

Safeguarding Information and Research Digest Issue 20 - January 2015

The LSCB Safeguarding Information and Research Digests 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 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.

News

Understanding bail conditions

Leicestershire Police have provided the following information on bail conditions to help the understanding of practitioners when considering options to safeguard vulnerable children, young people and families.

- At times Leicestershire Police will come into contact with families who are clients for social care services. In some cases suspects will be arrested and given bail, either so further enquiries can be carried out, or so that they can attend court.
- Often bail is granted subject to certain conditions, which are designed to reduce the risk of further offences being committed. These may include a ban on making contact with alleged victims or witnesses, a ban on visiting certain locations, or a requirement to live at a particular address.
- Although the police will monitor and where necessary take action for any breaches, you should not assume that the suspects will obey those conditions. You should still consider a full range of options to safeguard vulnerable families and individuals.
- On average 50 people a month are arrested for breaching their conditional bail by Leicestershire Police. The majority of these are for breaching conditional bail imposed by the courts, as oppose to bail conditions imposed by the police. To put that into context, 285 people a month are released on conditional bail each month by Leicestershire Police. However, we don't know how many others breach their bail in ways we never hear about.
- Conditions can only be imposed which are necessary to ensure the offender's appearance at court, that offences are not committed on bail, or to prevent interference with justice or witnesses.

Types of conditions

- The reasons for bail conditions should be specific and justifiable. The conditions must be effective and capable of being enforced.

Examples of bail conditions include

- The defendant must not contact, either directly or indirectly, a named person or people, for example the victim and any children;
 - the defendant must not go to a named place, for example the victim's place of work, shopping area or children's school;
 - the defendant must reside at a named address;
 - the defendant must report to a named police station on a given day or days at a given time ;
 - the defendant must abide by a curfew between certain specified hours;
 - the defendant must wear an electronic tag.
- Breach of bail conditions is not an 'Offence' but does carry a power of arrest.

- Up to 90% of defendants are successfully bailed with conditions, which are complied with and has therefore meant that the victim or community has been protected from further harm while preventing the need for unnecessary or inappropriate detention in police custody or prison custody.

Source: [Leicester Safeguarding Children Board Webpage](#) 28 January 2015

London Safeguarding Children Board Annual Conference

Presentations from the annual conference of the London Safeguarding Children Board are now available.

Source: [London Safeguarding Children Board](#) 8 December 2014

Special educational needs in residential special schools

The Office of the Children's Commissioner for England has published two reports based on understanding the views and experiences of children and young people with special educational needs in residential special schools.

Source: [OCC press release](#) 12 December 2014

Further information: [My life at school: understanding the experiences of children and young people with special educational needs in residential special schools \(PDF\)](#)

[The views and experiences of children in residential special schools: overview report](#)

NSPCC and child neglect

Between April 2013 and March 2014, more than 17000 adults concerned about child neglect contacted the NSPCC helpline. This represents a 28% increase on the previous year.

Source: [NSPCC press release](#) 19 December 2014

Safer Internet Day 2015

Safer Internet Day 2015 is on 10 February. The UK Safer Internet Centre has produced resource packs for schools to use with 3-11-year-olds and 11-19-year-olds, as well as the parent and carer pack. These provide lots of ideas to help schools, youth groups and other organisations get involved.

Source: [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) 30 December 2014

Child abuse sites

The Independent reports that according to a study by Portsmouth University, more than 80% of visits to the anonymised dark net are to sites containing child abuse materials.

Source: [Independent](#) 31 December 2014

Share Aware campaign

NSPCC has launched a new campaign called Share Aware which aims to help parents and carers on children aged 8-12 the age at which they start doing more online.

Source: [NSPCC Share Aware](#)

Female Genital Mutilation

The Guardian reports that Sir James Munby, president of the family division of the high court, has urged local authorities to be more 'proactive and vigilant' in preventing female genital mutilation (FGM). He made his comments in a ruling on a family court case involving a 3-year-old girl who had been subjected to FGM.

Source: [Guardian](#) 14 January 2015

Women's Aid annual survey

An annual survey conducted by Women's Aid has revealed that child survivors of domestic violence lack access to basic support.

Source: [Women's Aid press release](#) 15 January 2015

Further information: [Women's Aid national survey 2014](#)

Ask.fm safety advisory board

The social network Ask.fm has formed its first ever safety advisory board in order to make the site a 'safer and more positive place' for users.

Source: [Telegraph](#) 15 January 2015

Influence on students' development

[Influences on students' development at age 16](#) comes from the Effective Pre-School, Primary & Secondary Education Project (EPPSE). It pulls together evidence collated from following a cohort of children from pre-school to post 16 destinations, including family, neighbourhood, and social-behavioural factors, on GCSE and social developmental outcomes at 16.

Source: [Influences on Students' Development and Outcomes at age 16: EPPSE Research](#) 15 January 2015

International Child Protection Certificate

The National Crime Agency, in conjunction with the British High Commission, will now use the International Child Protection Certificate (ICPC) to stop British nationals and residents travelling to Kenya to abuse children. The ICPC, already in use in 73 countries worldwide, can only be issued following checks against police intelligence databases. Its aim is to give reassurance that staff employed in schools and voluntary organisations do not have a UK criminal record that makes them unsuitable to work with children.

Source: [NCA press release](#) 16 January 2015

Megan Stephens interview

The Observer interviews Megan Stephens who went on holiday to Greece with her mother at the age of 14, fell in love, and was then trafficked by her new boyfriend into the sex industry. Her ordeal lasted six years.

Source: [Guardian](#) 18 January 2015

Looked-after children and care leavers

The Centre for Social Justice have produced a critical report on the support local authorities' offer to looked-after children and care leavers.

Source: [The Centre for Social Justice](#) 19 January 2015

Further information: [Finding their feet: equipping care leavers to reach their potential \(PDF\)](#)

'See it, Say it, Change it'

The Children's Rights Alliance for England is recruiting 20 children and young people aged between 5 and 17 from across England to form a steering group as part of the 'See it, Say it, Change it' project. The project will gather the views of children across the country on children's rights in the UK which will be submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Deadline for applications to join the steering committee is 11 February 2015.

Source: [CRAE press release](#) 21 January 2015

Psychological counselling techniques for children's social workers

Children and Young Now report on a project in Hertfordshire which trains children's social workers in advanced psychological counselling techniques. This aims to strengthen parents' motivation to change through a process of negotiation.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 22 January 2015

Safeguarding in Education Self-Assessment Tool

The NSPCC and the Times Educational Supplement have produced a free Safeguarding in Education Self-Assessment Tool (ESAT) which enables school safeguarding leads to audit their school's current safeguarding arrangements and supports them to make changes and identify areas for developments.

Source: [NSPCC Website](#) 22 January 2015

Children and young people engaging in government policy

The National Children's Bureau has published a collection of essays examining how children and young people can actively participate in the development of government policy and legislation and how professionals can involve them in their work.

Source: [NCB website](#) 23 January 2015

Further information: [Involving children and young people in policy, practice and research \(PDF\)](#)

Government

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published details of the analysis behind the estimated 400,000 vulnerable families who will meet the criteria for the expanded troubled families programme.

Source: [Department for Communities and Local Government](#) 22 December 2014

Further information:

[Estimating the number of families eligible for the expanded Troubled Families programme \(PDF\)](#)

Fostering Ambassador

The government has appointed its first ever Fostering Ambassador, author and chef Lorraine Pascale, who was fostered. Her role will be to boost the profile of fostering and support the government's work of recruiting foster carers from a wide range of backgrounds.

Source: [Department for Education](#) 24 December 2014

Safer Internet Centre

The government has announced an extra £500,000 funding for the Safer Internet Centre, to ensure schools are equipped to teach children how to stay safe online.

Source: [Department for Education](#) 26 December 2014

Child Sexual Exploitation

Two House of Commons Select Committees have published reports on child sexual exploitation (CSE), based on events in Rotherham and the Jay report. Both reports raise issues of continuing concern to local authorities and their partners as they make up ground in formulating a more effective response to child sexual exploitation.

Source: [Child Sexual Exploitation: Commons Select Committee reports](#) 6 January 2015

Co-sleeping with babies

NICE has published updated guidance which includes recommendations on co-sleeping with babies. The guidelines advise healthcare professionals to inform parents that the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) is greatest during co-sleeping when the parents smoke or have recently consumed alcohol or drugs, or the infant was premature or had a low birth weight.

Source: [FUSE: the Centre for Translational Research into Public Health](#) 07 January 2015

Further information: [NICE: postnatal care](#)

Serious Crime Bill

The House of Commons Public Bill Committee has tabled an amendment in the Serious Crime Bill to create a new criminal offence of sexual communication with a child. If passed, the offence will cover scenarios including: talking to a child about sex via a chatroom; sending sexually explicit text messages to a child; inviting a child to communicate sexually (whether or not the invitation is sexual in itself).

Source: [Parliament UK](#) 09 January 2015

Further information: [House of Commons - Notice of amendments Public Bill Committee: Serious Crime Bill](#)

Adopters searching videos and photos of children

Children and Young People Now report that government plans to allow would-be adopters to search videos and photos of children have been delayed due to security concerns.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 12 January 2015

Under-18s in custody

The Ministry of Justice has published statistics which show that the number of under-18s in custody has risen slightly with 1055 young people in custody in November 2014, compared with 1044 in October 2014. The figure is still down 174 on November 2013.

Source: [Ministry of Justice](#) 12 January 2015

Clear Approach

Community Care describes Clear Approach, a programme run by the Care Leavers Association, to support young men in Manchester who have left care and are at risk of going to prison.

Source: [Community Care](#) 12 January 2015

Chatback Productions – ‘Anybody’s child’

Chatback Productions, a group of 11-18-year-olds living in foster care, has produced a 30 minute film, 'Anybody's child', tackling the issue of child sexual exploitation.

Source: [YouTube - Anybody's child](#) 13 January 2015

Further information: [Chatback Productions](#)

Performance information framework

The Department for Education has published a performance information framework to help local authorities improve their children's safeguarding services.

Source: [Department for Education](#) 20 January 2015

Feltham Prison report

HM Inspectorate of Prisons has published a report on Feltham Prison. It raises a number of concerns about the way children and young people are treated.

Source: [Frances Crook's blog](#) 13 January 2015

Further information: [HMPYOI Feltham \(children and young people\)](#)

Children going missing from foster homes

The BBC reports that, according to figures supplied by Ofsted, there was a large increase in the instances of children going missing from foster homes last year. In 2013-14, children went missing from foster care on 13,305 occasions, a 36% rise on the previous year.

Source: [BBC Online](#) 14 January 2015

Further information: [Fostering in England 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014](#)

Supporting children with a parent in prison

Children and Young People Now reports that Barnardo's is to roll out a programme nationwide which will improve support for 200,000 children who have a parent in prison. This follows a positive evaluation of the pilot scheme in Bristol, Isle of Wight and South-East Wales.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 16 January 2015

Further information: [Barnardo's press release](#)

Legal

Section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014

The Department for Education is consulting on draft regulations which underpin section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014. This introduced new rights to improve how young carers and their families are identified and supported. Deadline for responses is 26 January 2015.

Source: [Department for Education](#) 22 December 2014

Mandatory reporting of abuse or neglect

A legal obligation on professionals to report any child or adult believed to be at risk of abuse or neglect will be implemented in Wales in 2016. The provision is part of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 which received Royal Assent on 1 May 2014.

Source: [Welsh Government](#) 19 December 2014

Skype and Snapchat images in school

Police are investigating reports of 'inappropriate' Skype and Snapchat images found on iPads given to pupils by a secondary school in Essex. The head teacher said that one of the school's pupils had been coerced into sending the images.

Source: [BBC Online](#) 21 January 2015

Serious Crime Bill

The Serious Crime Bill has passed the House of Commons Committee stage with measures which will do more to protect children from female genital mutilation (FGM) and ensure that perpetrators of FGM and those who fail to protect girls from it face prison.

Source: [Ministry of Justice](#) 21 January 2015

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
Sign up for regular Newsletter: 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

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

Tri-x Child Care Ltd – Free Policy Briefings and subscription to free briefing alerts
http://www.trixonline.co.uk/website/news/news_index.html