

Safeguarding Information and Research Digest  
Issue 22 - March 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

---

**The Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Boards Procedures Manual has been updated. This includes the updated Threshold document.**

Source: <http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

**The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Threshold Briefing Sessions for 2015 have been confirmed and bookings can be made via the [Children's Workforce Matters Website](#)**

### Working Together 2015

The updated Working Together 2015 document is available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419595/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard\\_Children.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf)

**A briefing on Working Together 2015 is available from Tri.x at:**

[http://www.trixonline.co.uk/website/news/pdf/policy\\_briefing\\_No-144.pdf](http://www.trixonline.co.uk/website/news/pdf/policy_briefing_No-144.pdf)

### Adult Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

The Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland Multi Agency Adult Safeguarding Policies and Procedures are available at:

Source: [www.llradultsafeguarding.co.uk](http://www.llradultsafeguarding.co.uk)

### Multi-agency inspections

Children and Young People Now report that targeted, multi-agency inspections of local authority children's services are to be introduced in the autumn. The joint inspections will involve Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation.

Source: [Children and Young People Now](#) 27 February 2014

### Children in need

NSPCC has published a briefing explaining the latest children in need statistics, which show a rise in referrals and the number of children subject to child protection plans.

Source: [NSPCC Website](#) 03 March 2015

### Serious Case Reviews

South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board has published a serious case review into the deaths of a 17-year-old girl and her 6-month-old daughter in a house fire started by the baby's father. Issues include: not recognising the father's predatory, controlling and abusive behaviour as sexual exploitation and domestic abuse.

Source: [South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board](#) 03 March 2015

Further information: [Executive summary of the overview report of the serious case review \(PDF\)](#)

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) has published a serious case review into the sexual exploitation of children in Oxfordshire. Issues include: professionals' lack of understanding of government guidance on the exploitation of children; insufficient investigation into what was happening and a tendency to see the victims as 'difficult girls making bad choices'.

**Source:** [Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board](#) 03 March 2015

**Further information:** [Serious case review into child sexual exploitation in Oxfordshire: from the experiences of children A, B, C, D, E and F \(PDF\)](#)  
[Overview report - accessible summary \(PDF\)](#)

### **LGBT Adopters and Carers**

New Family Social, a support network for LGBT adopters and carers, has published official statistics which show a four fold increase in the number of children adopted by same sex couples since 2007 - up from 90 children in 2007 to 370 children in 2014.

**Source:** [Children & Young People Now](#) 04 March 2015

**Further information:** [New Family Social](#)

### **Young people and information about sex**

Natsal, the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles, has published two articles about where young people in Britain find information about sex and the impact this has on sexual behaviours and sexual health outcomes.

**Source:** [BMJ Open: Patterns and trends in sources of information about sex among young people in Britain: evidence from three National Surveys of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles](#) 05 March 2015

**Further information:** [Associations between source of information about sex and sexual health outcomes in Britain: findings from the third National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles \(Natsal-3\)](#)

### **High risk of homelessness facing LGBT youth**

The Albert Kennedy Trust has published a report on the high risk of homelessness facing LGBT youth.

**Source:** [The Albert Kennedy Trust](#) 05 March 2015

**Further information:** [LGBT youth homelessness: a UK national scoping of cause, prevalence, response and outcome \(PDF\)](#)

### **Prioritising the wellbeing of children in care**

The NSPCC's Tom Rahilly, one of the authors of the recently published 'Promoting the wellbeing of children in care: messages from research', argues the case for transforming the way we think about care and prioritising the wellbeing of children in care.

**Source:** [NSPCC Website](#) 06 March 2015

**Further information:** [Promoting the wellbeing of children in care: messages from research](#)  
[How rethinking residential care can help safeguard children against sexual exploitation \(Tom Rahilly and David Berridge in Community Care\)](#)

### **Rise Above website**

Public Health England has launched the 'Rise Above' website, created by young people for young people, it offers advice and tackles issues of concern including: relationships, alcohol, drugs, self-harm, peer pressure and mental health.

**Source:** [Rise Above](#) 06 March 2015

### **Ofsted Annual Report**

Ofsted has published its annual state of the nation report on children's social care. Based on 5600 inspections of a range of services, it has warned that the majority of local authorities' provision is not yet good enough.

**Source:** [Ofsted](#) 10 March 2015

**Further information:** [Ofsted social care annual report 2013/2014](#)

#### **Youth-produced sexual content**

The Internet Watch Foundation in partnership with Microsoft has published a quantitative study on youth-produced sexual content online.

**Source:** [Internet Watch Foundation](#) 10 March 2015

**Further information:** [Emerging patterns and trends report #1: youth-produced sexual content \(PDF\)](#)

#### **Social worker survey**

A survey of over 1000 social workers published by Action for Children has shown that more than 40% have felt powerless to intervene in cases of child neglect, with one in three saying they lacked the necessary time and resources and they did not expect the situation to get any easier over the next year.

**Source:** [Action for Children](#) 11 March 2015

#### **Early intervention**

The Early Intervention Foundation has launched a guide on early intervention for police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs).

**Source:** [Early Intervention Foundation](#) 12 March 2015

#### **Community Care guides**

As part of its 'Stand up for social work campaign', Community Care is making certain Community Care Inform guides free for a limited period. One of these is the 'Guide to effective caseload allocation' for managers and frontline workers to ensure caseload allocation is safe for service users and staff wellbeing.

**Source:** [Community Care](#) 12 March 2015

#### **Young people not registered with their GP**

A Department of Health project, led by the Association of Young People's Health, has revealed that high numbers of young people are not registered with their GP and experience barriers to accessing health care.

**Source:** [Association of Young People's Health](#) 12 March 2015

**Further information:** [GP champions for youth health - summary \(PDF\)](#)

#### **LGBT foster carers**

The Rees Centre for Research in Fostering and Education at the University of Oxford has published a report on the recruitment, assessment, supervision and support of LGBT foster carers.

**Source:** [Rees Centre for Research in Fostering and Education](#) 13 March 2015

**Further information:** [The recruitment, assessment, support and supervision of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender foster carers: an international literature review \(PDF\)](#)

#### **CASCADE**

The Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre at Cardiff University has published a briefing on child sexual exploitation which examines problems and solutions from the perspective of young people and professionals.

**Source:** [CASCADE](#) 13 March 2015

**Further information:** [Child sexual exploitation: problems and solutions from the perspectives of young people and professionals \(PDF\)](#)

#### **'A Stitch in Time' campaign**

Action for Children, Barnardo's, the Children's Society and NSPCC have launched 'A Stitch in Time' - a campaign calling on the next government to commit to actions that will improve early support for children and families.

**Source:** [NSPCC Website](#) 13 March 2015

**Further information:** [Support 'A Stitch in Time'](#)

#### **NSPCC Taking Care**

The NSPCC has published an independent evaluation of its Taking Care guidance to help local authority social

workers decide whether or not its safe to return a child home. Research by Loughborough University found that: parents thought assessments using the practice framework felt different to previous experiences - more in-depth and giving themselves and their children an active rather than passive role.

**Source:** [NSPCC Website](#) 13 March 2015

**Further information:** [Taking care: practice framework for reunification: evaluation report \(PDF\)](#)

**The National Children's Bureau** has published advice for schools on evidence of what works in promoting social and emotional well-being and responding to mental health problems.

**Source:** [National Children's Bureau](#) 13 March 2015

**Further information:** [What works in promoting social and emotional well-being and responding to mental health problems in schools? \(PDF\)](#)

**University Campus Suffolk** is running an anonymous online survey to determine how much support there is for adults who have survived sexual abuse in childhood and how good that support is.

**Source:** [University Campus Suffolk](#) 16 March 2015

**The NSPCC** has published research by University of Edinburgh into disabled children's experience of the child protection system.

**Source:** [NSPCC Website](#) 17 March 2015

**Further information:** [Deaf and disabled children talking about child protection \(PDF\)](#)

**The College of Social Work** has launched its 5-point plan for the next government, as part of its new Real Social Work Campaign.

**Source:** [The College of Social Work](#) 17 March 2015

#### **Sexual Exploitation in 2014**

An analysis by West Midlands Police, Barnardo's and 7 councils has found that around 500 children across the West Midlands were victims of, or vulnerable to, sexual exploitation in the first six months of 2014. This abuse included children being trafficked by gangs and passed between offenders.

**Source:** [Guardian](#) 18 March 2015

#### **Young People's Experience of the Care System**

The Hadley Centre for Adoption and Foster Care Studies at the University of Bristol and Coram have published two literature reviews as part of the Bright Spots project aiming to discover young people's experiences of the care system.

**Source:** [University of Bristol](#) 19 March 2015

**Further information:** [Measuring well-being: a literature review \(PDF\)](#)

[Children and young people's views on being in care: a literature review \(PDF\)](#)

#### **Suicide in LGBT Young People**

The Royal College of Nursing and Public Health England have launched a toolkit to guide nurses and other health professionals in the prevention of suicide in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) young people.

**Source:** [Royal College of Nursing](#) 19 March 2015

**Further information:** [Preventing suicide: lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans young people \(PDF\)](#)

#### **Children's Homes**

Major changes have been made to the regulation of, the quality standards for, and the Ofsted framework for children's homes, which will come into force on 1 April 2015.

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

#### **Children's Homes (England) Regulation 2015**

The Department for Education has published guidance that supplements and explains the Children's Homes

(England) Regulations 2015.

**Source:** [Department for Education](#) 06 March 2015

**Further information:** [Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations including the quality standards \(PDF\)](#)

#### **Guidance for Head Teachers and College Principals**

Public Health England has published guidance for head teachers and college principals on promoting children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing.

**Source:** [Public Health England](#) 20 March 2015

**Further information:** [Promoting children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing: a whole school and college approach \(PDF\)](#)

#### **Social Workers and Successful Reunifications**

Bristol University's Elaine Farmer and the NSPCC's Mandy Wilkins consider how social workers can achieve successful reunifications for children in care.

**Source:** [Community Care](#) 20 March 2015

**Further information:** [Taking care: a practice framework for reunification: evaluation report \(PDF\)](#)

#### **Teenage Homelessness**

The Children's Society has published a report on teenage homelessness, which is based on responses from 259 councils.

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

**Further information:** [Children's Society press release](#)  
[Getting the house in order: keeping homeless older teenagers safe \(PDF\)](#)

#### **CSE Victims and Witnesses**

The University of Bedfordshire has published research detailing the experiences of criminal justice for children and young people affected by child sexual exploitation as victims and witnesses.

**Source:** [University of Bedfordshire press release](#) 23 March 2015

**Further information:** [Making justice work \(executive summary\) \(PDF\)](#)

#### **Professional Judgement of Social Workers**

The Alliance for Useful Evidence and the NSPCC have published a joint report arguing for greater use of evidence to support the professional judgement of children's social workers.

**Source:** [Nesta](#) 23 March 2015

**Further information:** [Knowing how to protect: using research evidence to prevent harm to children \(PDF\)](#)

#### **Good, Coordinated Support**

National Voices and the Think Local Act Personal partnership (TLAP) have published a report looking at what children and young people with complex lives think good, coordinated support looks like.

**Source:** [National Voices](#) 23 March 2015

**Further information:** [My life, my support, my choice: a vision for person centred coordinated care and support for children and young people with complex lives \(PDF\).](#)

#### **Substance Misuse**

Manchester Metropolitan University has published a national framework, funded by Public Health England, setting out the roles of both adults' and children's social workers in relation to substance misuse.

**Source:** [Manchester Metropolitan University](#) 23 March 2015

**Further information:** [Alcohol and other drug use: the roles and capabilities of social workers \(PDF\).](#)

#### **New Impact and Evidence Hub**

New Impact and evidence hub on the NSPCC website showcases the NSPCC's model of evaluating services and sharing learning as well as providing information to others to evaluate the services they run.

**Source:** [NSPCC Website](#) 24 March 2015

### **Beaten by my boyfriend**

Stacey Dooley investigates abuse in young people's relationships. First screened Wednesday 25 March 2015 on BBC Three at 9pm. Available via BBC iplayer.

**Source:** [BBC Online](#) Beaten by my boyfriend

### **Hidden Men**

The NSPCC has published a thematic briefing about learning from case reviews related to hidden men.

**Source:** [NSPCC Website](#) 27 March 2015

---

## **Government**

---

### **Gangs and Youth Crime**

The Commons Home Affairs Select Committee has published a report into gangs and youth crime.

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

**Further information:** [Home Affairs - Thirteenth report - Gangs and youth crime](#)

### **Serious Crime Act 2015**

The Serious Crime Act has received royal assent. It is now a criminal offence for an adult to send a sexual message to a child.

**Source:** [Parliament UK](#) 03 March 2015

**Further information:** [Serious Crime Act 2015](#)

### **New Measures to Tackle CSE**

The Prime Minister has announced new measures to tackle child sexual exploitation. Proposals include: to introduce criminal sanctions for professionals who fail to protect children from sexual exploitation; a new helpline for whistleblowers in the public sector to report bad practice; and prioritising child sexual abuse as a 'national threat' which places a duty on police forces to collaborate across force boundaries to safeguard children.

**Source:** [Prime Minister's Office press release](#) 03 March 2015

**Further information:** [Tackling child sexual exploitation \(PDF\)](#)

### **Teaching Children About Sexual Consent**

The BBC reports on new government plans to teach children about sexual consent from the age of 11.

**Source:** [BBC Online](#) 08 March 2015

**Further information:** [Guardian](#)

### **Complaints System for Children's Social Care**

The Local Government Ombudsman has published a report highlighting pressures on the complaints system for children's social care services.

**Source:** [Local Government Ombudsman](#) 10 March 2015

### **Vulnerable People in Custody**

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for England and Wales has published a report on the welfare of vulnerable people in custody.

**Source:** [BBC Online](#) 10 March 2015

**Further information:** [The welfare of vulnerable people in custody \(PDF\)](#)

### **Children in Care**

The Public Accounts Select Committee has published a report on children in care which concludes that the Department for Education should set out how it will lead and work with others to improve the outcomes for looked after children by improving the quality of care they receive.

**Source:** [Parliament UK](#) 11 March 2015

**Further information:** [Children & Young People Now](#)

### **Children Leaving Custody**

A report by HM Inspectorate of Probation, the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted has found that too few children leaving custody are given the support they need to resettle back into the community and stop offending.

**Source:** [HM Inspectorate of Probation press release](#) 12 March 2015

**Further information:** [Joint thematic inspection of resettlement services to children by Youth Offending Teams and partner agencies \(PDF\)](#)

### **Health Services for Looked After Children**

The Department for Education and the Department of Health have published statutory guidance on the planning, commissioning and delivery of health services for looked after children.

**Source:** [Department for Education](#) 17 March 2015

### **Children's and Young People's Mental Health and Well Being**

The Department of Health has published their proposals for promoting, protecting and improving children's and young people's mental health and well being.

**Source:** [Department of Health](#) 18 March 2015

**Further information:** [Future in mind: promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing \(PDF\)](#)

### **Welfare Placements in Secure Children's Homes**

The Minister for Children and Families has informed the chairman of the LGA and the president of the ADCS that welfare placements in secure children's homes will be commissioned at national level.

**Source:** [Department for Education](#) 19 March 2015

**Further information:** [Commissioning welfare placements in secure children's homes \(PDF\)](#)

### **Online Abuse and Bullying**

The Home Office, in consultation with organisations including the NSPCC, has published a guide for professionals working with young people on preventing online abuse and bullying.

**Source:** [Home Office website](#) 20 March 2015

**Further information:** [Online abuse and bullying prevention guide for professionals working with young people \(PDF\)](#)

### **Parental Support**

Family and Childcare Trust has published a cross-party Parliamentary Inquiry report on parental support.

**Source:** [Family and Childcare Trust](#) 23 March 2015

**Further information:** [The parliamentary inquiry into parenting and social mobility: enhancing parenting support across the UK \(PDF\)](#).

### **Government Cuts**

A report by the Joint Committee on Human Rights has found that government cuts have disproportionately affected disadvantaged children.

**Source:** [BBC Online](#) 24 March 2015

**Further information:**

[The UK's compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

### **Counselling Services**

The Department for Education has published guidance about setting up and improving counselling services for schools in England.

**Source:** [Department for Education](#) 25 March 2015

**Further information:** [Counselling in schools: a blueprint for the future \(PDF\)](#).

**Homelessness**

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published statistics on homelessness.

**Source:** [The Department for Communities and Local Government](#) 26 March 2015

**Further information:** [BBC Online](#) 26 March 2015

**London's Approach to Protecting Children from CSE**

The London Assembly Police and Crime Committee has published a report examining the city's approach to protecting children from sexual exploitation (CSE).

**Source:** [Greater London Authority](#)

**Further information:** [Confronting child sexual exploitation in London \(PDF\)](#).

**Modern Slavery Act 2015**

The Modern Slavery Act received Royal Assent on 26 March 2015. The Act helps protect children at risk of trafficking.

**Source:** [parliament.uk](#) 26 March 2015

**Check Consent - Resource**

A dedicated website has been developed [www.checkconsent.com](http://www.checkconsent.com) by Oxford City Council in partnership with National Probation Service-Thames Valley, and Thames Valley Domestic Violence Coordinators, Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust, the Crown Prosecution Service – Thames Valley. The website includes a short video 'sexual consent - who needs it?' It includes information tabs on: what is consent, what is legal, how to give and respect consent, sexual consent check list, how to have a healthy relationship, support service, if you have been a victim and how to keep sexually healthy.

**Source:** NWG 26 March 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)

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