

Safeguarding Newsletter for Healthcare Staff



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Safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children



This new safeguarding strategy sets out the additional actions the Government will take to safeguard and promote the welfare of unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children that recognises the increasing numbers and specific needs of these children in the UK. Department for Education

Alongside the safeguarding strategy, we are publishing two related documents: the Government's response to the consultation to revise the statutory guidance; and the updated guidance, now called: Care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery, for local authorities on the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children - first published in 2014. This updated guidance acknowledges the safeguarding challenges that local authorities and partners continue to deal with to give these children stability.



Modern slavery awareness



The Home Office has published guidance on modern slavery to help public sector workers who may not routinely come across modern slavery to recognise the signs and respond appropriately.

The guide includes information on:

- ◇ legislation;
- ◇ the types of modern slavery;
- ◇ victims;
- ◇ and signs to look out for.

Typology of modern slavery offences



The Home Office has published research looking at the different types of modern slavery in the UK.

The research classified modern slavery offences into 17 distinct types, many of which have child victims including:

- ◇ domestic servitude;
- ◇ sexual exploitation;
- ◇ and criminal exploitation.

Modern slavery



The Salvation Army has published a report on the number of victims of modern slavery referred to the organisation between July 2016 and June 2017.

Figures show that 1,544 people were referred in the year 2016/17 - three of whom were aged under 18.

Gaming: resources for parents and carers

The UK Safer Internet Centre has published a leaflet for parents and carers providing information and advice about online gaming, and how to help support children and young people enjoy online games positively and safely.



2017 UK annual report on modern slavery

The Home Office has published the 2017 UK annual report on modern slavery. The report includes an assessment of modern slavery, and the UK's response.



Terrorism: advice and guidance

The Home Office has published advice and online resources for parents, children and teachers explaining what schools and colleges can do to support people affected by terrorism.



Violence in the lives of children worldwide



Unicef has published a report looking at violence in the lives of children and young people worldwide.

The report looks at four specific forms of violence including:

- ◆ violent discipline and exposure to domestic abuse during early childhood;
- ◆ sexual violence in childhood and adolescence; violence at school;
- ◆ and violent deaths among adolescents.

Findings include:

- ◆ close to 300 million children aged 2 to 4 worldwide experience violent discipline by their caregivers on a regular basis, and 176 million children under age 5 live with a mother who has been a recent victim of intimate partner abuse.

Young offenders

The Ministry of Justice has published a study looking at proven offending by children and young people between the ages of 10 and 17.



Findings include:

- ◆ young people involved with family court care proceedings in England and Wales were more likely to offend between the ages of 10 and 17 than those of the same age group in the general population.

Don't forget – you can send us items for inclusion at any time. Please click link: meccg.scn@nhs.net

Characteristics of children in need: 2016 to 2017



The Department for Education (DfE) has published statistics for children referred to and assessed by children's social services in England for the year ending 31 March 2017.

Figures show that there were

- ◆ 389,430 children in need at 31 March 2017, a decrease of 1.3% on the previous year;
- ◆ the number of child protection plans at 31st March 2017 has increased to 51,080 an increase of 1.5% on the figure for 2016.

The impact of online and offline child sexual abuse



The NSPCC has published a report looking at effects of child sexual abuse (CSA) carried out using online or digital technologies, known as technology assisted CSA, or TA-CSA.

Findings from interviews and questionnaires with a group of young people aged 15-19, carried out by researchers the University of Bath, University of Birmingham and CEOP include:

- ◆ technology can give perpetrators of abuse easier access to young people than they have in the offline world;
- ◆ the online environment can hide abusive dynamics that would be more obvious in face to face relationships;
- ◆ technology can give perpetrators of abuse easier access to young people than they have in the offline world;
- ◆ TA-CSA has as much impact on a child as CSA which only takes place offline;

Childline annual review



The NSPCC has published its annual review of what children and young people contacted Childline about during 2016/17.

Key findings include:

- ⇒ Childline provided more than 295,000 counselling sessions to children and young people;
- ⇒ 1 in 3 counselling sessions related to mental and emotional health and wellbeing issues (including self-harm and suicidal thoughts or feelings);
- ⇒ there were more than 22,400 counselling sessions about suicidal thoughts and feelings - the highest ever;
- ⇒ and the top three concerns young people were counselled about were mental and emotional health, family relationships, and bullying or cyberbullying.

Dealing with unwanted requests for sexual images



ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Voice Box, Childline's weekly video chat, features Molly chatting about how to handle the pressure of being asked to send nudes, and what to do if you receive one.

Childline has relaunched the Zipit app, requests for sexual images of themselves.

The free app offers young people a gallery of images and animations which they can send in response to requests for sexual pictures and to deal with difficult sexting situations.

Child sexual exploitation: risk assessment



The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse has published findings from an exploratory study on the use of screening and risk assessment tools relating to child sexual exploitation (CSE) in England and Wales.

Findings from an online survey completed by 42 professionals, and interviews with 17 professionals include:

- ◆ a wide range of tools and checklists are being used across England – with one tool, the Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (SERAF), used in Wales;
- ◆ there is variation in practice as to who completes the tools, and meeting a threshold that triggers support from Children's Services is not always achievable: some participants stated that the tools appeared to be used to assign resources rather than identify vulnerabilities.

Self harm among children and young people

Research, carried out by Manchester University and published in the BMJ, looking at self harm among children and young people in England.

Findings from a study of the electronic health records from GP practices for 16,912 patients aged 10-19 who harmed themselves during 2001-2014 show that: girls have had much higher rates of self-harm than boys - 37.4 per 10,000 compared with 12.3 in boys; and that there was a 68% increase in rates of self harm among girls aged 13-16 years between 2011 and 2014.



Prevent Mental Health Guidance and new E-Learning Package



The guidance from NHS England is aimed at providers of NHS mental health services and contains information applicable to mental health professionals who work within them.

It is designed to support providers and staff to exercise their statutory and professional duties to safeguard vulnerable adults, children and young people at risk of radicalisation. Examples based on real cases and flowchart diagrams have been developed for the guidance to illustrate Prevent in a mental health context.

It builds on a range of existing guidance and advice on safeguarding and information sharing in the health sector, as well as guidance on the Prevent Duty and Channel programme.

Mental health service models



The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) has published a research briefing describing new models of children and young people's mental health services (CYPMHS) being developed by Clinical Commissioning Groups in England.

Models being developed include: whole-system models, schools-based models, and community based models.

Homelessness and children's rights

The Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE) has published a briefing looking at ways in which the voluntary sector can use children's rights arguments in their policy and public affairs work relating to homelessness policy.

Topics discussed include: the benefits of taking a children's rights approach to policy making; and how children's rights to housing are breached by temporary accommodation.



DoLS: Children and Young People – Court of Appeal

On 31 October Sir James Munby, President of the Court of Protection, gave the judgment in this Court of Appeal hearing. In summary, parental consent is, again, valid to authorise a deprivation of liberty of a child or a young person.

Children in custody

HM Inspectorate of Prisons has published a report looking at 12–18-year-olds' perceptions of their experiences in secure training centres and young offender institutions in England and Wales for the period 2016/17.

Findings from a survey of 720 young people show that: 22% of the young people surveyed in secure training centres reported feeling unsafe at some point since arriving, and 39% in young offender institutions reported they felt unsafe at some point.

Other issues identified include: lack of support for young people due to staffing constraints; poor access to showers and phones; and young people being locked in their cells for up to 22 hours a day.



Safeguarding unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children



The Department for Education (DfE) has published a policy paper setting out the government's commitments to safeguard and promote the welfare of unaccompanied asylum seeking refugee children in England.

The new strategy includes:

- updated guidance for councils on caring for unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery;
- specialist training for 1,000 foster carers and support workers to improve their skills and confidence in caring for unaccompanied child migrants;
- commissioning research on the effectiveness of existing support for unaccompanied children and families reunited under the Dublin Regulation and whether more help is needed.

An annex outlines the mechanisms for safeguarding unaccompanied children in the devolved administrations.

Children's services

The National Children's Bureau (NCB) has released findings from a survey of local authority lead members with responsibility for children's services in England.

Findings from 101 local authorities who responded include:

- 40% said they didn't have enough money to meet one or more of their statutory duties to children;
- 35% said their local authority lacked the resources to support children in need; 35% reported having insufficient funding to help children in care;



Children and young people's health



The Association for Young People's Health (AYPH) has published a report looking at the health of 10-24 year olds in the UK. Using publicly available data, the report covers:

- health behaviours and lifestyle;
- sexual health and identity;
- wellbeing and mental health.

Recommendations for action include:

- making targeted health promotion and early intervention for young people a priority;
- promoting more youth friendly health services.