

Safeguarding Information and Research Digest Issue 27 – August 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.

News

NSPCC

The NSPCC has published an evaluation report of **Assessing the risk: protecting the child**, an assessment service for men who pose a sexual risk to children and are not in the criminal justice system. Findings include: staff using the guide were positive about the holistic nature of the assessment process

Source: [NSPCC website](#) 13 August 2015

Government

The Department for Education is consulting on proposals to close the annual data collection and publication of notifications of **private fostering arrangements**. Instead, they intend to gather information on private fostering through the existing annual children in need census. Consultation closes 15 September 2015.

Source: [Department for Education](#) 14 August 2015

Further information:

[Notifications of private fostering arrangements in England \(PDF\)](#)

Legal

The Guardian reports that a 'highly exceptional' **legal ruling has allowed a 14-year-old girl abused by her adopted parents' relatives to return to her birth family**.

Source: [Guardian](#) 11 August 2015

New Articles

In a piece in Guardian Social Care, East Sussex County Council's principal social worker, Nicola McGeown discusses how their focus on **evidence-based practice** is making things better for vulnerable people.

Source: [Guardian](#) 13 August 2015

In an article in Community Care, a social worker discusses the difficulties of protecting **vulnerable young people in care** when costs play an increasingly significant role in decision making.

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

An article in Guardian Social Care features a day in the life of Gayle Bradbury who trains staff at children's homes and schools to manage the risks for **children who go missing from care**.

Source: [Guardian](#) 14 August 2015

In an article in the Guardian, the NSPCC's Matt Forde argues that **science, research and development** are key when it comes to understanding more the complex problems faced by vulnerable families.

Source: [Guardian](#) 07 August 2015

New Publications

The Cabinet Office and the Department of Health have published a discussion paper which explores the

decrease in **'risky' behaviours in children and young people**, possible causes and what new risks could emerge. New, or previously unrecognised emerging behaviour includes a rise in self-harm and eating disorders, particularly amongst teenage girls.

Source: [Department of Health](#) 07 August 2015

Further information:

[What is happening to children and young people's risk behaviours? \(PDF\)](#)

[Trends in risk behaviours and negative outcomes amongst young people: data pack \(PDF\)](#)

Other Organisations

Community Care reports that Lancashire County Council has been sanctioned by the Local Government Ombudsman for **placing a homeless teenager in unsuitable accommodation** without assessing his needs as a looked after child.

Source: [Community Care](#) 14 August 2015

The Guardian reports that up to 10,000 victims of **sexual abuse** are waiting more than a year for counselling, with many potentially never receiving treatment, due to a funding crisis facing specialist charities in the UK.

Source: [Guardian](#) 11 August 2015

Community Care reports that Cafcass has received an all-time highest level of **care applications** for the second month in a row. In July 2015, it received 1,111 new care applications. This figures tops the 1,104 applications made in June.

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

The charity Addaction has signed a five year contract with Herefordshire County Council to **provide drug and alcohol services to young people**. The new service, opening in December, includes peer support, mutual aid work, developing links to build on life skills and a voluntary programme.

Source: [Addaction](#) 11 August 2015

In a blog, the ADCS president, Alison O'Sullivan comments on recent press coverage of the sharp increase in people arriving in Kent from French ports. She stresses that almost a third of these people are **vulnerable unaccompanied asylum seeking children**. Local authorities, the Department for Education and the Home Office are discussing a sustainable plan for the future to meet the longer-term needs of these young people.

Source: [ADCS](#) 07 August 2015

Research

An article in the Journal of Health Visiting gives an overview of **video-feedback approaches in parenting support** drawing on current research and models of best practice.

Source: [Journal of Health Visiting \(abstract\)](#) 15 July 2015

Further information: [NSPCC Baby Steps](#)

NSPCC

The NSPCC is holding a series of consultations with **young people involved in sport**. The first one focused on worries young sports people have. Findings include: more than half of the 100 young people surveyed were most worried about injuries and tackles; one fifth had experienced verbal abuse; and 1 in 3 said that pressure to perform was a common problem.

Source: [Child Protection in Sport Unit](#) 18 August 2015

Further information:

[Children and young people's worries in sport \(PDF\)](#)

The NSPCC is holding a **seminar with Professor Charley Zeanah, developer of the New Orleans Intervention Model** on Wednesday 26 August 2015 from 10.30am to 12.30pm in London. If you are interested in attending please email julia.mayes@nspcc.org.uk.

Source: [NSPCC website](#) 20 August 2015

In an article in the Guardian, the NSPCC's Emma Smith stresses the importance of questioning service **evaluation findings**.

Source: [Guardian Social Care Network](#) 17 August 2015

Government

The Department for Education has launched a helpline for anyone concerned about a **child who may be at risk of extremism**, or about extremism within an organisation working with children and young people.

Email: counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk. Telephone: 020 7340 7264.

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

Children and Young People Now reports that the Department for Education has ordered a study into the **spending habits of local authority children's services departments** ahead of expected central government cuts being announced in November.

Source: [Children and Young People Now](#) 14 August 2015

Further information: [Spending review launched by Chancellor](#)

The Welsh Government is recruiting members for a **new national board to oversee the work of protecting adults and children in Wales**. Deadline for applications is 31 August 2015.

Source: [Welsh Government](#) 17 August 2015

The Scottish Government and Children 1st are jointly reviewing the operation and management of the **safeguarders' panel**. The review will put in place a programme of support and training for all service safeguarders, together with a performance monitoring scheme. They are currently consulting on proposed changes. Deadline for responses in 9th October 2015.

Source: [The Children's Hearings \(Scotland\) Act 2011 \(Safeguarders Panel\) Regulations 2012](#) 14 August 2015

New Articles

In an article in the Guardian, a Home Office-funded sexual violence adviser for people with learning disabilities discusses her work and warns that **sexual abuse** of this vulnerable group is too often overlooked.

Source: [Guardian](#) 21 August 2015

An article in the Guardian discusses **what can be done to support young people leaving care**.

Source: [Guardian Social Care](#) 18 August 2015

New Publications

A report by the Professional Standards Authority has found that the **regulatory framework for health and social care needs radical change** because it is 'out of date, over-complicated and too expensive.' Recommendations to reshape regulation include: shared objectives for system and professional regulators.

Source: [Professional Standards Authority press release](#) 06 August 2015

Further information:

[Rethinking regulation](#)

The Office for National Statistics has published data on **unexplained infant deaths in infancy in England**. 249 unexplained deaths occurred in 2013, a rate of 0.36 deaths per 1000 births. This is the first rise in unexplained infant deaths since 2008.

Source: [ONS](#) 19 August 2015

The Children's Society has published the results of an **international survey on children's wellbeing**. Findings include: children in England (aged 10 and 12) are unhappier with their school experience than in 11 other countries, ranking England 12th out of 15 countries surveyed. 38% of 10 and 12-year-olds in England have been physically bullied in the last month and half have felt excluded.

Source: [Children's Society press release](#) 18 August 2015

Further information: [The Good Childhood report 2015](#)

Ofsted has published **data on inspections of local authority children's services** published by June 2015. Key points include: almost a quarter (14) of local authorities were judged to be good for overall effectiveness; whereas just over one half (31) require improvement to be good.

Source: [Ofsted](#) 13 August 2015

Other Organisations

The National Youth Agency has launched a **new part-time BA degree in Youth Work and Community Development** in partnership with Leeds Beckett University.

Source: [National Youth Agency](#) 18 August 2015

The BBC reports that **the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland has issued a 'profound apology' to victims of child abuse** following the publication of a report from the McLellan Commission set up to investigate abuse. The report makes a number of recommendations to Catholic bishops to improve current standards of safeguarding within the Church.

Source: [BBC News](#) 18 August 2015

Further information: [A review of the current safeguarding policies, procedures and practice within the Catholic Church in Scotland](#)

Research

In an article in Community Care, a group of academics highlight the lessons for social workers from **the latest studies on safeguarding disabled children.**

Source: [Community Care](#) 14 August 2015

Conferences

Relationship breakdown - exploring safe practice in the aftermath

This conference, organised by the National Association of Child Contact Centres, takes place on 7 November 2015 in Derby.

Source: [NACCC](#)

NSPCC Training

Introducing revised sports safeguarding standards: implications for the framework process

This free webinar, organised by the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU), takes place on 17 September 2015, between 11am and 12pm.

Source: [CPSU](#) 21 August 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

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