

Safeguarding Newsletter



Issue 24: July 2016

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- OSCB Business Plan [Business plan](#)
- Child Sexual Exploitation toolkit [CSE screening tool](#)

To be added:

- Female Genital Mutilation screening tool
- Medical advice for parents seeking male circumcision

All of the above are available to view/download via the OSCB website: www.oscb.org.uk

A welcome message from the new interim chair of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Childrens Board



Paul Burnett is Interim Chair of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board. He is also independent chair of the children and adult safeguarding boards in Leicestershire and Rutland and on the Isle of Man.

Paul has said, "I am pleased to be back in Oxfordshire again after a period of two years. It is encouraging to see the progress made to address child sexual exploitation; raise awareness of female genital mutilation and tackle the risks posed by self-harm. Since I was last in Oxfordshire the Board has published four serious case reviews and run at least 8 learning events to improve practice improvement across the county".

Paul Burnett was Corporate Director for Children and Young People in Northamptonshire County Council from 2007 until 2011. He began his career as a secondary school teacher in Northamptonshire holding a variety of roles including pastoral, staff development and special educational needs support posts. His local government career began with East Sussex County Council where he held a variety of posts covering in-service training, special educational needs, resources, strategic planning and support services as well as spending a period in the Executive Office. From 1997 he was Assistant Director in the new unitary authority in Brighton and Hove. Initially responsible for Parent and Pupil Services he took a lead role in the strategic planning for Children's Services and the creation of the Children, Families and Schools directorate that drew together education and children's social services. Between 2003 and 2007 he worked in the London Borough of Greenwich first as Director of Education and subsequently as Director of Children's Services

Board News

The OSCB met in April 2016. The board members heard presentations from Felicity Parker at the police, Jim Leivers the Director of Children Services and Sula Wiltshire from the Clinical Commissioning Group about current pressures in the system as well as priorities for the year ahead.

Feedback was given on the **Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of services in Oxfordshire**. Paul Burnett has said on this, *'I am delighted that the inspection report recognises the effective strategic leadership of the OSCB and the important role the Board has played in securing robust multi-agency responses to child sexual exploitation. The outcome of the inspection recognises the commitment, leadership and effectiveness of agencies and individuals across our partnership. It also illustrates that we have the energy and capacity to build on this success in areas identified for improvement – and the OSCB is already working with partners to address these matters'*.

The Board members discussed what priorities should be set for the coming year and agreed the following:

To provide leadership & governance

- Ensure that local partnership arrangements are understood and that the 'front door' for safeguarding concerns for children provides a swift and robust response to all children

To drive forward practice improvement

- Protecting younger children from the harm of neglect and parental risk factors
- Protecting older children from harm

To scrutinise and quality assure

- Testing if learning is embedded across the child protection partnership

The OSCB met in April 2016 and covered a range of issues including the evaluation of MASH; serious case review work; safeguarding in Transport; female genital mutilation; early Help, the new CAF processes and threshold of needs as well as honour based abuse.

Serious Case Reviews

The OSCB are currently undertaking 5 Serious Case Reviews, 2 of which have been signed off and will be published in due course.

The learning summaries are available on the website: <http://www.oscb.org.uk/case-reviews/>

Update on Multi-agency safeguarding hub – evaluation underway

The MASH is currently being evaluated with a view to proposing an improved way of working. The team leading this work is in a process of staff consultation. We plan to give you a detailed update on any proposed changes in the autumn. For now it is business as usual.

Emerging Safeguarding Issues

Since the last newsletter, a number of safeguarding concerns have come to the attention of the board either because they are new or because they have reached a recent pressure point. The issues are:

➤ **Breast ironing**

This issue was highlighted and brought to our attention via the health sector – a communication on this issue is attached in this newsletter (next page), which has been developed by Coventry LSCB. It is not clear at this point whether this is an issue of concern in Oxfordshire.

➤ **Honour Based Abuse**

This issue was highlighted and brought to our attention via Thames Valley Police. Agencies are checking that they have a clear policy to responding to this safeguarding concern.

➤ **Cyber Bullying**

This issue was highlighted and brought to our attention via the health sector. The OSCB ran an event on Tuesday 5th July about local guidance and resources on sexting and healthy relationships. They also ran through 2 case studies. Thanks to Thames Valley Police, Child and adolescent harmful sexual behaviour services, the County council and Warriner School for their participation.

➤ **Self-Harm/Suicide**

This issue was highlighted and brought to our attention via the education sector. The county's Public Health service is taking the lead in co-ordinating efforts to reduce the risk of suicide amongst children.

The reason we are bringing this to your attention is so that you can ensure yourselves and your staff members are aware of these safeguarding concerns and alert to them.





Coventry Safeguarding Children Board: Briefing on Breast Ironing

Background

Breast ironing, also known as breast flattening, is the pounding and massaging of a pubescent girl's breasts using hard or heated objects, to try to make them stop developing or to disappear. Breast Ironing is typically carried out by the girl's mother with the belief that she is protecting the girl from sexual harassment and rape, or to prevent early pregnancy that would tarnish the family name, or to allow the girl to pursue education rather than be forced into early marriage.

The practice has been documented primarily in Cameroon, but is also practiced in Guinea-Bissau, Chad, Togo, Benin, and Guinea.

Breast ironing is extremely painful and can cause tissue damage. Other possible health impacts include breast infections, the formation of abscesses, malformed breasts or the eradication of one or both breasts. The practice ranges dramatically in its severity, from using heated leaves to press and massage the breasts, to using a scalding grinding stone to crush the budding gland. Due to the range of this activity, health consequences vary from limited to significant.

Global Prevalence

The UN estimates 3.8 million young women are at risk of breast ironing in Central and West Africa. It is widespread in Cameroon and other African countries.

National Prevalence

Around 1,000 girls in the UK are currently thought to be at risk of breast ironing. According to a UN report, 58 per cent of perpetrators are the victims' own mothers.

Prevalence in Coventry

It is estimated that 200 residents of all ages, males and females living in Coventry in 2011 were born in Cameroon.

This estimate comes from:

- There were 8,218 people born in countries categorised under 'Central and Western Africa: Other Central and Western Africa' in the whole of the West Midlands – 1,584 of whom lived in Coventry, 19.3%
- There were 1,123 people born in Cameroon living in the whole of the West Midlands 19.3% of this is 216, rounded to 200.

Other data suggests that this number may have grown but only modestly since 2011. The National Insurance Registration data from DWP shows an average of about 30 Cameroon nationals living in Coventry newly registering per year.

Coventry's Community Development Service work with new communities and they are aware of Kenyan, Somali, Zimbabwean and other 'African French

Professional Responsibilities

The data shows that whilst numbers will be small there may be women and girls living in Coventry who have been affected by, or are at risk of, breast ironing.

Although not explicitly considered currently under legislation, practitioners need to be aware of this practice. Breast ironing is physical abuse therefore professionals who are aware that a child has been affected by or are at risk of breast ironing must act in the best interest of protecting the child/young person and follow local safeguarding procedures.

Oxfordshire County Council: How we support victims of honour based abuse

On 14th July it was National Day of Memory for Victims of Honour Killings, a day to remember those who have lost their life as a result Honour Killings – which is defined as a violent crime or incident, committed with the belief that it will protect or defend the honour of the family or community.

It would have been Shafilea Ahmed's 30th birthday, but Shafilea was tragically murdered by her parents in an honour killing when she was just 17 years old.

In the UK, it is estimated that 12 honour killings happen each year. However, these figures are believed to be severely underestimated due to lack of focused reporting and victims' reluctance to come forward.

We challenge you to break this silence by encouraging conversations about Honour Killings with colleagues, friends, and family members.

Our organisation has a duty to protect and support the most vulnerable people in our society and as part of our work, we have commissioned the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service to provide emotional support and practical information to anyone affected by domestic abuse, including honour based abuse.

The service provides support to people over the phone and face to face and gives them access to confidential refuges where victims can stay temporarily with their children and escape their abusive relationship, family or community.

Support is given to children in the refuge, to help them recognise abusive and non-abusive behaviours and access other services and agencies.

If you suspect that someone you know is a victim of domestic or honour based abuse, please share information about our service with them.

They can contact the ODAS helpline for free on 0800 731 0055. The helpline is open Monday – Friday from 9.30am – 6pm, and Saturday from 10am – 4pm.

Victims can also get confidential support – without fear of their family being contacted – from [Karma Nirvana](#), a charity that supports victims and survivors of forced marriage and honour based abuse. If you know of someone who could benefit from their support, encourage them to call 0800 5999 247.

Always remember the one chance rule

You may only have one chance to speak to a victim. If you have any concerns, take them seriously and act immediately.

Develop your understanding

If you come into contact with young people and their families as part of your job, our Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board has created an [eLearning course](#) to support you to develop your understanding of honour based violence and forced marriage.

Find out more...

If you need advice or support about how to refer someone to our domestic abuse service, or for information about support groups and outreach services, contact the team at oxfordshiredomestic@a2dominion.co.uk.

Joint Targeted Area Inspection

The outcome of the inspection in March 2016 provides reassurance that young people in Oxfordshire are significantly safer from sexual exploitation as a result of all agencies' heightened levels of understanding and investment. Tan Lea – Strategic Safeguarding Partnerships Manager – is finalising an action plan that we will use to guide improvements in safeguarding across different agencies. Areas for improvement match those identified by partners in the local self-assessment of performance. In short, the action plan will focus on:

- The front door of services and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH);
 - Standards of practice;
 - Resource and performance management.
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New Arrangement for Children's Services

The local authority is required, as a result of government funding reductions and the need to respond to the rising demand for children's social care services, to make savings. The council is currently in the process of saving £361m from 2010-2020, £6m of which is coming from early intervention hubs and children's centres.

The council consulted and then approved a new service model for an integrated children's social care and early intervention service to support children and families in Oxfordshire. The new service for 0-19 year olds (25 where child has special educational needs) and their families will provide a co-ordinated service that targets resources on protecting the most vulnerable families and will work hand in hand with schools and settings, health partners, Thames Valley Police and voluntary sector partners. These services will be delivered from eight Children and Family Centres across Oxfordshire at the following buildings:

- Banbury Early Intervention Hub
- Bicetser Early Intervention Hub
- West Oxfordshire Early Intervention Hub
- The Roundabout Centre, Barton
- Rose Hill and Littlemore Children Centre
- Blackbird Leys Children's Centre
- Abingdon Early Intervention Hub
- Didcot Early Intervention Hub

Locality and Community Support Service

A new Locality and Community Support Service will be created to provide advice and guidance to universal services, including schools, health services and voluntary and community groups to enable them to support vulnerable children, young people and families. The service will identify emerging needs and safeguarding concerns with localities and be the first point of contact for universal services which have concerns. The service will be organised into three teams: North, Central and South. This will be a significant preventative service, enabling vulnerable children to be identified and support put in place before concerns escalate.

Family Support Service

The new Family Support Service will integrate the existing Children's Social Care family support teams with the family support functions currently undertaken in the Early Intervention Service. The service will provide timely support and interventions to vulnerable families, respond to crises within families, support programmes for children and families, co-ordinate services with the local Children and Families Centre and outreach to venues other than Children and Family Centres. The development of an integrated service will increase capacity to support the most vulnerable children and focus resources on children in need to prevent further escalation of their needs.

Oxfordshire Together Communities Initiative

The County Council is also working with local communities to support the continuation of open access sessions, such as stay and play and youth group sessions, where the council can no longer provide funding for these services. As part of the Oxfordshire Together programme, we would like to hear from communities who would be interested in running open access activities from any of the above centres, or any other existing children's centre sites not designated as a new Children and Family Centre, shared locality base, or outreach centre. View or download the communities' initiative framework, access FAQs and other information on www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiretogether or email localities@oxfordshire.gov.uk for more information or to start discussions on proposals.

Review of Early Help Tools and Resources for Families

As part of the service transformation, the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), Team Around the Child/Family (TAC/TAF) and Threshold of Need (ToN) documents are being reviewed.

The CAF is a standardised approach to identifying a child's additional needs and deciding how these should be met. The TAF follows on from this; it is a plan which brings those supporting a family together in a coordinated, holistic way to plan how to support these needs. The ToN document aims to describe the different levels of children's needs and the associated services and provision offered at each level.

Work is currently underway with partner agencies, children and families to develop and update these tools, ensuring they are based on a whole family approach to working. The aim is that these new tools and resources will be rolled out for use later this year along with an updated and revised training schedule.

If you would like to know more about the process and proposed changes to the CAF/TAF and ToN then please contact eiservicesreview@oxfordshire.gov.uk

OSCB Training

There is a still lot going on in the training section of the OSCB. We remain very busy throughout the year and continue to be on the lookout for volunteer trainers to deliver our courses; if you are interested in becoming a trainer please contact Gay Suggitt or Nicole Connelly via email: oscb.training@oxfordshire.gov.uk or via telephone: 01865 815843

Dates for September to December have now been added onto the online training/booking system and are available to book.

For those of you who have not been 100% with our online system, the good news is that we will be introducing a new system for the new financial year!

Please be reminded that most of our courses are running at maximum capacity with many delegates not able to book onto the courses that they want to attend. If delegates book a place and then subsequently don't attend without notifying the training team then this means that the place is wasted. Please remember to cancel if you know that you can no longer attend so that someone else is able to take the place.

Don't forget that we are still running a full programme on our risky behaviour courses, including the Drugs and Alcohol Awareness course. We know from recent case reviews that the issue of substance misuse remains an ongoing issue for young people (and parents) and that there is a need for practitioners to better understand it as a risk factor. Furthermore the panel which reviews all child deaths in Oxfordshire (CDOP – Child death overview panel) has recommended that the OSCB promote this training to health professionals to ensure that they are clear about the issues around young people and substance misuse. This is an opportunity for you to check what you think you know and fill in gaps where you may be uncertain.

The below Risky Behaviour / Specialised courses have been scheduled and will be added onto the system once venues have been confirmed:

More courses are still in the process of being arranged: i.e *Young People and Mental Health, Healthy and Unhealthy Sexual Behaviours*;

Month	Date	Day	Course	Course Length	Venue
Sept 2016	28th	Wed	Safeguarding Young Carers	09:30 - 16:30	TBC
Oct 2016	11th	Tues	Working with Young Men & Boys	09:30 - 16:30	County Hall, Oxford
Oct 2016	12th	Wed	E-Safety	09:30 - 16:30	TBC
Oct 2016	Tues	18th	Drugs & Alcohol Awareness	09:30 - 16:30	TBC
Oct 2016	Wed	19th	Consent and Sexual Health Awareness	09:30 - 15:30	TBC
Nov 2016	25th	Fri	Safeguarding Disabled Children	09:30 - 13:00	County Hall , Oxford

Education Update / News

LETTER FROM BARRY ARMSTRONG

Re: Keeping Children Safe in Education

You will probably already know that the Department for Education (DfE) have recently been consulting on changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015. This consultation ended a few months ago and has led to a revised version for 2016.

The revised version of Keeping Children Safe in Education will come into force with effect from 5 September 2016. A copy of this revised document is available through the DfE website, but for ease I have attached it [here](#).

There are a number of changes and additions to the new guidance, and helpfully the DfE have produced a table that sets out the changes from the 2015 version – which you will find towards the end of the document.

Some of the amendments and additions are more about style than substance but there are others that are important and need to be understood, for example:

- All staff must now not just read Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education but must also understand it. Schools need to think about how they are going to ensure that staff have understood it.
- Introduction of two further recruitment checks; a Section 128 direction (which is specific to independent schools, academies, and free schools) and EEA checks (European Economic Area) for staff who trained or taught in Europe. This is a check across Europe to see if any other European country has introduced sanctions on an individual. Information about both of these recruitment checks can be found [here](#).

We will discuss the key changes in the new guidance through our next round of area safeguarding forums, but I would urge you to read through the document to identify changes and implications for yourselves as well.

Over the next few weeks, we will be updating the schools safeguarding audit and annual report to match the requirements through the new guidance. Additionally an updated template of the Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy will also be added to our website ideally before the end of term.

Yours faithfully,



Barry Armstrong
Local Authority Designated Officer

LADO Team

Barry Armstrong, the current Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will leave his post at the end of the summer 2016.

The OSCB Team would like to thank him for invaluable contribution to safeguarding and keeping children in Oxfordshire safe and want to wish Barry Armstrong all the best in his exciting future role.

Please contact the Assistant Designated Officers:

Alison Beasley: Alison.Beasley@oxfordshire.gov.uk on 01865 323457 or

Donna Crozier: Donna.Crozier@oxfordshire.gov.uk on 01865 816382;

Or the Admin Team on;

Louisa.Sexton@oxfordshire.gov.uk on 01865 323052

Schools/ Settings Prevent Checklist:

1. Are all staff aware of their statutory duty in relation to Prevent introduced through the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015?
2. a) Has the school/ setting identified a lead staff member or members in relation to Prevent?

b) Has this member of staff accessed training to support this role (i.e. WRAP Training)?
3. Do your schools/ settings policies reflect the Prevent requirements;
For example has your child protection policy, safe recruitment policy, code of conduct, whistleblowing, contractors, visitors and hiring or leasing policies all been updated to reflect the Prevent agenda and the requirement to uphold fundamental British values?
4. Have all staff accessed appropriate Prevent training?
5. Does your school/ setting promote fundamental British values within the curriculum and elsewhere?
6. Are all staff clear on what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned that a child is being exposed to extremist grooming?
(Procedure should simply be the same route as every other safeguarding concern)
7. Does the Governing Body/ Proprietor/ Committee have an awareness of Prevent?
8. Does the schools/ settings IT system have effective filters to ensure children are not exposed to terrorism or extremist material?



Press release: Speak up about FGM this cutting season – everyone can help!

Local charity, Oxford Against Cutting, has released a new message this summer to help protect girls at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM). The message is for fathers, brothers and grandfathers and reads: “Men! Speak up to protect a girl at risk of FGM – everyone can help”.

FGM can involve the cutting of the clitoris and labia and stitching the vaginal opening. Girls, usually aged between babyhood and 15 years of age, may be at increased risk during the summer “cutting season”. Families who want their daughters cut usually return to countries of origin to carry out the practice as part of a cultural ceremony. This also means wounds can heal over the long summer break and girls return to school without being in obvious pain.

Last year, Oxford Against Cutting ran a poster campaign depicting a girl taking off a gag to speak up against FGM. The poster was based on the winning drawing by a young artist who entered the charity’s art competition. This year, the charity is appealing to a wider audience and encouraging men to take an active role to help stop the practice. The winning artist has created a new drawing, this time with an African man taking off a gag to speak up. Helpline numbers are listed for advice and support. The posters will be displayed across Oxford in GP surgeries, community centres, police stations and schools.

Fatou Ceesay, Community Outreach Director of the charity, said “FGM, sometimes known as female circumcision, affects whole families and should not be seen as purely a “girls’ and women’s issue”. If a girl is cut, she is likely to suffer pain and trauma in her married life and this can cause great unhappiness between couples. FGM can lead to health problems such as infertility, post-traumatic stress disorder and difficulty in labour. FGM is often arranged by mothers, grandmothers and aunts but the harm impacts everyone in the family. Although men may not be the decision-makers when it comes to FGM, they certainly have a role to play and could stop it happening in families if they speak up”.

Kate Agha, Executive Director said: “We set up the charity early last year and have witnessed many girls and women in Oxford joining initiatives to help tackle FGM. We now need to move to the next stage and identify the men who can help prevent the practice. It is important that men from FGM communities understand what happens if their daughter is cut and how this will impact on her life. FGM is a difficult subject to talk about in any culture, for both men and women, however it’s only by talking to each other we can end harmful cultural practices and focus on enjoying the non-harmful practices”. Kaddy Touray, Rose Community Trainer and Advisor said “People are nervous about speaking up because they are worried about offending people. It is not always straight forward to assess a girl’s risk but if anyone is at all worried, they should get advice. Our message in this campaign is to speak up. The helplines are for everyone, not only girls at risk. You can call anonymously and the people on the helpline will tell you if there are concerns and whether they need more information.”

Oxford Against Cutting works to help prevent FGM of girls and women living in Oxford by facilitating arts projects with schools, education, training for school staff and awareness-raising campaigns. The charity has also set up the Rose Community, a network for survivors and people who care and runs regular events.

If you or someone you know may be at risk of FGM, please speak up and call the **NSPCC** 0800 028 3550 (FGM Helpline) - a free 24hr service for advice, information or support (or email: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk) or

MASH, Oxfordshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on **0845 050 7666** (or email: mash-childrens@oxfordshire.gcsx.gov.uk).

If someone is at **immediate risk**, call the police on 999.

The Oxford Rose Clinic, a specialist FGM clinic based at the John Radcliffe Hospital, accepts self-referrals via email: oxfordrose.clinic@nhs.net and is a confidential service open to pregnant and non-pregnant women that is run by a female doctor. For further information visit the charity's website: www.oxfordagaincutting.org



NSPCC Schools Service 'Speak Out. Stay Safe' Programme

The NSPCC Schools Service visits primary schools in Oxfordshire to help prevent abuse and empowers children to speak out and stay safe. (The programme used to be called the 'ChildLine Schools Service').

We have visited over 150 primary schools and 9,910 children in Oxfordshire so far.

The aims of the programme are to:

- Ensure children have an understanding of abuse in all its forms and an ability to recognise the signs of abuse
- Ensure children know how to protect themselves from all forms of abuse, including sexual, physical and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying
- Make them aware of how to get help and sources of help

We have an assembly for KS1 and another for KS2 (for 30 minutes each). We return to the school a week later to workshops in each Year 5 and 6 class (for one hour per class).

The programme has been endorsed by the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board.

Please contact the Area Coordinator, Imogen McCabe, to arrange a visit or for more information:

imogen.mccabe@nspcc.org.uk or 07740153459

Useful Information / Updates

The Children and Social Work Bill

The Bill was introduced into House of Commons on 19 May. The main elements are: Adoption, Looked after children and care leavers, regulating social work and Safeguarding. Safeguarding includes: ensuring lessons are learnt from SCRs and support for innovation in children's social care, allowing local authorities to trial innovative approaches

Link: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/notes/contents>
<http://www.familylawweek.co.uk/site.aspx?i=ed160960>

Department for Education Wood Review 2016: into role and function of Local Safeguarding Children's Boards

The Wood review stated that for multi-agency working to be strong and effective it needs to be responsive and involve the right people. A new system is needed which will guarantee accountability. It set out a number of tasks that the government would do including

- A new statutory framework underpinned by legislation and guidance
- Requirement on main partners to publish plans of how they will work together
- Removing requirements for set membership

The review into SCRs recommended that the Government would

- Replacing current system with one of national and local reviews
- Establishment of a national panel to commission reviews for national learning

£20m funding for What works and centralisation of case reviews

Links: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/news-opinion/government-responds-wood-report-lscbs-scrcs/>

Department for Education (DfE) (2016) [Review of the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards: the government's response to Alan Wood CBE \(PDF\)](#). [London]: Department for Education (DfE)

UNCRC publish observations of its review of children's rights in the UK

Recommendations include: prohibit all corporal punishment in the family; invest in child and adolescent mental health services; develop and implement comprehensive multi-sectoral strategies on child exploitation and abuse, including online abuse.

Link:

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fGBR%2fCO%2f5&Lang=en

NSPCC/SCIE Learning into Practice project publishes practical tools to help improve quality and use of SCRs

As part of the Learning into Practice Project with SCIE and funded by the Department of Education (DfE) the NSPCC have published a series of reports and resources to share what they've learnt and provide practical tools to help improve the quality and use of serious case reviews.

This includes:

- An overview and set of 14 briefings looking at practice issues identified in an analysis of 38 serious case reviews.
- A set of 18 quality markers to support LSCBs and reviewers in commissioning and conducting high quality case reviews.

Link: <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/news-opinion/improving-quality-serious-case-reviews>

New Practice publications

New publications

- Violence and abuse in adolescent relationships,
- Team-Based Learning Resources to assess and support parental capacity to change,
- Working with attachment in children and care givers,
- the evidence on reflective supervision,

Link: <https://www.rip.org.uk/news-and-views/latest-news/new-releases-violence-attachment-tbl-reflective-april2016/>

30,000 Childline counselling sessions featured mental health concerns

1 in 3 ChildLine counselling sessions featured a mental health concern last year with one sixth of those involving abuse or neglect.

Link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/news-opinion/mental-health-problems-most-common-reason-contact-childline/>

Investigating the availability of UK services for children and young who have experienced sexual abuse or exploitation

University of Bedfordshire have published a report.

Findings included a lack of sufficient funding and long term funding, waiting list on average of 3 months but up to a year, provider perception of difficulty in accessing CAMHS, services typically 9-5, few referrals from health education and police

Link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/2016/mapping-therapeutic-services-sexual-abuse-uk-2015/>

Mental Health and Wellbeing in Looked After Children

Commons Education Select Committee report produced recommendations in following areas – workforce development, school provision, accessing CAMHS, service integration and leadership, participation of looked after children in decision making

Link: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmeduc/481/481.pdf>

Mental health services failing children with life-threatening conditions

Data received by the Childrens Commissioner from 28 Trusts showed that over a quarter of children (28%) who were referred for specialist mental health treatment in 2015 did not receive a service. 60 trusts were requested to provide information into their CAMHS provision, 48 responded

Link: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/news/mental-health-services-failing-children-life-threatening-conditions>

Transforming Mental Health Services for Children who have experienced abuse

NSPCC review of local transformation and identified key themes that characterised strong plans to support the reviews in 2016/17

Link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/transforming-mental-health-services-children-experienced-abuse.pdf>

In Care, Out of Trouble – independent review chaired by Lord Laming

Report into how the life chances of children in care can be transformed by protecting them from unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice system

This review was established to examine the reasons for, and how best to tackle, the over representation of children in care, or with experience of care, in the criminal justice system. It is aimed at encouraging good practice and ensuring that sound quality standards become the everyday experience for each and every child in care

The report demonstrates what can be achieved, given a clear vision, a commitment to timely joint working across the key agencies and a belief in the unique value of each child.

Link: <http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/In%20care%20out%20of%20trouble%20summary.pdf>
<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/2016/05/24/laming-social-workers-get-legal-duty-attend-court-looked-children/>

Police Innovation Fund funds project to reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences

South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner and Public Health Wales project, funded by the Home Office's Police Innovation Fund, has been secured to allow police and others including the NSPCC to intervene early and support families who are dealing with ACEs. (verbal, physical and sexual abuse and domestic violence) Police hope that preventing adverse childhood experiences will protect children from harm and lower the risk of them offending in adult life.

Link: <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/care-challenges-blog/1157399/helping-prevent-adverse-childhood-experiences>

A summary of key lessons from serious case reviews on the practice of returning children home from care

A summary of key lessons from **serious case reviews** on the practice of **returning children home from care**. This was written by the NSPCC as part of its **learning from case reviews** series. Findings include: professionals need to carefully plan and prepare for the reunification, and continue to monitor the child's safety and wellbeing before, during and after the return.

Link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/case-reviews/learning/returning-children-home-from-care/>

Research into suicide in under 20s (Research)

Research published by University Manchester following a comprehensive national multi-agency study of suicide in under 20s in England.

Findings include: the risk of suicide rose sharply from mid-to-late teens; experiences linked to suicide include bereavement, bullying, exams and physical health conditions

Improved services for self-harm and mental health are crucial to suicide prevention, but the wide range of antecedents emphasises the roles of schools, primary care, social services, and the youth justice system

Link: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(16\)30094-3/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(16)30094-3/fulltext)

Perils and Possibilities

A Unicef report of young people's perceptions of the risks they face growing up in a digital world

Link: http://www.unicef.org/endviolence/endviolenceonline/files/UNICEF_Growing-up-online.pdf

Referrals to Child Protection Services (research)

The University of Central Lancashire has published a report on **referrals to children's services and child protection in England** 1 in 5 children are referred to child protection services and 1 in 9 are investigated before the age of 5

Link: <http://bjsw.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2016/05/19/bjsw.bcw054>

Inquiry into the safeguarding of Absent Children

A report Published by the All-party Parliamentary Group for Runaway and missing Children and Adults chaired by Ann Coffey MP recommended the 'absent' category for missing children be replaced by a new medium, low, high category based on risk assessment and better data sharing amongst police

Link: <http://anncoffeymp.com/scrap-dangerous-police-recording-system-for-missing-children/>
https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/appg-absent-inquiry-final-report-may-2016-embargoed_0.pdf

Meeting the needs of young people with learning disabilities who experience or are at risk of sexual exploitations

Research led by Coventry University with Children's Society and in partnership with Barnardos and BILD. Also includes young people with autism and ADHD

Link: <http://www.reconstruct.co.uk/public/docs/Meeting%20the%20needs%20of%20young%20people%20with%20learning%20disabilities.pdf>

New on line resource for families of children with mental health

Mind-ed for families provides advice and information on line with an aim to support families to build resilience, strengthen coping strategies and bring forward early effective intervention.

Link: <http://minded.e-lfh.org.uk/families/index.html>

Statistics on FGM Jan-Mar 2016

The Independent reports on data from the Health and Social Care Information Centre, which finds that from January - March 2016 there were 1,242 newly recorded cases of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) reported across the NHS in England. 29 of the new recorded cases were on girls under 18, of which 11 were born in the UK.

Link: <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/article/2021/Website-Search?productid=21072&q=FGM&sort=Most+recent&size=10&page=1&>

Tackling online grooming/

The Daily Telegraph features an article by Peter Wanless, CEO of the NSPCC, calling for global transparency on the numbers of paedophiles using internet services to groom young victims.

Source / Link: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/06/companies-who-profit-from-the-internet-must-be-honest-about-thos/>

TRAINING**Identifying and supporting young people who self-harm**

A learning day for professionals who work with children and young people

It aims to promote confidence in addressing the issue of self-harm through greater knowledge and understanding.

The UK has one of the highest rates of self-harm in Europe. For professionals working with young people, learning to spot risk factors, and knowing what to do about it, are essential.

28 September 2016, Birmingham

To book, please visit: www.ccclimited.org.uk.

0115 916 3104 or email us conferences@ccclimited.org.uk

**Redefining Child Sexual Exploitation:
Safeguarding Children and Young People from Abuse**

An interactive seminar for all professionals involved in child safeguarding to hear from UK's leading experts about the latest developments in child sexual exploitation. The aim is for delegates to have gained an improved understanding that will equip them with the necessary skills and tools to protect children from CSE.

Wednesday 7th September 2016

To book, please visit: <http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/GI07-PPE>