reported suffering neglect in relation to two or more categories of parenting behaviour had significantly worse levels of well-being than those who were neglected for one type of parenting in isolation.

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