



MARCH 2017

Information on Safeguarding: Reviews, Research, Resources, Guidance and Consultations

Serious Case Reviews	
HSCB SCR following an acute life threatening episode for a Young Person. The SCR focus was: to what extent is Early Intervention in Halton child-focused in addressing adolescent neglect.	http://haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/serious-case-reviews/
Birmingham LSCB SCR into the death of an 18 month old girl. Key issues identified in relation to the Special Guardianship Order (SGO).	http://www.lscbbirmingham.org.uk/index.php/serious-case-review
NSPCC Harmful Sexual Behaviour: Learning from Case Reviews. A summary of risk factors and learning for improved practice around harmful sexual behaviour, based on learning from case reviews published since 2010, where harmful sexual behaviour was highlighted as a significant issue.	https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/case-reviews/learning/harmful-sexual-behaviour/
Safeguarding Information.	
Children and Social Work Bill. The BBC reports that the Department for Education will not be taking forward provisions in the Children and Social Work Bill that would allow councils to apply for exemptions from social care legislation.	http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-39152650 https://www.basw.co.uk/news/article/?id=1378
Children's Rights post Brexit. Coram has published a briefing paper on the rights of British children after the UK leaves the EU framework. This calls for the government to: launch a task force on children's rights and responsibilities; incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its protocols fully into UK law; guarantee the positions of children and their family members who have made their home in the UK to ensure that children's needs are met.	http://www.coram.org.uk/news/childrens-charity-calls-task-force-secure-childrens-rights-britain-leaves-eu
Social care innovations in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Evaluating a range of measures supporting early intervention, looked-after children and child protection.	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/600908/Hampshire_and_IOW_Evaluation_Report_March_2017.pdf
Young people 'fear stigma' if they ask for mental health help. The Prince's Trust has published part 2 of the Youth Index 2017 which looks at the views and	https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/about-the-trust/news-views/stigma-

<p>outlooks of young people aged 16 to 25 in the UK. Findings from an online survey of 2,215 young people conducted by YouGov include: 78% of young people think there is a stigma attached to mental health issues; 24% of young people would not confide in someone if they thought they were experiencing a mental health problem; 56% of young people who said they have experienced a mental health problem didn't believe in themselves when they were at school.</p>	<p>young-people-talking-about-mental-health</p>
<p>Childhood adversity and risk of suicidal behaviour. Samaritans has published the Dying from Inequality report looking at socioeconomic disadvantage and suicidal behaviour. Findings from the UK-wide research shows that: experiences of childhood adversity increase the risk of suicidal behaviour, especially among those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged; and unemployment is more likely among those who have adverse childhood experiences, particularly men who have experienced childhood sexual abuse.</p>	<p>http://www.samaritans.org/dying-from-inequality/report</p>
<p>Children in Mental Health Hospitals. The National Autistic Society (NAS) and Young Minds launch new campaign Always after a survey found that more than half of parents with children in mental health hospitals in England do not feel their child's mental health improved while they were in care.</p>	<p>http://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/media-centre/news/2017-02-27-always-campaign.aspx</p>
<p>Deprivation of Liberty safeguards replacement. The Law Commission has published its final report and draft legislation for a new system to replace the Deprivation of Liberty safeguards for England and Wales. Recommendations include: widening the scope to cover 16 and 17 year olds and planned moves between settings.</p>	<p>http://www.communitycare.co.uk/2017/03/13/law-commission-reveals-deprivation-liberty-safeguards-replacement/</p>
<p>Rethinking 'did not attend'. Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board has produced a short video animation to encourage practitioners to identify children as 'Was Not Brought' as opposed to 'Did Not Attend' (DNA) when referring to them not being presented at medical appointments. The NSPCC thematic briefing on learning from case reviews for the health sector finds that the DNA category does not recognise the real issue which is children not being taken to appointments, a potential indicator of neglect.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfxnqkAR3B4</p>
<p>Children in poorest areas more likely to enter care. The Nuffield Foundation reports on the Child Welfare Inequality project, which was carried out by seven universities across the UK. An analysis of data on more than 35,000 children who were either looked after or on a child protection plan in March 2015 has</p>	<p>http://nuffieldfoundation.org/news/uk-wide-study-shows-huge-postcode-disparity-proportion-children-care</p>

<p>found: children in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in the UK are at least 10 times more likely to be in care than children in the least deprived 10%; around one in 60 children is in care in England's most deprived neighbourhoods, compared with one in 660 in the least deprived area; in all countries children are over-represented in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods, particularly so in Northern Ireland; in the most deprived neighbourhoods in England rates of children in care were five times higher for white children than for Asian children and 75% higher than for black children.</p>	
<p>Fostering in England. Ofsted has published statistics on fostering in England for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. Figures show that: there were 51,805 children and young people in placement on 31 March 2016; there were 1,725 (3%) children and young people in foster care considered to be at risk of child sexual exploitation; 40% of children at risk of child sexual exploitation had at least one missing incident, compared to 5% of children not at risk; and the number of care leavers who stayed living with their former foster carers increased to 2,190.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fostering-in-england-1-april-2015-to-31-march-2016</p>
<p>Teenager removed from carers' without notice. Social workers moved a vulnerable Essex teen from her aunt and uncle's care without any warning, the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) said.</p> <p>Following some disagreements with her relatives, the girl contacted social workers saying she no longer wanted to live with her family. Social workers then made the decision to take the girl straight from school to new carers, without first considering ways of supporting her current placement with her relatives, and without telling either the aunt and uncle or the girl that this would happen.</p>	<p>http://www.lgo.org.uk/information-centre/news/2017/mar/teenager-removed-from-foster-parents-without-notice-by-essex-county-council</p>
<p>Section 20 and Consent. An article in Community Care looks at what the recent Court of Appeal ruling that parental consent is not required to accommodate children under section 20 arrangements means for social work practice.</p>	<p>http://www.communitycare.co.uk/2017/03/02/what-does-this-latest-section-20-judgment-mean-for-social-workers/?cmpid=NLC%7CSCSC%7CSCNEW-2017-0308%202%20March</p>
<p>Contact after Adoption. Research in Practice (RiP) has launched the Contact after adoption website containing open access resources for practitioners. Topics covered include: planning and reviewing contact plans; supporting birth relatives; listening to children; and letterbox contact.</p>	<p>https://www.rip.org.uk/news-and-views/latest-news/contact-after-adoption/?utm_content=bufferd1134&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer</p>

<p>Missing children data. The National Crime Agency has published the UK missing persons' data report for the period 2015/2016. Figures show that: children accounted for 60% of missing incidents (125,084, compared with 82,106 adults); of the children reported missing: 93% were aged 12-17 years with nearly two thirds (58%; 72,818) aged 15-17 years old, of which 62% (41,378) were girls; 59% of the missing children incidents are attributable to repeat missing episodes.</p>	<p>UK Missing persons bureau: missing persons data report (PDF)</p>
<p>Child sexual exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners. This guidance replaces the 2009 guidance 'Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation'.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners</p>
<p>New research reveals young people's views on new psychoactive substances. Addaction commissioned a research agency, TONIC, to conduct an online survey and telephone interviews with young people to get their views on how and why they use NPS, and their thoughts about how services should engage and support young people on this issue.</p>	<p>http://www.addaction.org.uk/news/new-research-reveals-young-people%E2%80%99s-views-new-psychoactive-substances</p>
<p>Children and Domestic Abuse. SafeLives has published a practice blog on preventing further harm to children experiencing domestic abuse. Issues covered include: how children are affected by domestic abuse; helping parents to recognise the impact of domestic abuse on their children; and support for children and the non-abusing parent.</p>	<p>http://safelives.org.uk/practice_blog/preventing-further-harm-children-domestic-abuse</p>
<p>Working together until women and children are safe. Women's Aid newsletter issue 4 Winter 2017 includes: Femicide Census Tech v Abuse: Working with young people</p>	<p>https://www.womensaid.org.uk/get-involved/together/?bblinkid=39838412&bbemailid=3278299&bbejrid=233807796</p>
<p>Controlling behaviour in relationships. Research carried out by Avon in partnership with Refuge looking at young people's experience of controlling behaviour in relationships finds that: 56% of 16-25 year olds said they have experienced controlling behaviours from a partner; 49% said that experiencing these ongoing behaviours made them feel intimidated, humiliated, or worthless; girls felt most significantly affected (63% in comparison to 34% of boys); and 39% of 16-21 year-old girls think coercive and controlling behaviours in relationships have become normalised because of the amount of abuse they see in society and media.</p>	<p>http://www.refuge.org.uk/2017/03/06/more-than-half-of-young-people-experiencing-controlling-behaviour-in-relationships/</p>
<p>Adults grooming children. The NSPCC highlights figures from the Office for National Statistics, showing</p>	<p>https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-</p>

<p>that the police recorded 1,122 offences of 'meeting a child following sexual grooming' in the year to September 2016. This has increased from 345 for the year ending September 2011. The NSPCC is calling for the government to enforce anti-grooming legislation that makes it a criminal offence in England and Wales for an adult to send sexually explicit messages to a child under 16.</p>	<p>opinion/adults-grooming-children-still-not-illegal/</p>
<p>New legislation for adults involved in sexual communications with children. From 3 April, anyone aged 18 or older who sends a child aged under 16 emails, text messages, letters or other forms of on- or offline communication with sexual intent could be prosecuted. Justice Secretary Elizabeth Truss said mobile phones and social media had made children more vulnerable to "those who prey on their innocence and exploit their trust.'</p>	<p>http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2003364/government-introduces-law-to-tackle-sexual-communications-to-children</p>
<p>Number of child sexual abuse claims overwhelming police. The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Lead for Child Protection has spoken about the need to consider alternative approaches to those who view indecent images of children but don't pose a physical threat. Key points include: the police service deals with an unprecedented volume of reports of child sexual abuse and numbers are continuing to rise; alternatives, such as rehabilitation and treatment rather than prosecution for those who view low-level indecent images but are assessed not to pose a threat of physical rape or sexual abuse, could give police the capacity to deal with the current scale and volume of abuse and enable them to focus resources on targeting those who are a danger to children. The chair of the Home Affairs Committee has written a letter asking for clarification on several points.</p>	<p>https://news.npcc.police.uk/releases/the-scale-of-child-sexual-abuse-means-we-cannot-solely-prosecute-our-way-out</p>
<p>Interviewing men who pose a sexual risk. The NSPCC's impact and evidence series features a blog by Emma Belton Associate Head of Evaluation at the NSPCC offering advice about interviewing men who pose a sexual risk to children. Tips include: reading up on and speaking to colleagues who have carried out similar interviews; finding out about the interviewee's previous contact with the service; being clear about what the interview will cover, sticking to the focus of the interview and not hesitating to stop the interview if necessary; having a clear process for reporting any concerns; debriefing as soon as possible after the interview.</p>	<p>https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/impact-evidence-evaluation-child-protection/impact-and-evidence-insights/tips-for-interviewing-men-who-pose-a-sexual-risk</p>
<p>Internet Safety Strategy. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has announced that work has started on a new internet safety strategy for</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-major-new-drive-</p>

<p>children and young people. Work will focus on four main priorities: how to help young people help themselves; helping parents face up to the dangers and discuss them with children; industry's responsibilities to society; and how technology can help provide solutions.</p>	<p>on-internet-safety</p>
<p>Facebook and other providers must act responsibly and protect children. Responding to a BBC investigation into Facebook's failure to remove inappropriate images of children, Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield said: "It is totally unacceptable that Facebook does not remove sexualised imagery of children immediately. They, like other social media companies and internet providers, have a duty to protect children from harm and must make sure that they do so."</p>	<p>http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/news/facebook-and-other-social-media-providers-must-act-responsibly-and-protect-children</p>
<p>Disabled Children in England. The Council for Disabled Children and the True Colours Trust have published a report looking at the needs of the estimated 73,000 school children with complex needs in England. Findings include: abuse or neglect was the main social care need for 18% of children in need with a disability needing support; 2,250 children and young people were looked after due to their disability at March 2015; and during the year ending February 2016 there were 430 mental health inpatients with learning disabilities and/or autistic spectrum disorders aged under 18 years.</p>	<p>https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/news-opinion/news/numbers-children-complex-needs-50-2004</p>
<p>New approach to working with disabled children and their families. The Supporting Change in Partnership (SCIP) programme in Cornwall is a strengths-based, solution-focused, early intervention model to support disabled children, young people and families, originally developed through the Social Care Innovation Programme.</p>	<p>https://www.rip.org.uk/news-and-views/blog/supporting-change-in-partnership/</p>
<p>School transport policy changes causing upheaval for increasing numbers of children. Changes to councils' transport policies are having an increasing effect on children trying to get to school, according to a report released by the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO). The Ombudsman is upholding more complaints from parents and carers who need to find alternative ways to get their children to school when councils change their policies, or the way they apply them.</p>	<p>http://www.lgo.org.uk/information-centre/news/2017/mar/school-transport-policy-changes-causing-upheaval-for-increasing-numbers-of-children-according-to-lgo</p>
<p>Complaints from Young People in Custody. The Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) has published lessons learned from an investigation into complaints made by young people aged under 21 in custody in England and Wales. Figures show that</p>	<p>http://www.ppo.gov.uk/young-people-in-custody-make-few-formal-complaints-but-some-are-serious-says-ombudsman/</p>

<p>complaints from young people under 21 make up a disproportionately small proportion of complaints from people in custody. The 278 complaints made by young people, between April 2011 and September 2016, included a higher proportion about staff behaviour, home detention curfew and adjudications compared with the adult prison population. Recommendations include the need for fair, consistent and effective approaches to modifying attitudes and behaviour.</p>	
<p>Guidelines for sentencing young people. The Sentencing Council has published guidelines on sentencing children and young people. This covers overarching principles; guidelines for sexual offences; guidelines for robbery. Factors affecting the welfare of a young person which courts should be alert to include: mental health problems; vulnerability to self-harm; the effects of experiencing loss, neglect and abuse. It is highlighted that the approach to sentencing should be focused on the child, rather than the offence.</p>	<p>https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/news/item/sentencing-council-publishes-new-guidelines-on-sentencing-children-and-young-people-and-offenders-who-plead-guilty/</p>
<p>BASW response to revision of statutory guidance on care of unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children. In a response to the Department for Education (DfE) consultation on the revision of statutory guidance on the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children, BASW's Asylum, Immigration and Trafficking Group, a sub group of the Policy Ethics and Human Rights Committee (PEHR), highlights the gap between good practice guidelines and the reality of the work.</p> <p>The response also makes clear children should be viewed as children first and asylum seekers second and both the spirit and letter of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) should be honoured at all times.</p>	<p>https://www.basw.co.uk/news/article/?id=1392</p>
<p>High Court rules young asylum seekers must be properly housed. In <i>S v London Borough of Croydon</i>, Croydon Council disputed a young asylum seeker's claim to be an unaccompanied minor from Iraq. They placed him in adult accommodation, stating that they did not have a duty to put him in child-appropriate housing until he was assessed and confirmed to be a child. The Commission, who intervened in this case, welcome the High Court ruling that those claiming asylum as children should be housed as such until the completion of a legal age assessment.</p>	<p>https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/high-court-rules-young-asylum-seekers-must-be-housed-properly</p>
<p>Unaccompanied child migrants. The Home Affairs Committee has published an interim report on unaccompanied child migrants, in response to the</p>	<p>http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-</p>

<p>Government's announcement that it intends to limit the number of children who will be accepted into Britain under section 67 of the Immigration Act (the Dubs Amendment). Recommendations for Government to carry out before any changes are made to the Dubs scheme include: consult the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner on his assessment of the likely impact of the proposed changes on the scale of trafficking of unaccompanied children; clarify the capacity of local authorities to take further unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the 2017-18 financial year.</p>	<p>select/home-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/child-migrants-report-published-16-17/</p>
<p>Council fails to inform agencies when mother removes her children from the UK without father's consent. A council which failed to alert border agencies when a mother took her children to Australia without their father's consent, has been asked by the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) to pay the father's expenses to return them.</p> <p>Somerset County Council first became aware of the family when the father visited council offices and called on its services for help. He said he was unable to work, and the mother, an Australian citizen, was now unable to work because her visa had expired. Staff raised concerns when he became agitated after he was told he needed to make an appointment.</p>	<p>http://www.lgo.org.uk/information-centre/news/2017/mar/somerset-council-fails-to-inform-agencies-when-mother-removes-her-children-from-uk</p>
<p>Resources for Practitioners</p>	
<p>Initial family and friends care assessment: a good practice guide. Offers best practice guidance to practitioners on carrying out initial family and friends care assessments (also known as viability assessments).</p>	<p>https://www.frg.org.uk/images/Viability_Assessments/VIABILITY-MASTER-COPY-WHOLE-GUIDE.pdf</p>
<p>Eradicating Child Sexual Abuse. Online toolkit from the Lucy Faithfull Foundation that aims to help professionals prevent the sexual abuse of children and young people. Includes information on: understanding child sexual abuse; solutions being used around the world; public health approaches; creating a local prevention strategy.</p>	<p>http://ecsa.lucyfaithfull.org/</p>
<p>Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework. This framework aims to help local areas develop and improve multi-agency responses to children displaying harmful sexual behaviours (HSB). It seeks to provide a coordinated and consistent approach to recognising both the risks and the needs of this vulnerable group.</p>	<p>https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/2016/harmful-sexual-behaviour-framework/</p> <p>https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/sharing-learning-harmful-sexual-behaviour/</p>

<p>Childline Launches Counselling App – For Me. Childline has launched a new app providing counselling to young people in the UK and Channel Islands through their smartphone. The app, named 'For Me' and invented by four teenagers at Poynton High in Cheshire, allows users to interact with all Childline's online services including: 1-2-1 chat with a counsellor; the 'Ask Sam' problem pages; and entrance to their private 'locker', an area where they have their own daily mood tracker and can write down personal thoughts.</p>	<p>https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/childline-launches-new-app/</p>
<p>Young people's guide to making positive relationships matter. NSPCC Cymru has published a free online toolkit to support young people in raising awareness of gender inequalities, sexual harassment and violence. AGENDA, which was developed with young people in 2016, includes a range of activities and resources, and links to further information on issues such as gender discrimination, sexual exploitation, relationship violence, consent and street harassment.</p>	<p>https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/2016/agenda-young-peoples-guide-positive-relationships/</p>
<p>Supporting boys who have suicidal feelings. The NSPCC reports on the number of boys who are experiencing suicidal feelings. Although boys are 6 times less likely than girls to talk to Childline counsellors about suicidal thoughts, the suicide rate for boys aged 10-19 was more than double that for girls in 2015. A new Childline campaign, Tough to Talk, aims to reassure boys that they aren't alone and encourage them to speak out about problems. The short film <i>Things guys don't talk about</i> has been launched to promote the campaign.</p>	<p>https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/childline-urges-boys-speak-out-suicidal-feelings</p>
<p>Top Tips for professionals to support children and young people to participate in their EHC plan. All of the top tips in this guide have been co-developed with disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs. This document aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Raise awareness of the barriers children and young people face when participating in their EHC plan; b) Offer some advice and ideas to help eliminate those barriers. 	<p>https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/top-tips-professionals-support-children-and-young-people-participate-their-ehc-plan</p>
<p>When I Grow Up: facilitator's handbook. This handbook is designed to help teachers raise the aspirations and employment prospects of young people with learning disabilities. The handbook was developed with schools and pupils and includes session plans and resources for 10 school workshops, along with some family workshops.</p>	<p>https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/learning-disabilities/publications/when-i-grow-up-wigu-handbook-teachers</p>
<p>Consultations and Feedback</p>	

<p>NICE guideline on Child Abuse and Neglect. The guideline includes female genital mutilation, child sexual exploitation, child trafficking and forced marriage.</p>	<p>https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/GID-SCWAVE0708/consultation/html-content-2</p>
<p>National Survey for Young People, Parents and Professionals: Building Participation Across the Mental Health System. YoungMinds launch Amplified, a four-year national programme funded by NHS England's Children and Young People's Mental Health Programme to build the participation of children and young people, parents and carers in mental health and the services they use.</p> <p>There are three unique surveys for: young people, parents and professionals.</p>	<p>The young people's survey here: https://www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90029017/YoungPeopleInsights</p> <p>The parents' and carers' survey, here: https://www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90029122/ParentsCarersInsights</p> <p>The professionals' survey, here: http://www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90029241/ProfessionalsInsightsSurvey</p>
<p>Future of Social Care Inspections. This report gives a summary of the responses to Ofsted's 'Future of social care inspection' consultation and the changes being made as a result. It includes what was learned from the pilot inspections that tested the proposed social care common inspection framework (SCCIF). It also describes the next development steps for the arrangements for the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS)</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593445/Future_of_social_care_inspection_-_consultation_outcomes_REPORT.pdf</p>
<p>The All Party Parliamentary Group for Children (APPGC) published the findings of their latest Inquiry into children's social care services in England in March 2017. The 'No Good Options' report.</p> <p>The Association of Independent LSCB Chairs has published a press release in response to the report's findings.</p>	<p>www.ncb.org.uk/nogoodoptions</p> <p>https://www.lscbchairs.org.uk/Public/News/Public/News/News.aspx?hkey=09f87895-9166-4ff0-8653-82bbfb908cf6</p>