

Safeguarding Newsletter for Healthcare Staff

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Keeping Children Safe Online



This briefing paper is the third instalment of this series of Keeping Children Safe Online, focusing on Digital Footprints and Location Settings.

All users of the internet leave digital footprints and many children and young people are not aware that they are sharing information about themselves unwittingly.

This briefing looks at what a digital footprint is and some of the risks associated to it.

It also provides a set of tips for professionals and young people themselves on how to stay safe online.

Modern slavery experienced by Vietnamese nationals



The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner has published a report outlining the nature and scale of modern slavery experienced by Vietnamese nationals en-route to, and within the UK.

The report includes a chapter which looks at 'age disputes' and how they can negatively impact on victims, as well as the issue of children and young people who go missing after identification and the subsequent risk of re-trafficking.

The National Referral Mechanism and Referring Potential Child Victims of Modern Slavery - A Guide



Recent figures from the National Crime Agency (NCA) show the number of identified cases of modern slavery has doubled in the last year.

This briefing gives an overview of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and a quick guide on how to refer into the NRM child victims or potential child victims of trafficking and modern slavery, to ensure that those who are recognised and identified receive enhanced levels of immediate and sustained support.

Transformation of childhoods in a digital world



Barnardo's has published a paper comparing the challenges and opportunities facing children from today's rapidly evolving technological world with the experiences of teenagers in previous decades.

Findings from a YouGov survey of more than 2,300 young people currently aged 13-15 and adults aged 18 and over include:

- ⇒ 54% of those currently aged 13-15 read books while 79% of adults said they read when they were young teenagers;
- ⇒ 53% of the 13 year-olds have dumped a boyfriend or girlfriend by Whatsapp, Twitter, Snapchat or Facebook;
- ⇒ 25% of the 13-15-year-olds said they had communicated with a stranger on social media.

Gypsies and Travellers



The House of Commons Library has published a briefing paper providing an overview of the key issues and policies relating to Gypsy and Traveller communities in England.

The report covers a range of issues including:

- the educational outcomes of children from Gypsy and Traveller communities which is significantly below the national average throughout compulsory education;
- and the over-representation of Gypsy and Traveller children in the youth justice system.

The report of the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry 2017



Investigates residential child care in Jersey from 1945 up to the present day to establish what went wrong in the child care system and to hear evidence from more than 450 people who had lived or were connected with the care system in both residential and fostering services.

Findings identify individual and systemic failings; recommendations include:

- ◆ the future management and operation of Jersey's residential and foster homes should provide a safe and secure environment for the children in its care.

Cut off from Justice:

The impact of excluding separated and migrant children from legal aid

All children and young people in the UK should be kept safe and have equal access to justice, regardless of where they were born. However, sweeping changes made to legal aid provision for immigration cases have put some of the most vulnerable children in this country at serious risk and unable to get the help they need.



Refugee and migrant children and young people



UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have published a report analysing the journeys of 11,000 young refugees and migrants between 14 and 24 years old along the Eastern and Central Mediterranean routes to Europe.

Findings include: young people on the move are more vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation than adults with those from sub-Saharan Africa at particularly high risk; many adolescents and young people experienced multiple types of exploitation including sexual exploitation, child marriage, forced labour, violence and abuse, and captivity.

Children in care with immigration issues



A child with an immigration issue may end up in care for the same reasons as any other child, such as family breakdown, for child protection reasons, or because they have been abandoned. This fact sheet details what support is owed to these children and how to challenge a decision to provide less or no support.

Briefing on the National Transfer Scheme

(click the title to open link)

Launched on the 1st July 2016 by the Home Office and Department for Education, the National Transfer Scheme

was described as a 'new voluntary transfer arrangement between local authorities for the care of unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK and claim asylum'.

Operating through a voluntary interim transfer protocol, ('the interim protocol'), the National Transfer Scheme aims to ensure that the responsibility for supporting these children does not fall disproportionately to a small number of local authorities situated as entry points into the UK (such as Kent and Hillingdon) and that 'there is a more even distribution of caring responsibilities across the country'.

Parental responsibility : what is it and how is it gained and lost



This House of Commons Library briefing note concerns "parental responsibility" as a legal concept as set out in the Children Act 1989 as amended.

It considers the meaning of parental responsibility, and the fact that it is not a constant right, but diminishes as the child gets older and so can reach a sufficient understanding and intelligence of the consequences of decisions relating to them.

How parental responsibility can be acquired and lost can depend on the person concerned and certain court orders. There can be restrictions on how parental responsibility is exercised, including the gaining of court orders in order to settle or prohibit a particular action by someone with parental responsibility.

Mental health support for care leavers



Barnardo's has published a report looking at mental health support for young people leaving care. Findings from a review of case files of 274 care leavers Barnardo's is currently supporting indicate that: 46% (125) of the cases reviewed involved young people who, in the opinion of the personal adviser, had mental health needs; and 65% (81) of young people whom workers identified as having mental health needs were not currently receiving any statutory service.

Staying put guidance – Looked After Children

The Fostering Network has published guidance aimed at providing a framework for best practice in the implementation of the staying put arrangement whereby a young person, who has been looked after for a total of at least 13 weeks since the age of 14, remains living with the foster carer with whom they were placed when they turned 18.

The guidance is based on legislation, statutory guidance and standards that govern services for looked after children, care leavers, and fostering services in England.



Children looked after in England statistics



The Department for Education (DfE) has published Department statistics for looked after children in England for the for Education financial year 2016-17 (this includes adoption).

Key figures include: there were 72,670 looked after children at 31 March 2017, an increase of 3% compared to 31 March 2016; the number of looked after children who were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children was 4,560, an increase of 6% compared to 2016.

Claiming after care: Care leavers and the benefits system



This report provides further evidence of the financial difficulties faced by care leavers and shows how the benefits system is particularly tough for care leavers.

With more joined-up interaction between JobCentre Plus and local authorities, increased understanding and some additional support, we are certain that more care leavers can go on to flourish in adult life.

Sex offender notification requirements: review mechanism: what are my rights as a victim?

Briefly sets out the law regarding sex offenders and notification requirements.

Includes information about what happens if a victim is a child or an individual who requires an appropriate adult to represent them.



Children's Experiences of Help-seeking and Support after Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment - An Overview of the Research Paper



This briefing gives an overview of the findings of research carried out by University of Bedford and the NSPCC and published in their report Making Noise:

Children's Voices for Positive Change after Sexual Abuse.

It focuses on children's experience of help-seeking and support following identification of child sexual abuse in the family environment.

The impacts of child sexual abuse: a rapid evidence assessment: summary report

Summary of a rapid evidence assessment of the existing evidence for the impact of child sexual abuse (CSA) and identifying gaps in the evidence.



The report found evidence that CSA is associated with an increased risk of adverse outcomes in almost every sphere of victims and survivors' lives, and that this risk can persist across their lifespan.

Gaps in evidence include the impact of CSA on: younger victims (pre-adolescent) and older survivors (65 plus); black and minority ethnic, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and disabled people; male victims and survivors; the non-abusing fathers, siblings, partners and children of victims and survivors.

Working with children and families of people convicted of sex offences

i-HOP, in collaboration with the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, has published a briefing about how i-HOP can support professionals in England who are working with the children and families of sex offenders.



Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines guidance

Guidance aimed at frontline staff who work with children, young people and potentially vulnerable adults. County lines is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines.

It involves child criminal exploitation as gangs use children and vulnerable adults. This guidance explains the nature of this harm and how to recognise its signs and respond appropriately.



Lack of support for CSE victims from justice system

A study by Barnardo's has found that children involved in criminal justice processes relating to child sexual exploitation (CSE) are not getting enough support.

During interviews with CSE victims, researchers discovered that aggressive cross-examination and police interviews can make young people feel they are not believed or are to blame for their abuse. They also find the criminal justice process "complicated and confusing". Barnardo's recommends offering CSE victims independent, one-to-one support to guide them through their case



Supporting parents of sexually exploited young people: evidence review



The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse has published findings from an evidence review looking at what helps parents to maintain or rebuild positive, supportive relationships when their child has been sexually exploited.

Key messages from the evidence include:

- ⇒ parents value respectful, honest relationships with professionals who have some appreciation of what they are experiencing;
- ⇒ support to parents needs to be provided alongside effective support to their child.

The research identifies areas in which parents are likely to need support including:

- ⇒ their relationship with their child;
- ⇒ understanding how police, legal and child protection systems work;
- ⇒ and building their resilience.

Child protection thresholds



The National Children's Bureau (NCB) has released findings from a survey of social workers in England looking at their experience of making decisions about whether a child should receive various levels of support and/or intervention.

The survey of more than 1,600 social workers, carried out by the NCB in association with the British Association of Social workers on behalf of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children found that:

- ⇒ 70% social workers said the threshold for qualifying as a child in need had risen over the last three years;
- ⇒ 66% said that thresholds for receiving early help had generally risen in the last three years;
- ⇒ and 50% said thresholds had risen for making children the subject of a child protection plan. Community Care reports that the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children has launched an inquiry into children's social care thresholds following the release of the survey findings.

Child and adolescent mental health



The National Children's Bureau (NCB) and the Centre for Longitudinal Studies have published findings from research carried out by the UCL Institute of Education and the University of Liverpool, looking at the prevalence of mental health problems among children taking part in the Millennium Cohort Study (a representative group of children born in the UK in 2000-01).

Findings include:

- based on 14-year-olds reporting their own emotional problems, 24% of girls and 9% of boys suffer from depression;
- generally, 14-year-olds from better-off families were less likely to have high levels of depressive symptoms compared to those from poorer homes;
- 14-year-olds' own reports of their emotional problems were different to their parents' reports of their children's emotional problems.

Missed appointments in children's mental health services



The Children's Society has published a report exploring missed appointments in child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS).

Findings from freedom of information request responses from 39 NHS providers of specialist mental health services in England show that:

- there were over 157,000 appointments missed by young people aged 10 to 17 in 2016;
- and the rates of missed appointments for children in areas where independent advocacy was offered most or all of the time were lower than the national average.

Recommendations include:

- the Department of Health and NHS England need to strengthen national guidance on Did Not Attend cases, and on what follow-up is needed in cases involving vulnerable young people such as those experiencing multiple disadvantages and older teenagers.

Reducing the impact of parental conflict



The Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) has published a practical planning tool to support local commissioners and leaders of services for children and families in reducing the impact of conflict between parents on children.

The modular guide explains what 'interparental conflict' means and how it can affect children; discusses how to measure the impact of interparental conflict and understand local need; and offers advice on choosing evidence-based interventions to improve outcomes to match local needs.

Children's social care data in England 2017



Inspections data and places available for local authority children's service, safeguarding boards, children's homes and other providers.

Children living with domestic abuse

Ofsted has published a report looking at the extent to which children's social care, health professionals, the police and probation officers are effective in safeguarding children who live with domestic abuse.

Findings from joint targeted area inspections (JTAs) carried out by inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services, and HM Inspectorate of Probation in six local authorities in England include:

- professionals have made progress in dealing with the immediate challenges presented by the volume of cases of domestic abuse;
- too little work is being done to prevent domestic abuse and repair the damage that it does.

The report calls for:

- a national public service initiative to raise awareness of domestic abuse and violence.
- and for a greater focus on perpetrators and better strategies for the prevention of domestic abuse.