

Safeguarding Information and Research Digest  
Issue 21 - February 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.

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## News

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### **Thresholds Guidance - briefings**

The LSCB Guidance on **threshold criteria** for children's and family services in Leicester City is intended to assist professionals within the Leicester Children's workforce to identify suitable responses to needs and issues that they encounter amongst the children, young people and families they are working with. The document is available here: <http://www.lcitylscb.org/information-for-practitioners/>  
Briefings sessions are scheduled for this year for information see Children's safeguarding training/learning at: <http://lrsb.org.uk/learning-opportunities>

### **Multi-agency Case File Audits briefings**

Briefings session to share the learning, including good practice, areas for improvement and gaps emerging from Children's Multi-agency Case File Audits (MACFA) are taking place for the Children's, Adult's and wider workforce on 16th April 2015. Further information is available at: <http://www.childrenworkforcematters.org.uk/safeguarding-children-and-young-people-training/inter-agency-safeguarding-training/>

### **NSPCC – Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) helpline**

The NSPCC has set up a FGM helpline, which is free anonymous and 24/7. If you're worried a child is at risk of, or has had, FGM, Call the FGM helpline on: [0800 028 3550](tel:08000283550) or email [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk)

### **CAMHs – The role of schools**

A blog by ADCS vice president Alison O'Sullivan considers the role of schools in supporting child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS).

**Source:** [ADCS](#) 23 January 2015

### **Siblings in the care system**

The Family Rights Group has published a report which reveals that 37% of children in care in England who have siblings are having to live apart from them.

**Source:** [BBC News](#) 26 January 2015

**Further information:** [What happens to siblings in the care system? \(PDF\)](#)

### **Contraceptive implants**

The Telegraph reports that Freedom of Information disclosures show that 10000 contraceptive implants have been placed in girls under the age of consent. 56 were given to girls aged 12 or younger.

**Source:** [Telegraph](#) 26 January 2015

### **'Staying Put' guide for care leavers**

The Young People's Benchmarking Forum has worked with staff from Catch 22's National Care Advisory Service and the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum to develop a 'Staying Put' guide for care leavers.

**Source:** [Catch 22](#) 26 January 2015

### **Residential care commissioning**

The National Centre for Excellence in Residential Child Care and Children England have launched a web forum to encourage debate and sharing new ideas about the future of residential care commissioning.

**Source:** [Children England - rethinking Care Commissioning - web forum](#) 28 January 2015

### **A better care system**

An article by David Graham, national director of the Care Leavers Association, outlines his vision for a better care system.

**Source:** [Community Care](#) 28 January 2015

### **Safer recruitment in education**

This NSPCC e-learning course will give you the safeguarding skills you need to protect children whilst recruiting staff and volunteers in schools, academies or colleges.

**Source:** [NSPCC Website](#) 29 January 2015

### **Child-to-parent violence and abuse**

The University of Brighton has led EU funded research which has found 10% of families in England are living with child-to-parent violence and abuse.

**Source:** [University of Brighton](#) 30 January 2015

### **Mentoring programmes**

The Early Intervention Foundation has published guidance for commissioners on maximising the impact of mentoring programmes to reduce gang involvement and youth violence.

**Source:** [Early Intervention Foundation](#) 30 January 2015

**Further information:** [Preventing gang involvement and youth violence: advice for those commissioning mentoring programmes \(PDF\)](#)

### **Young carers**

A Carer's Trust survey of 350 unpaid young carers has been compared with a YouGov poll of 457 non-carers aged 8 to 15 which reveals young carers are less happy, more worried, sadder and more confused than their peers. However, 51% of young carers reported feeling proud of being young carers and 42% said caring made them happy.

**Source:** [Carer's Trust](#) 30 January 2015

### **All Babies Count spotlight series**

The NSPCC in collaboration with Barnardo's, has published a report on how prison can impact on pregnancy and babies and what can be done to help. Findings include: imprisoning pregnant women and babies in Mother and Baby Units can impact upon the health and wellbeing of those babies.

**Source:** [NSPCC Website](#) 02 February 2015

**Further information:** [An unfair sentence: All Babies Count: spotlight on the criminal justice system \(PDF\)](#)

### **Local Government Association (LGA) child sexual exploitation summit**

The summit brought together over 100 council leaders, chief executives, lead members and directors of children's services, to consider the latest work taking place to tackle CSE across the country and to consider what more was needed to fully safeguard children from this awful crime.

**Source:** [Children's social care | Local Government Association](#) 05 February 2015

**LGA and Barnardo's launch national scheme to end new FGM cases by 2030**

A new national programme aimed at keeping women and girls across the country safe from the devastating effects of female genital mutilation will lead efforts to end new FGM cases by 2030.

**Source:** [Media releases | Local Government Association](#) 06 February 2015

**'Revenge porn' victim helpline**

A helpline for victims of 'revenge porn' has been launched. It will be run by the charity SouthWest Grid for Learning. The helpline will work with police to try and get non-consensual explicit photos removed and give victims help on how to get free legal advice.

**Source:** [Guardian](#) 08 February 2015

**Friendships in the digital age**

The Safer Internet Centre has published a study on children's friendships in the digital age. They've also released a film of schoolchildren sharing their online experiences.

**Source:** [Safer Internet Centre](#) 10 February 2015

**Further information:** [Friendship in a digital age \(PDF\)](#)

**Sexual coercion in intimate relationships**

European Commission funded research, carried out by the Universities of Bristol and Central Lancashire, and led by an NSPCC senior research fellow, has found that more than 4 in 10 teenage schoolgirls in England have experienced sexual coercion in their intimate relationships. Physical abuse and violence was also a factor in 20% of these relationships.

**Source:** [NSPCC Website](#) 11 February 2015

**Further information:** [Safeguarding teenage intimate relationships](#)

**How babies can be affected by homelessness**

The NSPCC has published a report on how babies can be affected by homelessness and what can be done to help.

**Source:** [NSPCC Website](#) 11 February 2015

**Further information:** [An unstable start: All babies count: spotlight on homelessness \(PDF\)](#)

**Fight to protect minors from custody and incarceration**

In an article in the Guardian, children's rights campaigner Carolyne Willow speaks of her fight to protect minors from custody and incarceration.

**Source:** [Guardian](#) 11 February 2015

**Baby Steps service**

The NSPCC has published an evaluation of its Baby Steps service, a perinatal, relationships-based education programme.

**Source:** [Baby Steps: evidence from a relationships-based perinatal education programme](#) 12 February 2015

**Further information:** [Baby Steps in a prison context: parents' perspectives](#) 12 February 2015  
[Baby Steps: perspectives of parents from a minority ethnic background](#)

**Issues affecting children in 2013/14**

ChildLine has published a review of issues affecting children in 2013/14. Findings include: four of the top ten issues that children get in touch with ChildLine about relate to mental health, and there was a 168% increase in counselling about online sexual abuse since 2012/13.

**Source:** [NSPCC Press Release](#) 13 February 2015

**Further information:** [Under pressure: ChildLine review: what's affected children in April 2013- March 2014 \(PDF\)](#).

### **Online child sex abuse searches**

The Independent reports a 'precipitous drop' of 67% in the volume of online searches for child sex abuse images following steps taken by internet firms to block them.

**Source:** [Independent](#) 15 February 2015

### **Women as Protectors**

The NSPCC has launched a new Women as Protectors service supporting mothers and carers who are in contact with a man who poses a risk of sexual harm to children.

**Source:** [NSPCC Website](#) 16 February 2015

### **Child Sexual Exploitation**

In a new report, the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England has warned that despite heightened awareness of child sexual exploitation (CSE), too many child victims and children at risk are not being identified by local authorities. In a cluster of 9 local authorities with comparable demographics and deprivation levels, the rates of known victims of CSE vary between 1 and 65 per 10000 children.

**Source:** [Office of the Children's Commissioner for England](#) 17 February 2015

**Further information:** ["If it's not better, it's not the end": inquiry into child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups: one year on](#)

### **LSCBs and Child Sexual Exploitation**

Barnardo's is calling for the government to give local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) legal powers to compel local agencies to share information with them so they can effectively record incidents of child sexual exploitation and better protect vulnerable and at-risk children and young people.

**Source:** [Barnardos](#) 17 February 2015

### **Serious Case Review been added to the NSPCC repository**

[Case reviews added – February 2015](#)

### **Gang violence in hospitals**

Children and Young People Now reports that a youth work scheme which tackles gang violence in hospital emergency departments is to be extended to all four major trauma centres in London. The Redthread project has been running for a decade from Kings College Hospital in Denmark Hill.

**Source:** [Children & Young People Now](#) 18 February 2015

### **Fostering Network**

A survey of 1082 foster carers by the Fostering Network has found that whilst nearly three-quarters praised support received by individual social workers, more than half did not feel regularly valued by the social care team who share responsibility for the child.

**Source:** [Community Care](#) 18 February 2015

**Further information:** [The state of the nation's foster care: what foster carers think and feel about fostering \(PDF\)](#)

### **Children's views in care proceedings**

The Justice Minister, Simon Hughes has announced that children aged 10 or over will be able to have their views heard about decisions affecting them in care proceedings or disputes about childcare arrangements following divorce or separation.

**Source:** [Children & Young People Now](#) 19 February 2015

### **Children stripped in police custody**

The Court of Appeal has ruled that children who are stripped in police custody to prevent them using their clothes as a ligature must have a parent or appropriate adult with them.

**Source:** [Just for Kids Law press release](#) 19 February 2015

**Sir James Munby's decision to reunite a child with his EDL-supporting father**

The Guardian has written an opinion piece on family judge, Sir James Munby's decision to reunite a child with his EDL-supporting father.

Source: [Guardian](#)

Further information: [Courts and Tribunals judiciary: re: A \(A child\)](#)

**CAMHS – Parents' problems**

A Young Mind's survey of over 350 parents reveals problems they faced when dealing with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). Young Minds and NHS England will shortly release a Parents Say toolkit to enable CAMHS to embed parent and carer participation into their service.

Source: [Young Minds](#) 19 February 2015

**Risk of abuse and neglect for 16 and 17-year-olds**

The Children's Society has released a statistical analysis of the comparative risk of abuse and neglect for 16 and 17-year-olds. They are campaigning for changes to the Serious Crime Bill so that older teenagers have the same legal protection from abuse and neglect as younger children.

Source: [Children's Society press release](#) 20 February 2015

**Under Pressure – ChildLine Annual Review**

The ChildLine Annual review, *Under Pressure*, provides an overview of the issues brought to the attention of ChildLine in the last year.

Source: <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/annual-reports/childline-review-under-pressure.pdf>

**Victim Support – You & Co**

You & Co is Victim Support's youth programme that helps young people cope with the impact and effects of crime. You do not have to report the crime to the police to get support from us.

Source: <http://www.youandco.org.uk/> 23 February 2015

**Snapchat**

The Independent reports that messaging app, Snapchat, has launched a safety centre for parents and children.

Source: [Independent](#) 23 February 2015

Further information: [A parents' guide to Snapchat \(PDF\)](#)

**British Board of Film Classification**

Ipsos Mori has carried out research for the British Board of Film Classification which confirms public demand for putting certain types of 'glamour' imagery behind adult filters on mobile devices.

Source: [BBFC press release](#) 24 February 2015

Further information: [Filtering glamour content on mobile devices for under 18 year olds \(PDF\)](#)  
[Public acceptability of glamour images on mobile devices: the BBFC's policy response \(PDF\)](#)

**Domestic violence victims**

Domestic abuse charity, SafeLives has studied the largest database of domestic violence victims in the UK. Figures reveal that victims and their children are abused for almost 3 years on average before they get the help they need.

Source: [Guardian](#) 25 February 2015

**The Adoptables**

Young people involved in the Coram's peer network, the Adoptables, have produced a 'Top 10 tips' for prospective adopters on the First4Adoption website.

Source: [First4Adoption](#) 26 February 2015

### **Charities' toolkit**

The Children's Partnership, the children's voluntary sector strategic partner to the Department for Education, has produced a toolkit to help charities contribute to the commissioning process and provide extra social value to public sector contracts.

**Source:** [The Children's Partnership](#) 26 February 2015

**Further information:** [Social value and commissioning toolkit: a guide fo charities on social value and commissioning produced for the Children's Partnership 2015 \(PDF\)](#)

### **Self-harming**

A survey of 2000 11-21-year-olds, commissioned by ChildLine, YouthNet, Young Minds and Self Harm UK, has found that alarming numbers are being exposed to self-harm images and, as a result, considering hurting themselves.

**Source:** [NSPCC Press Release](#) 27 February 2015

### **Improving practice in safeguarding at the interface between hospital services and children's social care: a mixed-methods case study** February 2015

[http://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/136746/FullReport-hsdr03040.pdf](http://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/136746/FullReport-hsdr03040.pdf)

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## **Government**

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### **Care leaver transition arrangements**

The government has updated guidance on care leaver transition arrangements. It specifies B&Bs are not suitable accommodation and should only be used in emergencies for a maximum of two working days.

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

**Further information:** [Children Act 1989: planning transition to adulthood for care leavers](#)

### **Young people's health and wellbeing**

Public Health England has published a new public health framework on young people's health and wellbeing.

**Source:** [Children's public health transfer | Local Government Association](#) 29th January 2015

### **Children transferred from police custody**

The Department for Education and the Home Office have published a letter to local authorities outlining their duties in receiving children transferred from police custody.

**Source:** [Department for Education](#) 10 February 2015

### **Violent and sexual offences**

The Office for National Statistics has published its annual report focusing on violent and sexual offences. Findings include children under one year old had the highest rate of homicide (23.9 offences per million population) compared with other age groups.

**Source:** [Office for National Statistics](#) 12 February 2015

### **Chair of the independent inquiry into child sexual abuse**

The Home Affairs Select Committee has published a report endorsing Justice Lowell Goddard's appointment as chair of the independent inquiry into child sexual abuse.

**Source:** [Parliament UK](#) 13 February 2015

### **Sex and relationship education**

In a report of the Commons Education Committee's inquiry into PSHE and SRE, MPs have called for compulsory sex and relationships education in all state primary and secondary schools in England.

**Source:** [BBC News](#) 17 February 2015

**Further information:** [Life lessons: PSHE and SRE in schools \(PDF\)](#)

### **Tackling difficulties for children and families**

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Conception to Age Two has published its first report on tackling difficulties for children and families within the critical first 1001 days following a child's conception.

**Source:** [BBC News](#) 25 February 2015

**Further information:** [1001 Critical Days - press release \(PDF\)](#)

[Building Great Britons: conception to age 2: first 1001 days All Party Parliamentary Group \(PDF\)](#)

### **Jimmy Savile investigation reports**

The Department of Health has published 16 NHS investigation reports, 15 into allegations of abuse against Jimmy Savile and 1 in relation to his brother, Johnny Savile.

**Source:** [Department of Health - The NHS Savile investigations](#) 26 February 2015

**Further information:** [Jimmy Savile NHS investigations: lessons learned \(PDF\)](#)

[Independent oversight of investigations into matters relating to Savile at children's homes and schools \(PDF\)](#)

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## **Legal**

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### **Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015**

The Criminal Justice and Courts Act has received royal assent. The Act includes a measure to prevent offenders found guilty of child rape from automatically being released at the half-way point of their sentence.

**Source:** [Ministry of Justice press release](#) 12 February 2015

**Further information:** [Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015](#)

### **Modern Slavery Bill**

The Home Office has announced amendments to strengthen the Modern Slavery Bill.

**Source:** [Home Office Press Release](#) 17 February 2015

### **Family Drug and Alcohol Courts**

The BBC reports that Family Drug and Alcohol Courts (FDAC) are to open in more areas of England.

**Source:** [BBC News](#) 18 February 2015

### **Children and tasers**

Figures obtained by the BBC show that in 2013, more than 400 children in England and Wales had tasers drawn on them by the police. This represents a 38% increase on the number of children having tasers aimed at them in 2012.

**Source:** [BBC News](#) 25 February 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](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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