

Safeguarding Information and Research Digest
Issue 24 – May 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 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.

News

Materials for practitioners working with young children on the integrated review

The National Children's Bureau has developed supporting materials for practitioners working with young children on the integrated review which, from September 2015, will bring together health and early education reviews at age two to two-and-a-half.

Source: [National Children's Bureau](#) 25 March 2015

Further information: [The integrated review: bringing together health and early education reviews at age two to two-and-a-half \(PDF\)](#)

National Deaf Children's Society

The National Deaf Children's Society has surveyed 141 children's social care teams and found that 49% do not include deafness as a criteria for assessing children's care needs, despite their legal duty to do so under the Children Act 1989.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 24 April 2015

Innovative family support and early intervention schemes

Children and Young People Now reports that children's services departments and voluntary organisations are teaming up with professional football clubs to launch innovative family support and early intervention schemes.

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

Children who are bullied

The Guardian reports that a paper published in the journal Lancet Psychiatry has suggested that children who are bullied are five times more likely to experience anxiety and twice as likely to talk of suffering from depression and self-harm in later life than children maltreated by adults in their family.

Source: [Guardian](#) 28 April 2016

Further information: [Adult mental health consequences of peer bullying and maltreatment in childhood: two cohorts in two countries](#)

Mental health of LGBT young people

An article in VICE magazine considers whether we are doing enough to support the mental health of LGBT young people.

Source: [VICE](#) 28 April 2015

Best practice in working together to support young carers and their families

The ADCS and the ADASS have published a local memorandum of understanding on best practice in working together to support young carers and their families.

Source: [ADCS](#) 28 April 2015

Developing social and emotional skills in children and young people

The Early Intervention Foundation has published a report on the importance of developing social and emotional skills in children and young people.

Source: [The Early Intervention Foundation](#) 29 April 2015

Further information: [Social and emotional skills: learning for life and work](#)

Laughing gas

The Huffington Post reports that doctors are warning that an increasing number of young people are putting their lives at risk by inhaling nitrous oxide (otherwise known as laughing gas) for recreational use.

Source: [Huffington Post](#) 29 April 2015

Jimmy Savile

Surrey Police has published the report of an investigation into abuse by Jimmy Savile against children at Duncroft School in Staines-upon-Thames.

Source: [Guardian](#) 29 April 2015

Further information: [Surrey Police press release - Operation Outreach](#)

Guidance for schools' to receive guidance and tips on how to support young carers

Children and Young People Now reports on a new initiative managed by the Carers Trust and The Children's Society called the Young Carers in Schools Programme which will enable schools to sign up to receive guidance and tips on how to support young carers.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 30 April 2015

Further information: [Carers Trust](#)
[Young Carers in Schools Programme](#)

Information needed to stay safe online

The NSPCC has asked 600 primary school children what information they needed to stay safe online. More than 80% said they needed to know more about privacy settings on mobile apps and games.

Source: [NSPCC](#) 01 May 2015

Further information: [Net Aware](#)

NSPCC Website

We are looking at how we can improve the information on our website for people working with children or with a professional interest in child protection, child abuse or related subjects. Please take some time to complete a short survey to help us improve the NSPCC website and make sure that it provides the information that you need.

Source: [NSPCC Website](#) 01 May 2015

Lord Janner

The BBC reports that the independent inquiry into historical child sex abuse in England and Wales will conduct a full investigation into allegations made against the former Labour MP Lord Janner.

Source: [BBC News](#) 01 May 2015

Schools building a sense of wellbeing

The National Children's Bureau has published a collection of essays exploring the importance of schools building a sense of wellbeing in pupils alongside academic achievement.

Source: [National Children's Bureau](#) 01 May 2015

Mental health and wellbeing of young people leaving care

In an article in Community Care, the NSPCC's Louise Bazalgette writes about how to support the mental health and wellbeing of young people leaving care.

Source: [Community Care](#) 05 May 2015

Further information: [Promoting the wellbeing of children in care: messages from research](#)

Emotional abuse and sexual exploitation

An evaluation of a two-year youth counselling project run by Youth Access has found that 743 young service users sought help most commonly for emotional abuse and sexual exploitation. Other issues included neglect, sexual abuse, domestic violence and physical abuse.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 05 May 2015

Further information: [Youth Access 'Right 2B Safe' project evaluation \(PDF\)](#)

CSE in Rotherham

The BBC reports that fresh evidence has come to light that authorities in Rotherham were warned about the issue of child sexual exploitation in 2003 and 2006 but did not take any action against organised gangs grooming and abusing girls.

Source: [BBC News](#) 05 May 2015

Violence against parents

The Telegraph reports that data from the Metropolitan Police indicates that there has been a 61% increase over the last 2 years in the number of under-18s treated as suspects for acts of violence against their parents.

Source: [Telegraph](#) 06 May 2015

New cases of female genital mutilation

Children and Young People Now reports that according to new figures collated by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC), since September 2014 3963 new cases of female genital mutilation have been identified, but just 60 (or 1.51%) of these cases involved under-18s. This has prompted fears that families are adopting new tactics to avoid detection.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 06 May 2015

Further information: [Female genital mutilation \(FGM\) - March 2015, experimental statistics \(PDF\)](#)

Independent reviewing officer (IRO)

A consultation organised by the Who Cares? Trust has found that a majority of young people who have experience of care would support the removal of the independent reviewing officer (IRO) role from council control.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 06 May 2015

Key learning about child sexual exploitation

The International Centre: Researching Child Sexual Exploitation, Violence and Trafficking at the University of Bedfordshire has produced 12 short films for anyone who wants to access key learning about child sexual exploitation from their latest research.

Source: [University of Bedfordshire](#) 07 May 2015

NSPCC's Underwear rule

The NSPCC has launched a new version of our successful Underwear Rule guide to help protect deaf children from abuse.

Source: [NSPCC Website](#) 07 May 2015

Early Intervention Foundation

The Early Intervention Foundation has published a rapid review of interventions which are effective in improving the quality of interactions between parents and children under the age of 5.

Source: [Early Intervention Foundation](#) 08 May 2015

Further information: [The best start at home: what works to improve the quality of parent child interactions from conception to age 5 years \(PDF\)](#)

Deaths in custody

INQUEST has published an analysis of the deaths in custody of 65 young people and children (62 aged between 18 and 24 and 3 under-18s) between January 2011 and December 2014.

Source: [INQUEST](#) 08 May 2015

Further information: [Stolen lives and missed opportunities: the deaths of young adults and children in prison \(PDF\)](#)

Children in care

TACT has published their 2015 survey of children in care. Findings include: of the 84 children interviewed, 84% felt that being in care was the right thing for them now, compared to 62% who thought going into care was the best option for them at the time.

Source: [TACT](#) 08 May 2015

Further information: [What young people think... and why it's important to us \(PDF\)](#)

UK-sourced evidence in health and social care

A blog by Knowledge Exchange explains why UK-sourced evidence in health and social care matters and why it is so frequently ignored. NSPCC's Knowledge and Information Service has recently joined a UK consortium which produces the Social Policy and Practice (SPP) database.

Source: [Knowledge Exchange](#) 11 May 2015

Further information: [Social Policy and Practice SPP free 30 day trial](#)

Vision for the care system

The Who Cares? Trust has published Principles of Care which sets out their vision for the care system. It focuses on five areas: where the child lives; their education; leaving care; the system itself (particularly how best to support and inform young people); and what should happen when things go wrong in care.

Source: [The Who Cares? Trust](#) 12 May 2015

Review of 50 children's apps and websites

The Guardian reports that the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has announced a review of 50 children's apps and websites to find out what information they collect, how they explain it to children and how they seek parental permission.

Source: [Guardian](#) 12 May 2015

Big Lottery funding is being allocated to projects to tackle CSE

Children & Young People Now reports that Big Lottery funding is being allocated to projects to tackle child sexual exploitation run by Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (Pace) and the Children's Society.

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

Preventing and responding to cyberbullying

Childnet, as part of Safer Internet Centre, is currently creating guidance for schools about preventing and responding to cyberbullying. They would like to find examples and ideas of work schools are doing in this area in order to share best practice across the UK. They are inviting schools to complete a short survey, deadline for responses is 17 June 2015.

Source: [School consultation into cyberbullying strategies](#) 12 May 2015

Predicting child abuse fractures

Technology magazine Wired reports that Michigan State University forensic anthropologists have been using experiments on piglet skulls to help predict when a fracture is the result of child abuse.

Source: [Wired](#) 12 May 2015

Education of Gypsy, Roma and traveller pupils – Ofsted reports

This briefing is on the five Ofsted linked research reports on good school practice related to the education of traveller and Gypsy/Roma pupils, all published on 26 March 2015.

Source: A copy of this briefing can be [downloaded as a pdf](#). 13 May 2015

Working with foreign authorities

Lincolnshire County Council has developed a new policy for working with foreign authorities in child protection cases. The ADCS is offering it as practice guidance to local authorities and their partners.

Source: [ADCS](#) 13 May 2015

Further information: [Principles for working with foreign authorities in child protection cases \(PDF\)](#)

Counselling sessions about exam stress

ChildLine has reported a 200% increase in counselling sessions about exam stress last year. For the first time ever worries about school and education have emerged as a top concern for children and young people contacting ChildLine in 2013/14.

Source: [NSPCC Press Release](#) 14 May 2015

Care applications - CAFCASS

Cafcass received 946 care applications in England in April 2015, a 18% increase when compared to figures from April 2014. 43% (66/152) of local authorities showed a decrease in care applications compared to last year (2013-14), while 53% (80/152) showed an increase.

Source: [Cafcass press release](#) 14 May 2015

Further information: [The number of care applications received per 10,000 child population by each local authority in England during 2014-15 \(xls\)](#)

Peer support

National Voices has published a report about peer support. The report looks at the current nature of peer support and areas for future development.

Source: [National Voices](#) 14 May 2015

Further information: [Peer support: what is it and does it work? \(PDF\)](#)

Bullying among school age children

A special edition of American Psychologist gives a comprehensive overview of 40 years of research on bullying among school age children. It covers current understanding of the complexity of the issue and suggests directions for future research.

Source: [American Psychological Association](#) 14 May 2015

Foster care placements at risk

Children and Young People Now reports that a study by the Nationwide Association of Fostering Providers has found that councils' measures to cut costs are putting stable foster care placements at risk.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 15 May 2015

Further information: [Placement disruption: a review of cases of children in England and Wales where stable placements are threatened for financial reasons \(PDF\)](#)

Sexual abuse against disabled adults

The Guardian reports that BBC figures obtained from 106 councils show that there have been 4,748 reports of sexual abuse against disabled adults in the past 2 years. The NSPCC has warned these figures could be the 'visible peak' of a much bigger problem affecting disabled children and young people as well as adults.

Source: [Guardian](#) 18 May 2015

Professional career in children's services

Children and Young People Now reports on ADCS plans to introduce a scheme to offer former service users and existing volunteers the opportunity to train for a professional career in children's services. This is in a bid to address recruitment and retention difficulties within the sector.

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

Unconscious bias

An article in the Guardian warns of unconscious bias and its negative impact on leadership and organisational culture. The focus of the article is on the healthcare sector, but its messages could apply to any organisational setting.

Source: [Guardian](#) 19 May 2015

Low level and everyday help

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published a study examining low level or everyday help and support and the role it can play in enabling people to lead 'liveable' lives.

Source: [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) 19 May 2015

Preventing violent extremism

Briefing on the recent changes to terrorism law in the UK.

Source: [This briefing can also be viewed as a pdf](#)

Privately run secure training centre

Children and Young People Now reports that an inspection report compiled by Ofsted, the Prisons Inspectorate and the Care Quality Commission has found that young people in a privately run secure training centre in Northamptonshire have suffered degrading treatment and racist abuse at the hands of prison officers.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 20 May 2015

Further information: [Inspection report of Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre: February 201 \(PDF\)](#)

Physical Signs of Child Sexual Abuse

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has updated Physical Signs of Child Sexual Abuse, otherwise known as the Purple Book. The first update since 2008, it includes three new chapters: anogenital signs of accidental injuries in girls and boys; genital bleeding in pre-pubertal girls; and healing in anogenital injuries.

Source: [RCPCH press release](#) 20 May 2015

Frequent bullying by peers

The Telegraph reports that a King's College London study has found that frequent bullying by peers in childhood increases the chances of someone being obese by the age of 45 by 50% and shortens lives.

Source: [Telegraph](#) 20 May 2015

Services providing therapeutic and emotional support

The NSPCC has commissioned the University of Bedfordshire to carry out an audit of services providing therapeutic and emotional support for children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse. If you provide a service of this kind, please take part in our survey.

Source: [University of Bedfordshire](#) 21 May 2015

Time and resources to support families

A blog in the Guardian argues that support workers and agencies have more time and resources to spend on supporting families than social workers with large caseloads.

Source: [Guardian](#) 21 May 2015

Rise in babies made subject to special guardianship orders

Data obtained by the BBC has revealed that the number of babies made subject to special guardianship orders in England has tripled in two years from 160 in 2012 to 520 in 2014. This measure involves children being placed with extended family, friends or foster parents until they reach 18. The number of children placed for adoption has been falling.

Source: [BBC News](#) 22 May 2015

Government

Children detained in immigration settings

Children and Young People Now reports that figures published by the Home Office show that a total of 664 children have been detained in immigration settings since the government banned the practice four years ago.

Source: [Children & Young People Now](#) 30 April 2015

Further information: [Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers](#)

Compulsory child abuse reporting

Before the general election, David Cameron announced proposals to make it a criminal offence for social workers, teachers and others not to report suspicions of child abuse. In an article in the Guardian, experts give their views on the pros and cons of making child abuse reporting compulsory.

Source: [Guardian](#) 07 May 2015

35% decrease in funding for children's centres since 2010

A Barnardo's analysis of Department for Education figures has shown a 35% decrease in funding for children's centres since 2010. The charity is urging the government to act to prevent further erosion of these 'lifeline services' across England.

Source: [Barnardo's](#) 22 May 2015

Convicted young people

Ministry of Justice figures show that the number of young people convicted for an offence for the first time is falling. A total of 21,016 under-18s were convicted for a first time offence throughout 2014. The figure was 23,537 for 2013. This represents a drop of 10.7%.

Source: [Criminal justice system statistics quarterly: December 2014](#)

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

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http://www.trixonline.co.uk/website/news/news_index.html