

Safeguarding Information and Research Digest  
Issue 25 – June 2015

The LSCB Safeguarding Information and Research Digest provide a concise summary of recently published research knowledge, news, legislation and statistics on the topic of safeguarding. The digest provides hyperlinks to reports and further information.

The Safeguarding Information and Research Digest is designed to provide access to research information to a varied audience working across children and young people's services. The information is drawn from relevant electronic resources and databases, journals and texts and where appropriate from alternative sources such as inspection reports and annual reports.

This digest does not provide a definitive statement of all the evidence on a particular issue. Clicking on the "Source" and "Further information" links within the digest will take you to the relevant document/site.

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## News

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Leicester, Leicester & Rutland LSCBs have produced a new **Female Genital Mutilation** (FGM) leaflet. Research shows that the summer holidays are the most prevalent times for the potential of a child or young person to be taken abroad to be subjected to FGM, and therefore the FGM leaflet is particularly pertinent to Schools and Colleges. With the summer holidays approaching fast, please can staff (particularly those in a School or College) print the attached leaflet on FGM and discuss it within your next staff briefing or staff meeting. Further information and the attached leaflet can be found here: <http://www.lcitylscb.org/>

**'Say Something' helpline** for young people has been created by the National Working Group (Child Sexual Exploitation). The helpline went live on 1st July and will provide young people with a means to report CSE through a free, 24/7, anonymous helpline provided by Missing People. Young people can Call or Text 116000

**Source:** NWG 29 June 2015

**Further information:** Website [www.stop-cse.org/saysomething](http://www.stop-cse.org/saysomething)

For professional enquiries email: [partners@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:partners@missingpeople.org.uk) or [bina@nwgnetwork.org](mailto:bina@nwgnetwork.org)

The government has proposed new powers, contained in the Education and Adoption Bill announced in the Queen's speech, to encourage councils to join forces and work together as regional adoption agencies in a bid to reduce delays for children awaiting adoption.

**Source:** [Department for Education](#) 23 May 2015

**Further information:** [Queen's speech 2015: what it means for you - Education and Adoption Bill](#)

A Prisons Inspectorate report of Tinsley House immigration removal centre near Gatwick has praised the centre for picking up two cases of suspected child trafficking, but called for improvements around unnecessarily holding families with children when they could be accommodated in hotels and 'unacceptable' escort arrangements.

**Source:** [Children & Young People Now](#) 27 May 2015

**Further information:** [Report on an unannounced inspection of Tinsley House immigration removal centre \(PDF\)](#)

Children and Young People Now reports that Rotherham Council has produced a plan outlining how they will improve their approach to tackling child sexual exploitation. Proposals include: recruiting survivors of CSE to advise on how effectively they are dealing with abuse and supporting victims.

**Source:** [Children & Young People Now](#) 27 May 2015

**Further information:** [Rotherham MBC improvement plan: A fresh start \(PDF\)](#)

The Queen's Speech has outlined the new government's plans which include: increasing free childcare provision to 30 hours a week; and an expansion of the Troubled Families programme. The government will also close a legal loophole ensuring live video streams of child abuse are punished in the same way recorded clips already are.

**Source:** [Cabinet Office 27 May 2015](#)

**Further information:** [BBC News](#)

[The Queen's speech 2015: what it means for you](#)

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation has launched a guide to support parents of children who have been in trouble for viewing or sharing sexually explicit images online.

**Source:** [Lucy Faithfull Foundation 27 May 2015](#)

**Further information:** [What's the problem? A guide for parents of children and young people who have got in trouble \(PDF\)](#)

Barnardo's has written a guide for policymakers on youth and the Internet.

**Source:** [Barnardo's 28 May 2015](#)

The ADCS Asylum Task Force and the Home Office have published two jointly agreed documents to inform work around age assessment information sharing in relation to unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

**Source:** [ADCS 29 May 2015](#)

Action for Children has published an impact report highlighting the benefits of the evidence-based early action services they deliver. It shows that early intervention produced results including: 96% reduced risk of physical, sexual or emotional abuse; 87% improvement in children's wellbeing; and 97% of young people remaining in education, employment or training after 16 years of age.

**Source:** [Action for Children 29 May 2015](#)

**Further information:** [Impact report 2015](#)

[Early action summary. Impact report 2015. \(PDF\)](#)

NSPCC Information Service has published a summary of risk factors and learning for improved practice taken from recently published serious case reviews which are relevant to professionals working in paediatrics and accident and emergency.

**Source:** [NSPCC 29 May 2015](#)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is consulting on guidelines on children's attachment. Proposals include: training key workers in assessing attachment difficulties and parenting quality for children in, or on the edge of, care.

**Source:** [Community Care 01 June 2015](#)

**Further information:** [Children's attachment: draft guideline consultation](#)

A Fostering Network survey has found that more than a third of 52,500 teenagers living in foster care are living with their third foster family. 25% are living with their fourth, and 17% are living with their fifth. The charity says that the country needs 8000 more foster carers to cope with rising demand.

**Source:** [BBC News 01 June 2015](#)

**Further information:**

[The Fostering Network](#)

Public Health England has published two new updates on reducing infant mortality and sudden unexpected death in infancy.

**Source:** [Public Health England](#) 02 June 2015

**Further information:** [Reducing infant mortality in London 2015](#)

[London child safety update on sudden unexpected deaths in infancy: advice for people working with children, young people and families](#)

The Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) at the University of Oxford has published a study exploring the tension between local government's responsibility to protect vulnerable children and the 'no recourse to public funds' policy (NRPF).

**Source:** [Nuffield Foundation](#) 03 June 2015

**Further information:** [Safeguarding children from destitution: local authority responses to families with 'no recourse to public funds' \(executive summary\)](#)

[Safeguarding children from destitution: local authority responses to families with 'no recourse to public funds' \(full report\)](#)

The BBC reports that the number of UK hospital admissions for 13 to 19-year-olds suffering from eating disorders has risen from 959 in 2010/11 to 1815 in 2013/14.

**Source:** [Newsbeat](#) 03 June 2015

The 4-part BBC 2 series 'Protecting our foster kids' looks at the day-to-day work of foster carers and other professionals supporting children in care. First broadcast on Sunday 7 June at 10.00 pm. Episode 1 is available to watch on iplayer.

**Source:** [BBC](#) 03 June 2015

'Abandoned to their fate'. This BBC Radio 4 programme investigates the struggles care leavers face when they have to adjust to independent living before they are ready. Available to listen to on iplayer.

**Source:** [BBC](#) 03 June 2015

An article in the Guardian discusses a risk map of Margate which flags how children's residential homes are close to drug crime, registered sex offenders and numerous other risks. The map was highlighted by a House of Commons Education Select Committee report into residential children's homes published last year.

**Source:** [Guardian](#) 03 June 2015

**Further information:** [Education Committee - select report - residential children's homes](#)

Community Care reports that in its recently published impact report, Action for Children praised two North American models of intensive support (functional family therapy and multi-systemic therapy) for improving outcomes for children on the edge of care.

**Source:** [Community Care](#) 04 June 2015

In an interview with the Times Educational Supplement, campaigner and 6th form student, Arifa Nasim warns that forced marriage is not cultural, it is abuse.

**Source:** [Times Educational Supplement](#) 04 June 2015

The Guardian reports that research from the European Financial Coalition against Commercial Sexual Exploitation Online (EFC) has found that the fight against sales of online child abuse material using conventional payment systems has driven abusers underground. They are now using anonymiser

technologies to evade detection and bitcoin to pay for material.

**Source:** [Guardian](#) 05 June 2015

The NSPCC's CEO, Peter Wanless has written to Facebook and the government urging social media companies to take online safety more seriously. The letter is in response to a disturbing video of a crying baby being constantly immersed in a bucket of water which was posted on Facebook.

**Source:** [NSPCC Website](#) 05 June 2015

**Further information:** [BBC News](#)

The NSPCC information service has written a summary of key findings and recommendations from the recent Cochrane review of school-based education programmes for the prevention of child sexual abuse.

**Source:** [NSPCC Website](#) 05 June 2015

The Children's Commissioner has asked Jon Brown, the NSPCC's lead on tackling sexual abuse, to take over from Sue Berelowitz as co-chair of the two year enquiry into child sexual abuse in the family environment which began in July 2014.

**Source:** [NSPCC Website](#) 05 June 2015

A survey by a coalition of charities has found that 23% of 4935 carers questioned believe care and support services were the least carer friendly of all services they came into contact with.

**Source:** [Community Care](#) 08 June 2015

Police in Scotland have confirmed they are investigating allegations of historical abuse in the 1970s made against Labour peer Lord Janner.

**Source:** [Guardian](#) 09 June 2015

An article in Community Care, written by lawyers, summarises what social workers need to know about female genital mutilation and the law.

**Source:** [Community Care](#) 09 June 2015

An article in the Guardian discusses two new homes opening up in London next month which will house girls aged between 12 and 17 at risk of sexual exploitation, gang behaviour and substance misuse. This will enable them to remain in the areas they have grown up in.

**Source:** [Guardian](#) 09 June 2015

Two police forces are investigating claims of historical abuse at three privately run boys' boarding schools: Dowdeswell Court and Badgeworth Court Schools in Gloucestershire and Cloud House in Wiltshire.

**Source:** [BBC News](#) 10 June 2015

The Alliance for Children in Care and Care Leavers has published a new vision for the care system which calls for a statement in law defining the principal aim of the care system as promoting psychological healing from past harm, building resilience and achieving well-being. The document is also calling for a new child-led outcomes framework for looked after children.

**Source:** [Action for Children](#) 10 June 2015

**Further information:** [A new vision \(PDF\)](#)

[A new vision: young people's version \(PDF\)](#)

The BBC reports that the NSPCC has queried a judge's comments that authorities need to make allowances for a 'cultural context' in cases involving parents. She made the remarks during a High Court ruling concerning a man from India accused of slapping his son. The NSPCC believes children should be protected from physical abuse irrespective of cultural sensitivities.

**Source:** [BBC News 10 June 2015](#)

**Further information:** [NSPCC press release](#)

The Guardian reports that a petition calling for a ban on child piercings has more than 28,000 signatures and Labour MP Mark Tami will raise questions in the House of Commons about a potential age restriction for piercings.

**Source:** [Guardian 10 June 2015](#)

In May 2015, Cafcass received a total of 913 care applications. This figure represents a 5% increase compared to those received in May 2014.

**Source:** [Cafcass 10 June 2015](#)

The Youth Justice Board has summarised implications for youth justice in the Serious Crime Act 2015. These include: the removal of references to child prostitution and child pornography in legislation, and the exclusion of children from the Street Offences Act 1959 which will ensure children are treated as victims of exploitation rather than criminalised as perpetrators.

**Source:** [Youth Justice Board bulletin 28 May 2015](#)

The [2014 Care Act](#) extended the definition of a vulnerable adult for safeguarding purposes. It placed Adult Safeguarding boards on a statutory footing, to spearhead safeguarding activity in a local area. This briefing summarises the [guidance](#) for implementing the new arrangements.

The Department for Education has released statistics on children accommodated in secure children's homes as of 31 March 2015.

**Source:** [Department for Education 04 June 2015](#)

The Home Office has published statutory guidance to help local agencies apply for and manage gang injunctions in order to prevent gang-related violence.

**Source:** [Home Office - Injunctions to prevent gang-related violence: statutory guidance 08 June 2015](#)

**Further information:** [London Evening Standard](#)

## Further information

**Action for Children** - Research, resources and information

<http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/policy-research>

**Barnardos** - Research and information including fact sheets

[http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/policy\\_research\\_unit/research\\_and\\_publications.htm](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/policy_research_unit/research_and_publications.htm)

Sign up for regular Newsletter: [http://www.barnardos.org.uk/email\\_subscription\\_form.htm](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/email_subscription_form.htm)

**Community Care** - News, information and research <http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Home/>

Sign up for regular Newsletter: <https://www.communitycare.co.uk/Register/registermain/>

**Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Boards' Procedures** (staff can register to be alerted on updates) <http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html>

**National Children's Bureau** - Policy, research and information

**National Working Group Network** (NWG) – tackling child sexual exploitation  
<http://www.nwgnetwork.org/>

**National Referral Mechanism** (NRM)

The Government's National Referral Mechanism guidance and referral forms can be accessed at the link below. The referral and assessment forms should be used to report potential victims of human trafficking

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

**NSPCC inform** - Child protection advice, support, information, factsheets and research  
[http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/informhub\\_wda49931.html](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/informhub_wda49931.html)

**NSPCC CASPAR** - Current awareness service for policy, practice and research: regular mail outs for updates and information.

Sign up for the news service by following this link:

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/ExternalNewsServices/Default.aspx?NewsServiceID=2>

**Office of the Children's Commissioner for England**

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/>

**Research in Practice** - Research, information and resources to support evidence informed practice  
<http://www.rip.org.uk/>

(Leicester City Council employees can register using their work email address)

The final report of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's **Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups** (November 2013)

[http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content\\_743](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_743)

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