

Missing, Child Exploitation and Vulnerability Research & Development Round-up

January 2023

Focus on Safeguarding



Safeguarding

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Panel has published [analysis](#) of local CSPRs from 2021 by the Universities of Birmingham and East Anglia, based on the CSPR Panel [annual report 2021](#). The report highlights learning for safeguarding practice and policy, especially for addressing issues of race and racism. They have also published some examples of rapid reviews following a serious child safeguarding incident.

The NSPCC has summarised the CSPR Panel annual report 2021 in [this briefing](#).

The Government has also published a [report](#) analysing serious case reviews from the past (1998-2019) and identifying lessons and challenges. Research in Practice has produced [short film segments and slides](#) from their presentation about the final report. The NSPCC has produced helpful summaries of the findings of the [1998 – 2019 cases](#) and the [2017-2019 cases](#).

The What Works Centre for Children’s Social Care has published [research](#) looking at local safeguarding partners’ annual reports 2020-2021. Findings include the fact that neglect as the most common safeguarding priority; all reports mentioned training, but there was very little reference to evaluation of outcomes from training; less than half of annual reports were sent to the CSPR Panel despite this being a duty under Working Together 2018.

Free [Safeguarding resource pack](#) from Hi-Speed Training: Safeguarding Against Child Exploitation and Abuse.

A range of safeguarding resources are available from the [Safeguarding Network; Ann Craft Trust](#) (which specialises in adults and young people at risk) and the [Local Government Association](#).

Children's Social Care

Become charity have produced a [briefing](#) on care placement moves which shows that over Christmastime in England between 18 December 2021 and 3 January 2022, at least 1257 children in care moved homes.

Ofsted has published a [report](#) about the experiences of children living with foster carers, in children's homes or residential schools in England in 2022. Findings from the online survey include: 87% of children rated their mental health as 'OK', 'good' or 'very good', although in secure children's homes, 27% rated their mental health as either 'bad' or 'very bad'.

Cost of Living

C&YP Now [article](#) claims the cost of living is increasing anxiety among young people.

Catch22's National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum (NLCBF) has [released its latest Cost of Living report](#). [Survival Is Not Easy](#) shows the crisis is impacting care leavers' mental health, housing security, and ability to purchase food & essentials. Young people are facing increasing levels of debt and are at increased risk of exploitation.

County Lines

Half-hour [BBC documentary](#) featuring the stories of four people affected by County Lines exploitation in different ways.

Family Support

The Children's Commissioner has published [part 2 of the Independent Family Review](#), focusing on supporting families and looking at what support parents want from the state. The page includes links to part 1 of the Review as well as links to annexes such as 'Celebrating Military Families' and sets of Family Profiles including Adoption, Kinship Care etc.

Mental Health

Teen mental health charity Stem4 have published [research](#) showing that social media triggers young people to feel unhappy about the way they look, with 77% of teens now feeling dissatisfied with their looks and 69% saying social media has a negative effect on their mood. The research accompanies the launch their new free Worth Warrior app to help young people with body image and eating difficulties.

Online Safety

The DCMS has published a [guide to the new Online Safety Bill](#), explaining how the new laws will protect children, how they will affect adults, what types of content that will be tackled and what powers Ofcom will be given to enforce this.

Safer Internet Day 2023 [resource hub](#) for parents and carers has gone live. This year's focus is 'Making space for conversations about life online.' Safer Internet Day takes place on 7th February.

Relationships and Sex Education

New [research](#) from the Youth Endowment Fund finds that schools delivering specialist Relationship and Sex Education lessons can significantly reduce violence in partner relationships. Crimes such as emotional, physical, and sexual violence, psychological abuse, stalking or harassment could be reduced by up to 17% by specialist preventative lessons.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

Barriers to Education have produced a useful guide to [Autism and Anxiety](#), which includes information about changing our perceptions of autistic young people displaying anxiety and supporting them better in stressful situations.

VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls)

The government have published [Year 1 findings](#) from Operation Soteria Bluestone, which was commissioned to look at Policing responses to rape and sexual offences and is a core action in the UK Government's End-to-End Rape Review. Notable findings include: disproportionate investigation effort was being put into testing the credibility of a victim's account; investigators lack specialist knowledge about offending; no participating force had sufficiently good data analysis systems and capacity. Children make up a significant proportion of victims of reported rape and sexual assault.

OTHER

[BBC documentary](#) 'Groomed, radicalised, gone' about Rhiannon Rudd, who was autistic and was charged with terrorism at the age of 15 but subsequently found to have been exploited, and who took her own life at the age of 16. Contains upsetting scenes.

[Catch22 Minutes Podcast season 3](#) explores the topic of Risk & Resilience for Young People. Available episodes include: [Missing Children and Child Exploitation](#); [Criminalisation of Children and Young People in Care](#); [Online Harms and Online Helps](#)

Free online [Conference](#) on 15th March 2023 provided by the National Policing VKPP, whose focus is protecting children and adults affected by vulnerability-related risk and harm. The remote conference will focus on how policing is responding to Violence Against Women and Girls and discuss the barriers and enablers to listening to the voice of the victim within police investigations and strategic decision-making.

The Runnymede Trust [report](#) 'Over-Policed and Under-Protected' looks at Safer Schools Officers and reveals that the full scope of police presence in schools is 43% greater than previously suggested. It states that the government has not been able to justify the value or efficacy of having police positioned in schools; in fact, there is evidence to the contrary.