

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION UPDATE - 289
16th November 2017**

Making Britain the safest place in the world to be online (11/10/17)

Britain is to become the safest place in the world to be online thanks to new proposals announced today by Culture Secretary Karen Bradley.

Cracking down on dangers like cyber-bullying, trolling and under-age access to porn, the Government's Internet Safety Strategy proposes:

- A new social media code of practice to see a joined-up approach to remove or address bullying, intimidating or humiliating online content
- An industry-wide levy so social media companies and communication service providers contribute to raise awareness and counter internet harms
- An annual internet safety transparency report to show progress on addressing abusive and harmful content and conduct
- And support for tech and digital startups to think safety first - ensuring that necessary safety features are built into apps and products from the very start

In the past year, almost one fifth of 12-15 year olds encountered something online that they 'found worrying or nasty in some way' and 64% of 13-17 year olds have seen images or videos offensive to a particular group. Nearly half of adult users also say they have seen something that has upset or offended them on social media.

The Internet Safety Green Paper aims to tackle these growing dangers, while continuing to embrace the huge benefits

and opportunities the Internet has brought for British citizens.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/making-britain-the-safest-place-in-the-world-to-be-online>

See Consultations

Children's online activities, risks and safety: A literature review by the UKCCIS Evidence Group (11/10/17)

This review focusses on addressing: trends, to understand recent developments and anticipate emerging issues; online risk of harm to children and implications for safety policy and practice; and key findings, linking to original reports, highlighting useful graphs and including verbatim quotes from children where available.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/650933/Literature Review Final October 2017.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/650933/Literature_Review_Final_October_2017.pdf)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis#ukccis-latest-news>

Storing and disposing of hazardous chemicals in schools (12/10/17)

Practical advice for teachers, technicians and other staff who buy, store or dispose of hazardous chemicals.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/storing-and-disposing-of-hazardous-chemicals-in-schools>

Healthy eating guidance published for the early years sector (13/11/17)

New example menus and recipes have been published to help early years providers plan healthy, tasty meals for young children.

The resources have been jointly developed by the DfE, the DH and PHE, with advice from a panel of early years and nutrition experts including the British Nutrition Foundation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/healthy-eating-guidance-published-for-the-early-years-sector>

High needs strategic planning fund (08/11/17)

Information for LAs about strategic reviews and funding of high needs provision for children and young people with SEND.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-needs-strategic-planning-fund>

National Citizen Service: guidance for schools and colleges (08/11/17)

Guidance for schools and colleges to help students get involved with the NCS.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-citizen-service-guidance-for-schools-and-colleges>

Residential special schools and colleges: support for children (06/11/17)

An independent review of the experiences and outcomes of children in residential special schools and colleges, and government response.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/residential-special-schools-and-colleges-support-for-children>

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/residential-special-schools-and-colleges-support-for-children>

Visiting children in residential special schools and colleges (06/11/17)

Statutory guidance for professionals supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in residential settings.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-children-in-residential-special-schools-and-colleges>

Child death overview panels (06/11/17)

Contact details of the people in CDOPs who are responsible for receiving child death notifications.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-death-overview-panels-contacts>

Characteristics of children in need: 2016 to 2017 (03/11/17)

Children referred to and assessed by children's social services for ye 31/03/17.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/characteristics-of-children-in-need-2016-to-2017>

Children in need census 2018 to 2019: specification (01/11/17)

Specification and validation rules for LAs and software suppliers preparing for the 2017 to 2018 children in need census.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-in-need-census-2018-to-2019-specification>

Safeguarding unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children (01/11/17)

Strategy setting out the government's commitments to safeguard and promote the welfare of unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-and-refugee-children>

New safeguarding strategy boosts support for lone child migrants (01/11/17)

- New training for foster carers announced as part of a new strategy to improve the care of unaccompanied children
Specialist training for 1,000 foster carers and support workers to improve their skills and confidence in caring for unaccompanied child migrants;
- Updated guidance for councils on caring for unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery;
- Research to be commissioned on the effectiveness of existing support for unaccompanied children and families reunited under the Dublin Regulation and whether more help is needed.

New training for foster carers who support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children is part of a new safeguarding strategy.

The training is backed by updated statutory guidance, a review of LA funding and a drive to improve inter-agency advice and information sharing. It complements the guidance already available to every foster carer as part of their duties under the government's Prevent strategy.

These measures are part of a wider



government strategy to improve support for councils as they care for these children, and delivers on a commitment made last year as part of the Children and Social Work Act. Other measures in the strategy will help prevent children from going missing and support those who are reunited with family members.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-safeguarding-strategy-boosts-support-for-lone-child-migrants>

Care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery (01/11/17)

Statutory guidance for LAs and professionals who support unaccompanied migrant children, who may be victims, or potential victims, of modern slavery.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-of-unaccompanied-and-trafficked-children>

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Relationships and Sex Education for the 21st Century (06/11/17)

Education Secretary Justine Greening has announced that Ian Bauckham CBE will provide the DfE with advice on how relationships education, including relationships and sex education for older children, should be taught in schools.

As part of his new role, he will speak to parents, teachers, children and other interested groups about the topics that young people today need to understand to stay safe and happy, including age-appropriate content on mental wellbeing, keeping safe online and LGBT issues.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/relationships-and-sex-education-for-the-21st-century>

Transport to education and training for people aged 16 to 18 (26/10/17)

Statutory guidance for LAs on supplying transport to students and trainees aged 16 to 18.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-transport-to-education-and-training>

Alternative provision census 2018: guide (25/10/17)

Guide for LAs and providers of alternative provision to help them complete and submit this census data.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alternative-provision-census-2018-guide>

Children looked after return 2018 to 2019: guide (23/10/17)

Guide for LAs submitting the children looked after data return for the year 2018 to 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-looked-after-return-2018-to-2019-guide>

Children looked after return 2017 to 2018: guide (23/10/17)

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-looked-after-return-2017-to-2018-guide>

Children's Social Care Innovation Programme grant (20/10/17)

How much funding LAs are getting for the Children's Social Care Innovation Programme.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/grant-determination-childrens-social->

Pupil absence statistics: guide (19/10/17)

How we produce statistics on pupil absence.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/absence-statistics-guide>

Pupil absence in schools in England: autumn 2016 and spring 2017

(19/10/17)

This release reports on pupil absence in primary and secondary schools in the autumn and spring terms of the 2016 to 2017 academic year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england-autumn-2016-and-spring-2017>

SEN survey 2019: guide (18/10/17)

Guide for LAs completing returns for the 2019 special educational needs survey, commonly known as SEN2.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/special-educational-needs-survey-2019-guide>

Independent special schools and colleges (18/10/17)

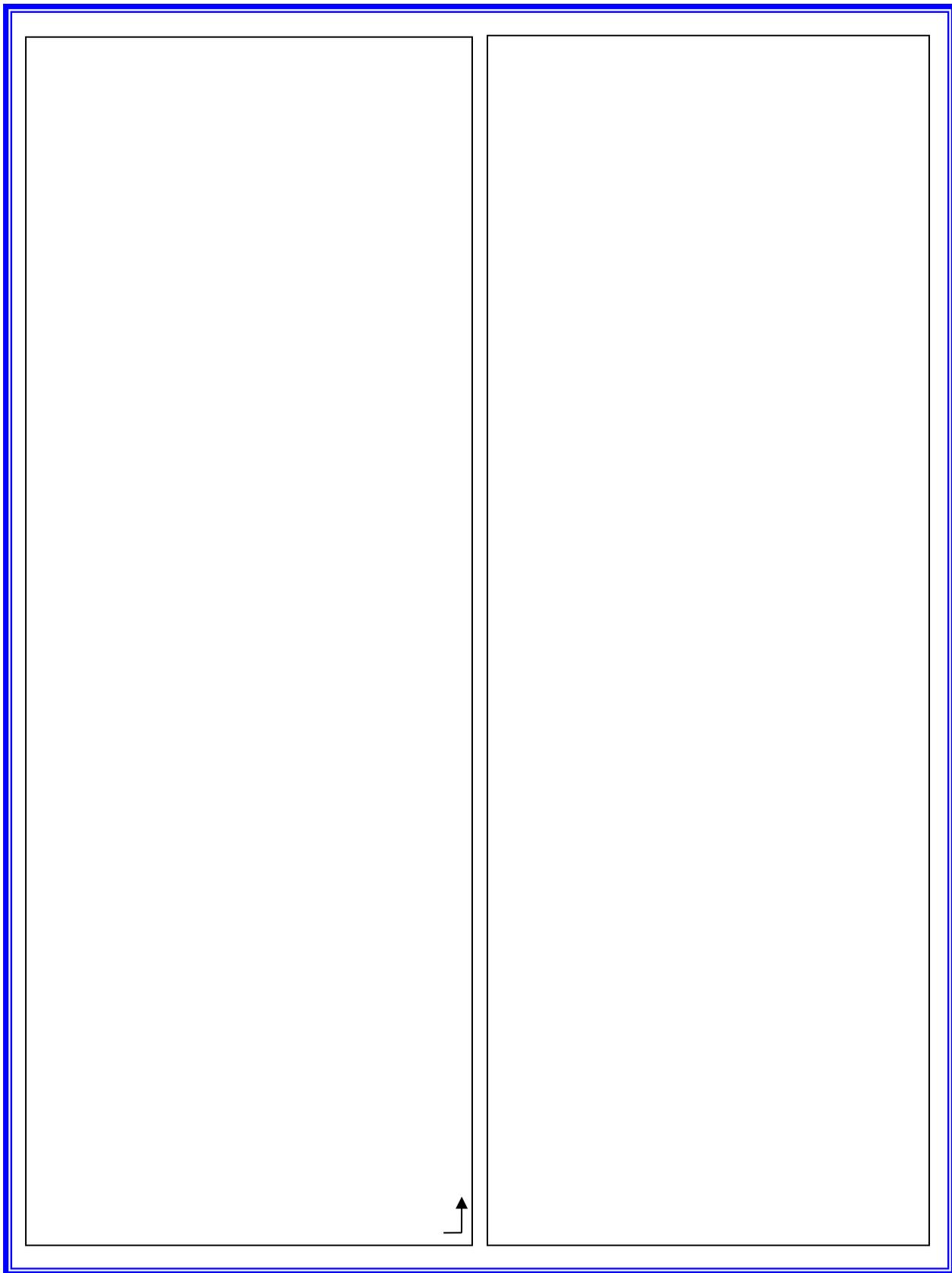
Independent schools for pupils with SEN, including those approved under section 41 of the Children and Families Act.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-special-schools-and-colleges>

NEET data by LA (12/10/17)

An estimate of the number and proportion of young people not in education, employment or training in each LA

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/neet-data-by-local-authority-2012-16-to-18-year-olds-not-in-education-employment-or-training>



Response letter to 'These are our children' report (08/11/17)

Jackie Doyle-Price, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Care and Mental Health), responds to Dame Christine Lenehan's report 'These are our children'. Dame Christine Lenehan is Director of the Council for Disabled Children.

The report makes 11 recommendations for practical action that can be taken to co-ordinate care, support and treatment for children and young people with complex needs involving mental health problems and learning disabilities and/or autism.

The response letter includes a table of action already undertaken or planned, corresponding to each of the review's recommendations.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-letter-to-these-are-our-children-report>

New guidance to improve vision screening for young children (24/10/17)

The new guidance ensures sight tests are carried out consistently across schools in England.

PHE has published [new child vision screening materials and guidance](#) to help improve consistency and quality of sight tests for children in schools during their early years.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-to-improve-vision-screening-for-young-children>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/child-vision-screening-resources>



Child obesity and excess weight: small area level data (20/10/17)

Trend data from NCMP showing prevalence of excess weight and obesity in children at small area level.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/child-obesity-and-excess-weight-small-area-level-data>

“Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility” – Huw Irranca-Davies (13/11/17)

Launching National Safeguarding Week, the Welsh Minister for Children and Social Care said people who have suffered abuse and neglect are encouraged to come forward and share their experiences with the appropriate authorities, so that society learn and recognise the signs to prevent abuse happening in the future.

Last year, the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act was launched. This strengthens existing safeguarding arrangements for children by placing on relevant partners, such as the NHS, Police, Probation and YOTs, a duty to report where they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is at risk.

The Act introduces parallel provisions for relevant partners to report to the LA someone suspected to be an adult at risk of abuse or neglect. This is supplemented by a new duty for the LA to make enquires to determine whether any action is required to safeguard adults at risk.

<http://gov.wales/newsroom/health-and-social-services/2017/safeguarding/?skip=1&lang=en>

Safer and more efficient school transport: apply for funding (24/10/17)

The Education Authority (EA) in Northern Ireland has up to £200,000 to invest in smart transport projects that improve the way it delivers home-to-school transport.

Around 89,000 school-age pupils in NI currently use school transport assistance provided by EA, including 50,000 that receive paid for passes for Translink public transport services and 25,000 that use authority-owned buses free of charge. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/safer-and-more-efficient-school-transport-apply-for-funding>

Health app: ChatHealth communication platform in school nursing services (November 2017)

This health app briefing was developed by the NICE medical technologies evaluation programme as a proof-of-concept activity. <https://www.nice.org.uk/advice/mib130>

Government pledge £16m to tackle drug dependency and support children in care (18/10/17)

Projects that combat drug and alcohol dependency and support children in care will receive more than £16m, Minister for Sport and Civil Society Tracey Crouch has announced.

The money is the first round of funding from the £80m Life Chances Fund and will:

- provide specialist services for children in foster care and residential homes
- help drug and alcohol dependent adults find full-time work, reduce addiction and
- cut unnecessary A&E admissions.

All ten projects are Social Impact Bonds, meaning money is only transferred when projects meet agreed targets. The funding is in addition to financial support from 36 LAs who will provide a combined £37.6m to the ten successful projects.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-pledge-16-million-to-tackle-drug-dependency-and-support-children-in-care>

£20m improvement programme for children's social care (12/10/17)

Children's Minister launches multi-million pound support package to improve the lives of vulnerable children

In a speech to the National Children and Adults Services (NCAS) conference in Bournemouth, Minister Goodwill announced up to £20m for a new programme to help all councils improve their services – with a sharp focus on making sure those at risk of failure can make vital improvements.

The programme will give councils the tools they need to build stronger services for our most vulnerable children. This includes:

- Tailored peer support for LAs, bringing in more councils to the successful Partners in Practice programme;
- The testing of 'Regional Improvement Alliances', made up of neighbouring LAs. Alliances will see councils challenging each other on standards, agreeing local improvement priorities, and sharing best practice, in order to deliver more for children and families.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20-million-improvement-programme-for-childrens-social-care>

Concordat on children in custody

(03/11/17)

In 2014, the government established a working group on children in custody to address long-standing problems in the transfer of children from police custody to LA accommodation, which is a requirement under PACE 1984 and the Children Act 1989.

The group found that forces and LAs often misunderstand their statutory obligations and very few have the effective local collaboration in place to ensure that transfers happen as they should.

In order to improve understanding and help forces and LAs build effective collaboration at a local level, the working group produced the concordat on children in custody, clearly setting out each party's duties and providing a protocol for how transfers should work in practice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/concordat-on-children-in-custody>

Modern slavery victims: referral and assessment forms

(17/10/17)

Refer potential victims of modern slavery/human trafficking to the national referral mechanism.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>

Modern slavery training: resource page

(17/10/17)

Training and awareness raising resources available to public sector organisations to help their staff understand modern slavery and learn to spot the signs.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-training-resource->

Modern slavery awareness booklet

(17/10/17)

This guidance is aimed at a broad range of public sector staff who could potentially witness indicators of modern slavery.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-awareness-booklet>

A typology of modern slavery offences in the UK

(17/10/17)

This research looks at the different types of modern slavery in the UK, it is based on analysis of over 300 confirmed cases of modern slavery and consultation with a range of experts.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-typology-of-modern-slavery-offences-in-the-uk>

Sudden unexpected death: medical investigation

(25/10/17)

This guidance provides advice on dealing with the initial stages of a sudden and unexplained death, for those cases where a decision is made that medical assistance is required. It also covers the role and provision of forensic pathology assistance in police death investigations.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sudden-unexpected-death-medical-investigation>

Support for children, parents and teachers: victims of terrorism

(18/10/17)

This guidance provides online resources and explains what schools and colleges can do to support people affected by terrorism.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-children-parents-and-teachers-victims-of-terrorism>

Home Office announces package of measures to tackle violent crime

(14/10/17)

Prison sentences for those who repeatedly carry corrosive substances without good reason are among a set of new laws aimed at tackling serious violence being proposed today.

The measures include a new offence of possession of a corrosive substance in public without a good or lawful reason.

It would place the onus on the individual caught in possession to explain why they are carrying it, rather than on the police to prove that it was intended to cause injury.

Those convicted of this offence for a second time would face a mandatory minimum sentence in line with existing knife possession laws.

The proposals are part of the ‘Consultation on new legislation on offensive and dangerous weapons’, which sets out legislative measures to reduce violent crime; respond to recent rises in police-recorded knife and firearm offences; and the emergence of attacks using acids and corrosive substances.

Other measures on which the government will consult are new offences on the sale of acids and the most harmful corrosive substances to people aged under 18, possession of a corrosive substance in public and restricting online sales of knives so they cannot be delivered to a private residential address and must instead be collected at a place where age ID can be checked.



Other measures included in the consultation include:

- amendments to threatening with a knife or offensive weapon offence to lower the evidential requirement for prosecutors
- allowing police to seize offensive weapons which are already banned in public places from private properties
- prohibiting knives (currently banned on school premises) from other educational institutions such as colleges
- updating the current legislation on the definition of flick knives (to reflect new designs)
- moving two firearms (.50 calibre and certain rapid firing rifles) from the general licensing arrangements to the stricter provisions of section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968

Members of the public are encouraged to submit their opinions on the consultation which will be open until 9 December.

The Home Office will also review the Poisons Act and include sulphuric acid, meaning it would only be available to purchase with a licence above a certain concentration.

Sarah Newton, the Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability, also announced the launch of the £500,000 Community Fund for local projects aimed at tackling knife crime and more than £280,000 of successful bids for community work aimed at ending gang violence and exploitation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-announces-package-of-measures-to-tackle-violent-crime>

See Consultations

Youth custody data (10/11/17)

Monthly statistics on the population in custody of children and young people within the secure estate.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data>

MAPPA annual reports 2016 to 2017

(26/10/17)

Reports for each Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements area for 2016 to 2017.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mappa-annual-reports-2016-to-2017>

MAPPA annual report 2016 to 2017

(26/10/17)

Annual figures on the number of offenders managed under multi-agency public protection arrangements, showing numbers by level and category, returns to custody and serious further offences.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/multi-agency-public-protection-arrangements-mappa-annual-report-2016-to-2017>

Using family court data to explore links between adverse family experiences and proven youth offending (19/10/17)

This report presents analysis of the proven youth offending rates of those in contact with the family justice system as a child.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/using-family-court-data-to-explore-links-between-adverse-family-experiences-and-proven-youth-offending>

The Work of Youth Offending Teams to Protect the Public (October 2017)

The public can be better protected from dangerous and violent young offenders if



adults working with them are trained to understand the often extreme trauma in their childhoods, according to Dame Glenys Stacey, HMCI of Probation.

Youth justice workers will also be more effective if they ‘catch up’ with fast-changing social media communications which feature in an increasing proportion of offences. Professionals across the country need a clear understanding of their powers to monitor social media use to prevent crimes, which are often now planned in bedrooms rather than on street corners.

Publishing this report Dame Glenys said helping these damaged young people was very difficult but inspectors had found that YOTs were “protecting the public well, and also doing good work to change young people’s lives for the better.

However,” she added, “with some changes and help, they could do better still.” The changes involve ensuring that ‘trauma-informed’ youth offending work and sharper understanding of the social media dimension of offending – both only seen in a small number of YOTs – become national practice.

<http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprobation/media/press-releases/2017/10/pp/>

October 2017 statistics from Cafcass

In October 2017, Cafcass received a total of 1,198 care applications. This figure represents a 4% increase compared with those received in October 2016 and is the highest monthly total for an October on record.

<https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/leaflets-resources/organisational-material/care-and-private-law-demand-statistics/care-demand-statistics.aspx>

In October 2017, Cafcass received a total of 3,916 new private law cases. This is a 16% increase compared with those received in October 2016 and is the highest monthly demand since October 2013.

<https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/leaflets-resources/organisational-material/care-and-private-law-demand-statistics/private-law-demand-statistics.aspx>

Learning from 97 Serious Case Reviews (01/11/17)

The Cafcass Policy Team has produced new research to better understand what can be learnt from SCRs in Cafcass.

The report analyses data from 15 SCRs to which Cafcass contributed between December 2015 and 2016, and from 97 submissions to SCRs between 2009-2016. It looks into the children and families involved, the serious incident, the risks known at the time the case was open to Cafcass and practice learning.

<https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2017/november/learning-from-97-serious-case-reviews.aspx>



Changes to identity checking guidelines (25/10/17)

New ID checking guidelines are being introduced and will apply to all applications for standard or enhanced checks.

The new guidelines will run in parallel with the existing guidelines from 24 October 2017 to 25 January 2018, when the existing guidelines will cease to apply.

You can start using the new guidance from 24 October 2017, but have 3 months to transition fully to the new guidance.

The enhancement is being introduced so that DBS's identity checking process is aligned with right to work checks. These state that employers must prevent illegal working in the UK by carrying out document checks on people before employing them to make sure they are allowed to work.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-identity-checking-guidelines>

DBS ID checking guidelines (25/10/17)

Guidance to help you validate the identity of a DBS check applicant and a new lead/countersignatory.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-identity-checking-guidelines>

Basic check guidance and policies (26/10/17)

Documentation for Responsible Organisations and individuals related to submission and processing of basic checks.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/basic-check-guidance-and-policies>

Investigation into North Wales care system abuse: five year update

(10/11/17)

Operation Pallial, the independent NCA investigation into allegations of past abuse in the care system of North Wales, began in November 2012 at the request of the Chief Constable.

In the 5 years the operation has been running, 365 people have made contact with the NCA team. Investigations into the evidence provided by 250 of them have concluded and details provided by 42 complainants are either with the CPS for consideration of charges, or are part of active investigations.

In 73 instances, the complainant has either been unable, or has declined, to pursue their allegation.

The offences reported occurred between 1953 and 1995, with victims ranging from six to 19 years old at the time.

The investigation has identified 143 suspected offenders, the majority in respect of sexual offending against boys. Of these suspects, 23 have been arrested to date, 39 have been interviewed under caution following voluntary attendance, and 41 suspects are believed to have died.

So far, 18 suspects have been charged, of which matters have concluded against 16.

Nine people have been convicted for a total of 75 separate sexual offences. Eight of these offenders received a total of 56 ½ years' imprisonment, whilst the other individual received a number of life sentences.



Three suspects are currently within the criminal justice system, with two trials planned for the first half of 2018 and an initial court appearance due in late November 2017. The CPS is considering a number of other evidential files which may lead to further prosecutions in 2018.

A number of individuals have been raised to suspect status and remain under investigation.

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/1238-investigation-into-north-wales-care-system-abuse-five-year-update>

The Independent Inquiry into CSA

Inquiry publishes public hearings timetable (07/11/17)

The Inquiry has published a timetable of preliminary and public hearings up until March 2019.

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/news/inquiry-publishes-public-hearings-timetable-march-2019>

Inquiry opens core participant applications for the Sexual Abuse of Children in Custodial Institutions investigation (23/10/17)

We are today publishing an update note and inviting applications for core participant status in the Children in Custodial Institutions investigation.

The Inquiry will investigate the nature and extent of, and institutional responses to, the sexual abuse of children in custodial institutions, including Secure Children's Homes, Secure Training Centres, Youth Offender Institutions, and their precursor institutions ('custodial institutions').

The investigation shall incorporate case specific investigations and a review of information available from published and unpublished reports and reviews, court cases, and previous investigations in relation to the abuse of children in custodial institutions.

Individuals and organisations that wish to be designated as a core participant in relation to the Children in Custodial Institutions investigation are asked to submit their application by 4pm on 27 November 2017.

A preliminary hearing in relation to this investigation will be scheduled to take place on 1 February 2018.

A core participant has a formal role as defined by legislation. Core participants have special rights in the Inquiry process. These include receiving disclosure of documentation, being represented and making legal submissions, suggesting questions and receiving advance notice of the Inquiry's report. It is not necessary to be a core participant in order to provide evidence to the Inquiry.

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/news/inquiry-opens-core-participant-applications-sexual-abuse-children-custodial-institutions>

'Victim and Survivor Voices from the Truth Project' (30/10/17)

The IICSA has published the report, 'Victim and Survivor Voices from the Truth Project'. The report considers some of the accounts of victims and survivors taking part in the Truth Project.

It provides the Inquiry with insight and

information into the CSA experienced by those coming forward.

This report from the Inquiry's research team draws together statistical data from Truth Project sessions that took place between June 2016 and June 2017. Information contained within the report includes participants' ethnicity, age, and disability status. This information will help us understand if there are sections of society we need to reach so we can engage with a wide range of victims and survivors across England and Wales.

The report looks at participants' experiences of CSA, as well as its short and longer-term impacts including on socio-economic outcomes and intimate relationships.

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/news/inquiry-publishes-report-%E2%80%98victim-and-survivor-voices-truth-project%E2%80%99>

Children's social work workforce census: guide (17/10/17)

This guide is for LAs preparing a children's social work workforce return. It includes information on:

- submission deadlines
- validation checks
- year-on-year checks
- data modules

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-social-work-workforce-census-guide>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-social-work-workforce-census-validation-rules>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-social-work-workforce-census-reports-specifications>

Review of children and young people's mental health services (27/10/17)

The report of the first phase of a Government-commissioned review of mental health services for children and young people in England has been released.

The report is the first phase of a major thematic review requested by the PM in January 2017. CQC has drawn on existing reports, research and other evidence and its inspections of children and young people's mental health services, as well as conversations with young people to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current system.

The report confirms many of the issues raised in the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health published in 2016 and in particular, comments on the difficulties children and young people face in accessing appropriate support for their mental health concerns from a system that is fragmented and where services vary in quality.

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/news/releases/cqc-completes-initial-review-mental-health-services-children-young-people>

Handbook for short, monitoring and unannounced behaviour school inspections (13/10/17)

Guidance for Ofsted inspectors carrying out school inspections under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/handbook-for-short-monitoring-and-unannounced-behaviour-school-inspections>



School inspection handbook (13/10/17)

Guidance for inspecting schools under the CIF, with a mythbuster document on common misconceptions.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-from-september-2015>

Childcare protocols between Ofsted and other organisations (16/10/17)

How Ofsted will work with other organisations

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protocols-between-ofsted-and-other-organisations-in-relation-to-childcare>

Local area SEND inspections: one year on (18/10/17)

Ofsted and the QCC inspect how well local areas fulfill their 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice' duties.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspections-one-year-on>

Social care: guidance for Ofsted staff (25/10/17)

This handbook sets out the legal background to Ofsted's social care compliance work and Ofsted's powers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-care-compliance-handbook-from-september-2014>

Joint inspections of the response to children experiencing neglect: May to December 2017 (10/11/17)

Guidance for inspectors and inspection reports for joint targeted area inspections of local area services.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-inspections-of-the-response-to->

Consultations

Revised guidance for virtual school heads and designated teachers (16/10/17)

The consultation seeks views on changes to two statutory guidance documents:

Promoting the education of looked after children; and Roles and responsibilities of designated teachers for looked after children following the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 expanded the role of Virtual School Heads and designated teachers to include providing information and advice to certain previously looked after children and their families. For many previously looked after children the impact of their pre-care experiences can continue to act as a barrier to educational progress after leaving care.

The changes to the Virtual School Head and designated teacher role will help ensure previously looked after children receive support to help them achieve their full potential.

For the purposes of this consultation, the key changes introduced by the children and social work act 2017 are:

- a duty on LAs in England to make advice and information available to those with parental responsibility; designated teachers in maintained schools and academies; and any other person the authority considers appropriate, for the purpose of promoting the educational achievement of certain previously looked after children.

- a duty on the governing body of a maintained school or academy proprietor in England to designate a member of staff at the school to have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of certain previously looked after pupils.

These new duties apply to children who leave care as a result of adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement order and children adopted from state care abroad.

Closing date: 27th November 2017
<https://consult.education.gov.uk/children-in-care/revised-guidance-for-virtual-school-heads-and-desi/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/revised-guidance-for-virtual-school-heads-and-designated-teachers>

Child abuse and neglect

Tell us about the 5 key areas for quality improvement which you consider as having the greatest potential to improve the quality of care in this area.

Closing date: 28th November 2017
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-qs10054/consultation/html-content>

Consultations (continued)

Corporate parenting, the local offer and personal adviser support (16/10/17)

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. During passage of the Bill and as part of legislation, the government committed to consulting on and providing guidance to support the delivery of the new legislative requirements.

We are seeking views on:

- Draft statutory guidance for LAs on applying the corporate parenting principles to care and pathway planning;
- An illustrative local offer for care leavers and accompanying guidance on the local offer for LAs; and
- Draft statutory guidance on extending the offer of personal adviser support for care leavers to age 25.

Closing date: 27th November 2017

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/children-in-care/corporate-parenting-the-local-offer-and-personal-a/>

Independent school inspection fees, and standards (12/10/17)

We are consulting on the following:

- the proposed replacement of regulations governing the fees charged to independent schools by Ofsted for inspections, by a new set of regulations which set out revised fee levels and new categories of inspection for which fees would be payable; and
- the proposed amendment of regulations which prescribe independent school standards.

These amendments are minor, and designed to bring up to date references in the regulations to the National Minimum Standards for Boarding applicable to independent schools and residential special schools, so that regulatory action may be based on the current (2015) NMS.

Closing date: 6th December 2017

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-frameworks/independent-school-inspection-fees-and-standards/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-school-inspection-fees-and-standards>

Children's social care providers: fees and inspection frequency (12/10/17)

We are seeking views on the following proposed changes to HMCI Education, Children's Services and Skills (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) (Children's Homes etc.) Regulations 2015, with a view to regulations coming into force in April 2018:

- a 10% increase on current fees for most settings where fees are not already at full cost recovery;
- reviewing the structure of future fees;
- ceasing inspections for closed children's homes.

Closing date: 7th December 2017

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/children-in-care/childrens-social-care-fees-and-inspections/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/childrens-social-care-providers->

Consultations (continued)

Open consultation - Internet Safety Strategy green paper (11/10/17)

The Internet Safety Strategy looks at how we can ensure Britain is the safest place in the world to be online. The Strategy considers the responsibilities of companies to their users, the use of technical solutions to prevent online harms and government's role in supporting users.

The consultation covers various aspects of online safety including:

- the introduction of a social media code of practice, transparency reporting and a social media levy,
- technological solutions to online harms
- developing children's digital literacy
- support for parents and carers
- adults' experience of online abuse, and
- young people's use of online dating websites/ applications

Closing date: 7th December 2017
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/internet-safety-strategy-green-paper>

Securing student success: risk-based regulation for teaching excellence, social mobility and informed choice in higher education (19/10/17)

The government is seeking views on behalf of the new Office for Students (OfS) regarding the regulation of the higher education sector. The OfS will introduce the new regulatory framework: a risk-based approach to higher education with an unflinching focus on the student.

This consultation sets out the proposed



new regulatory approach and what this will mean for the sector and students. It includes proposals for how higher education providers will enter the system, how they will be risk-assessed, the conditions they will have to meet, how they will be monitored, and what potential actions the OfS will be able to take.

Closing date: 22nd December 2017
<https://consult.education.gov.uk/higher-education/higher-education-regulatory-framework/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/office-for-students-regulatory-framework-for-higher-education>

Inspection visits to further education and skills providers judged to require improvement (10/11/17)

Ofsted is seeking your views on proposed changes to inspection visits to further education and skills providers who are judged to require improvement.

We currently carry out support and challenge visits to providers that require improvement, resulting in unpublished letters. We propose instead to carry out a single monitoring visit, which will result in a published report with progress judgements.

Closing date: 22nd December 2017
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/inspection-visits-to-further-education-and-skills-providers-judged-to-require-improvement>

Consultations (continued)

Offensive and dangerous weapons: new legislation (14/10/17)

The HO are consulting on new laws on offensive weapons, in response to public concerns about violent crime.

Stopping serious violence is a priority for the government and we are determined to take effective action to protect the public. Police recorded violent crime has increased since 2014 and in the 12 months period ending March 2017, violent crime recorded by the police increased by 18%.

The ONS have said some of this increase can be attributed to:

- improvements in how police forces record crime
- more victims of domestic violence being willing to come forward to the police
- the creation of new offences and greater awareness of these crimes

However, some of the increases in certain types of violent crime are thought to be genuine, including rises in offences involving knives and firearms.

The government has already been taking significant action including:

- supporting police enforcement action through 'Operation Sceptre' - an ongoing series of weeks of intensified action on knife crime, including:
 - targeted stop and searches
 - targeting habitual knife carriers
 - weapon sweeps

- test purchases of knives from retailers
- surrender bins
- legislating where necessary (for example banning zombie knives in August 2016)
- working with retailers to enforce sales restrictions
- working on prevention through engaging with young people through voluntary sector groups.
- an action plan to stop the use of acid and other corrosives in violent attacks which is based on:
 - support for victims and survivors
 - effective law enforcement
 - ensuring legislation is applied effectively
 - working with retailers to restrict access to acid and other corrosive substances of concern
 - tightening up the legislative framework on firearms including new offences in the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

We have now identified the need for new primary legislation to respond to public concerns and provide the police with the powers they need. The consultation paper seeks views on the legislative proposals on offensive and dangerous weapons.

Closing date: 9th December 2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/offensive-and-dangerous-weapons-new-legislation>



Consultations (continued)

Working Together to Safeguard Children: changes to statutory guidance (25/10/17)

The Department for Education invites your views on changes to the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', new 'child death review' guidance, and new regulations.

This consultation seeks views on significant revisions to 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' – the statutory guidance which sets out what is expected of organisations, individually and jointly, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

These revisions are being made largely to reflect the legislative changes introduced through the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and new 'child death review' guidance.

Closing date: 31st December 2017
<https://consult.education.gov.uk/child-protection-safeguarding-and-family-law/working-together-to-safeguard-children-revisions-t/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/working-together-to-safeguard-children-revisions-to-statutory-guidance>

Residential Accommodation for 16-18 year olds: National Minimum Standards (07/11/17)

This consultation seeks your views on updated national minimum standards for residential accommodation in FE colleges, sixth form colleges, designated institutions and 16-19 academies. These standards are published by the Secretary of State under section 87C of the Children Act 1989 and are relevant to the duty to safeguard and promote the well-being of children accommodated at these types of institutions.

Ofsted inspects against these standards in order to decide whether the corporation, governing body or proprietor of the institution is complying with the duty to safeguard and promote the well-being of such children (under section 87(1) of the Children Act 1989), and they may also be used for self-assessment and staff training.

Closing date: 26th January 2018
<https://consult.education.gov.uk/fe-college-quality-and-resilience-team/residential-accommodation-for-16-18-year-olds-nati-1/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fe-residential-accommodation-national-minimum-standards>



Conferences

Gang Violence and Exploitation: Ensuring an Effective Local Response

23rd January 2018 Manchester
£245 - £295 + VAT

The police and LAs have a duty to combat gangs and the impact they have.

As well as safeguarding young people from gang exploitation, they must work to reduce violence and protect the wider public. The recent rise of 'county lines' has created new challenges for local agencies.

Join us in January to receive guidance on tackling gangs and develop your local strategy. You will hear about 'what works' in tackling gangs locally and receive practical guidance on how to strengthen the response to gangs in your area.

Key Issues to be Addressed:

- Understanding the national picture and Government action on gangs
- County lines: tackling gang activity outside of urban areas
- Working in partnership to build robust structures and safeguard vulnerable young people
- Understanding and confronting the link between gangs and runaway/missing children
- Learning from success: What works in tackling gangs?
- Examples of effective partnership working

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/Gangs2018>



Tackling Modern Slavery: Establishing Partnerships, Supporting Victims and Learning from Good Practice

25th January 2018 London
£295 + VAT

The Modern Slavery Act gave new powers to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking, yet more must still be done by law enforcement agencies. A recent HMIC report found that although improvements have been made, there is still plenty of work still to be done.

Hear from Tom Bell, Deputy Head of the Modern Slavery Unit, HO on the next steps in tackling modern slavery.

Key Issues to be Addressed:

- Update on the Government's strategy to combat modern slavery
- Overcoming barriers to identification and building the evidence base
- The key role of multi-agency partnerships in identifying & responding to modern slavery
- Supporting victims and referring them to appropriate services
- Responsible businesses: ensuring supply chain transparency and tackling exploitation
- Examples of partnership working in identifying, preventing and prosecuting modern slavery
- Proactive responses to restrict illegal activity and prevent further harm

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/tackling-modern-slavery>

Conferences (continued)

Troubled Families: Next Steps for Supporting Disadvantaged Families

20th February 2018 London £295 + VAT

The Government announced earlier this year that the Troubled Families programme would shift its focus to worklessness.

Despite a wide range of criteria remaining, LAs have been urged to concentrate on the link between unemployment and poorer outcomes for children.

Receive an up-to-date brief on the programme and assess how your local strategy can be developed.

Key Issues to be Addressed:

- Troubled Families: Understanding the national landscape and Govt action
- Outcomes and lessons from the report 'Troubled Families Programme 2015-2020: progress so far'
- Shifting objectives: a new focus on adult worklessness
- Coordinating support and ensuring a 'whole family' approach
- Changes to payment by results and demonstrating value for money
- Learning from success: case studies of turning around families' lives
- Embedding structures within local services

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/troubled-families-conference-2018>

Practical Strategies for Safeguarding in Education

22nd February 2018 London

£269 - £459 + VAT

Your legal safeguarding duties are constantly updated and increased, it's therefore vital that you have the support and guidance you need to help you meet these obligations, and protect your pupils.

This conference provides an opportunity to engage with the country's leading safeguarding experts, providing you with practical strategies to ensure no child slips through your safeguarding net.

- Learn how to protect children online and empower children to understand and protect themselves
- Gain proven strategies to support and protect children suffering from mental health issues
- Stay up to date with the latest guidance and provide fresh training that resonates with your colleagues
- Ensure that all staff can spot the early warning signs of self-harming and understand what their immediate response should be.

<http://my.optimus-education.com/conferences/PCU18>

This newsletter collates information from various sources that is relevant to safeguarding children. Anyone working in this area who would like to be added to the circulation list can forward their details to – keithdriver@btinternet.com