

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

April 2023

Focus on Misogyny



BBC [documentary](#): 'The Dangerous Rise of Andrew Tate.'

[Blog](#) from Bold Voices discussing constructive ways to respond to young people who express admiration for Andrew Tate. The page includes links to a toolkit which can be purchased.

Lifting Limits [advice](#) for supporting primary-aged children to think critical about online influencers.

PSHE Association [guidance](#) on addressing misogyny, toxic masculinity and social media influence.

End Violence Against Women [video](#): 'Schools- It's about time things changed' depicts sexual harassment of girls at school and calls for change.

[Article](#) 'How Misogyny influencers cater to young men's anxieties' cautions against shutting down or shaming young men and advocates supporting them to develop positive models of masculinity.

[Article](#) about Youth Endowment Fund research showing the effectiveness of [relationship violence prevention lessons](#) and [bystander training](#) in schools and colleges in preventing sexual violence and misogyny.

Internet Matters [resources](#) exploring online misogyny and effective actions adults can take to challenge it.

Child Exploitation

The Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Programme has published its multi-agency [Practice Principles](#) for responding to child exploitation. They are designed to support effective partnership working across different local contexts, providing a common language and framework to better respond to child exploitation and extra-familial harm.



Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and Exploitation (CSE)

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation has published a [report](#) highlighting the impact on families when a member of the family is arrested for online child sexual abuse or viewing CSA material. It argues that family members suffer the indirect harm of online child sexual offences and should be regarded as secondary victims in need of support to help them deal with the shame, perceived discrimination and stigmatisation they experience.

[News article](#) covering the [HMIC report](#) which finds that Police officers are too slow to respond to reports of child sexual abuse and wrongly grade reports as 'low' risk.

Rape Crisis [report](#) claims that the backlog in Crown Court cases is retraumatising rape and sexual abuse survivors, with some being made to wait years before their cases come to court. On average, it takes two years for child sexual abuse cases to be heard. This Newsnight [report](#) talks to a survivor about the impact of multiple delays.

Children's Social Care

The Department for Education has introduced [new regulations](#) stating all supported accommodation providers for looked after 16 & 17 year-olds in England will have to register with Ofsted and meet new quality standards from October 2023. The full guidance is available [here](#). National Children's Bureau has published [analysis](#) of supported accommodation following the release of the guidance.

Researchers from several universities have worked together to analyse local authority protocols designed to prevent the criminalisation of children in care. [Research findings](#) include: children and young people do not receive the same protections from area to area; there is a lack of consideration of the needs and experiences of girls and black and ethnic minority children.

County Lines

[Webinar](#) designed with parents with lived experience talking about Child Criminal Exploitation and County Lines, what it is and what parents can do to support their child and navigate services.

Disadvantage

Joseph Rowntree Foundation [article](#) based on the Government's annual households below average income data shows an 'unacceptable increase in poverty'. In 2021-2022, 14.4 million people were living in poverty in the UK, including 4.2 million children.

Mental Health

[Article](#) from New Statesman claiming that social media is taking a toll on the mental health of girls in particular.

Stem4 [podcast series](#) provides insight into teenage mental health, looking at everything from signs and symptoms to early intervention. There are podcasts on a range of topics and for a range of audiences, including young people, parents and medical professionals.

[Results](#) of the National Education Union survey of school staff into student mental health suggests there is often inadequate access to specialist provision in schools. Teachers feel workload is a hindrance to providing proper support to pupils in need.

[Blog](#) from the Children's Society discusses stress in children, recognising the signs and how to talk to children about their stress.

Online Safety & Online Harms

[Childnet Online Safety toolkit](#) for children and young people with SEND.

Children's Society [blog](#) about virtual reality and the metaverse- what parents should know and how they can support their children.

NSPCC has produced [Guidance for professionals](#) in supporting a child under 18 to get a nude image of themselves removed from the internet with the [Report Remove tool](#). There is also an accompanying [leaflet](#) for professionals.

Parentzone's [Everyday Digital guides](#) are designed to help families develop good media literacy skills through simple everyday habits.

Ofcom have produced their latest [report](#) on digital literacy which shows that two thirds of young people believe social media plays a positive role in their lives.

Powerful short [video](#) from Dove about the impact of social media on a girl's self-esteem. (Trigger warning included)

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Young People's [RSE poll](#) conducted by the Sex Education Forum shows that only 40% of young people rate their lessons as 'good' or 'very good'. Students report that they don't learn enough about today's most pressing issues, including pornography (58%), LGBTQ+ information (54%), and healthy relationships (54%).

Safeguarding

[Article](#) about the inquest of Ben Nelson-Roux, criminal exploitation victim who died in an adult hostel in 2020, aged 16.

The [Casey report](#) into the Metropolitan Police gives a damning indictment of their lack of progress in the area of child protection (pages 137-140). The Chief Inspector of HMICFRS stated this report is: "The most severely critical that HMIC has published about any force, on any subject, ever...There is no place in civilised society for the police to neglect their duty towards children in this way..."

SEND

A range of [resources](#) are available here on autistic masking.

Findings from a new [report](#) from the Disabled Children's Partnership include: 1 in 2 parents are concerned that their disabled child or young person is vulnerable to being exploited or coerced into behaviours or relationships that may put them at risk; and 1 in 4 parents are concerned that their disabled child could be at risk of becoming involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour.

Safeguarding Network's Neurodiversity Week 2023 [resource hub](#) for educators and carers covers ADHD, autism, Tourette's, dyspraxia, and dyscalculia.

VAWG

End Violence Against Women Coalition's [latest annual snapshot report](#) presents latest data from YouGov and discusses the impact of the cost of living crisis on women's decisions to stay in abusive relationships; concerns around Police use of powers; chronic underfunding in the support sector; a disturbing rise in online misogyny; and continuing evidence that the criminal justice service is failing women.

The Commission on Young Lives has issued [a call for evidence](#) about the experiences of girls and young women in relation to exploitation and criminal gangs.

[Street Safe](#) is a new online anonymous reporting tool to enable people, particularly women and girls, to report locations where they feel or have felt unsafe and to identify the features of that location which made them feel unsafe.

OTHER

NSPCC [blog](#) on the 'Toxic Trio' and why this is now felt to be an inappropriate phrase to use in relation to child abuse risk, as it is unhelpfully simplistic and deterministic and lacks a sound evidence base.

[Report](#) from the Children's Commissioner about improving family contact and conditions for children and young people in custody.

[Top Ten Tips](#) for supporting children and young people who have suffered bereavement.

Centre for Social Justice [report](#) states that 140,000 children were severely absent in Summer 2020 and finds that support for school attendance is still a postcode lottery. Persistent or severe absence are often a result of complex issues which need to be addressed and schools and local authorities are often unable to provide the support that children need to access education.

Guardian [article](#) explores 'how the pandemic disrupted children's relationship with school' after one in five pupils in England were reported as persistently absent during the last school year.

[Analysis](#) by the Children's Commissioner of strip searches of children in England and Wales highlights concerning practice and systemic issues.