



Safeguarding Newsletter

Issue 28: Jun 2018

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Welcome Message

from Paul Burnett, Chair, Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board

Welcome to the Summer edition of the OSCB. Please share this as widely as possible across your organisation. It provides you with links to some recently updated resources:

- [Procedures manual](#) which tells you 'what to do if... / when...'
- [Training website](#) which enables easier sight and booking of courses
- [Neglect practitioner portal](#), which has guidance and resources for identifying and working with families where neglect is an issue



We continue to anticipate publication, by the Department for Education, of the revised version of Working Together that will enable us to finalise our plans for future 'safeguarding arrangements' in Oxfordshire. We do not plan any significant change in our existing arrangements but our plans do need to be tested against the Government's revised framework and expectations. We intend to finalise our plans at our Board meeting on 14th June providing the DfE has published their paper before then.

At the same meeting we will sign off our new Business Plan that sets out priorities for action in 2018/19. The three key priorities are:

- 1) increasing the effectiveness of the board, partnership working with the OSAB and community engagement;
- 2) working to address neglect and safeguarding adolescents;
- 3) to take robust action following learning to challenge improvements as well as to assess safeguarding risk and impact from reduced resources

Clearly our priorities address some of the issues identified in the recent Ofsted inspection report that features in this newsletter but OSCB will need to ensure it incorporates into its Plan other areas for improvement flagged by Ofsted.

Sadly, this will be my last OSCB newsletter foreword since I retire at the end of June 2018. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone in our safeguarding partnership for their support to the Board but most importantly to the children and young people of Oxfordshire.

In both my periods of office as Independent Chair I have been impressed by the commitment, hard work and impact of colleagues across the county to continually develop and further improve safeguarding effectiveness. I am confident that the partnership will move from strength to strength as you implement new arrangements under new independent leadership. It has been an honour and privilege to work alongside you and could not have asked for a better place to conclude my long career in working with children and young people.

OFSTED Inspection Findings



Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services Judgement Announcement 22 May 2018

Latest Update from Lucy Butler

As of 9:30am this morning, Ofsted have published the findings from their inspection of Oxfordshire County Council Children's Services, and I am thrilled to announce that we have maintained our GOOD rating!

A full copy of the inspectors' report can be found on the [Ofsted website](#). Here is a summary of their judgement report:

Judgement Report

Judgement	Grade
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Good
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Requires improvement to be good
The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers	Good
Overall effectiveness	Good

Help and Protection

The inspection report notes that:

- The large majority of children in need of help and protection in Oxfordshire receive an effective service. However, not all children are consistently well served and a small number of children do not receive a response proportionate to their needs.
- The response to neglect is not timely or effective for all children.
- Pre-proceedings are not always used early or proactively enough to manage risk.
- A small number of children do not receive a response proportionate to their needs.
- Children's care plans comprehensively document children's needs, but are not always rigorous enough in setting out clear, specific action and timescales for meeting them.

However the inspectors noted that a significant rise in demand across all areas of the service, combined with a reduction in resources as part of council-wide efficiency savings has contributed to a decline in the quality of some services, particularly for those children in need of help and protection. But they recognised that we have taken rigorous action to respond to this deterioration, with our restructure and transformation programme.

LAC & Care Leavers

The inspection report notes that:

- Children in care and care leavers receive a good service.
- Despite pressures on the availability of placements, the majority of children live with carers, who effectively meet their needs.
- An enhanced offer to children in care, including the creation of a residential edge-of-care service, is beginning to stabilise the number of children in care in Oxfordshire.
- Social workers and managers demonstrate a strong commitment to achieving permanence for children.
- The timeliness and quality of assessments of friends and family carers are not yet consistently good.

Leadership

The inspection report notes that:

- The Director of Children's Services (DCS) and her determined senior leadership team have worked resolutely to re-build the service.
- Significant additional financial investment, combined with a large-scale restructure in 2017, has led to an improved early help service, increased capacity in frontline staffing and an enhanced service for children in care.
- The local authority has rightly focused attention on establishing a strong, stable workforce creating an environment for social work practice to flourish.
- Children in care are influential in shaping the service through the active and prominent Children in Care Council. The Oxfordshire Care Leaver's Association, a social enterprise initiative run by care leavers, is helping to design services and to coach and mentor children in care.

What Ofsted say needs to improve

- The identification of the impact of the cumulative effect of neglect on children and the timeliness of interventions in response to children's escalating needs.
- The timeliness and effectiveness of pre-proceedings work, including the early identification and response to concerns regarding unborn children.
- The timeliness and quality of friends and family assessments.
- The understanding of thresholds for early help to ensure that children do not receive unnecessary statutory intervention.

What happens now

The recommendations from Ofsted's report will help us develop an action plan for continuous improvement, that will feed into our existing transformation and Fit For the Future project work.

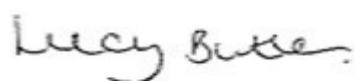
Keep an eye out for updates on our action plan and next steps in the monthly CEF newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you that worked so incredibly hard for the inspection and continue to do so.

I can't tell you enough how proud I am of your continuing commitment and contributions to ensuring we provide the children, young people and families of Oxfordshire the best start in life.

Peter Clark, Jonathan McWilliam and our Lead Members, Cllr Harrod and Cllr Hibbert-Biles have also asked me to pass on their thanks and praise for such a worthy recognition of your hard work.

All the best



Lucy Butler

Director of Children's Services

Board News

Update from the board.

The OSCB is completing its end of year analysis. At its June Board meeting it will receive reports on serious case reviews, quality assurance, safeguarding standards and child death. One of the roles of the board members is to draw out themes for practice improvement.

At its latest meeting the OSCB summed up what the learning points have been this year in Oxfordshire following work on four serious case reviews. Some of the emerging, repeated themes have been:

1. **Curiosity:** being curious about the family's past history, relationships and current circumstances in a way that moves beyond reliance on self-reported information
2. **Responding to physical abuse:** professionals identifying it, listening to children and following procedures to properly investigate
3. **The role of schools in keeping children safe:** understanding that school attendance is a critical factor to support opportunity, well-being and safety
4. **Professional understanding of the implications of elective home education:** actively knowing which agencies are in touch with the family and to what effect
5. **Taking a cumulative view when working with children:** not seeing events in a linear way but weighing up risks over time and keeping previous events in mind (using chronologies)
6. **Parental wellbeing:** mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse are recurring themes

7. **Fragmented management of health needs:** ensuring effective communication across services for co-ordinated and consistent management of care
8. **Children's emotional wellbeing:** increasing evidence of self-harm by children aged 10 years & above
9. **Children's limited capacity to protect themselves** as they move into adolescence after experiencing a lack of consistent, supportive parenting in their early years (long lasting impact of neglect)
10. **Rethinking 'did not attend' to 'was not brought'**

OSCB Training

Course availability

In addition to the three core safeguarding courses that the OSCB delivers, we also offer an additional programme of courses on specialised subjects. The following courses are live on the OSCB system and available to book.

Course	Date	Time	Venue
Early Help Assessment	10.07.18	09:30 – 13:00	Barton Children and Family Centre
Consent and Sexual Health Awareness	11.09.18	09:30 – 12:30	North venue TBC
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - An introduction	14.09.18	09:30 – 13:00	Jubilee House, 5510 John Smith Drive, Oxford Business Park South, Oxford
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	26.09.18	09:30 – 16:30	South venue TBC
Young People and Mental Health	28.09.18	09:30 – 16:00	County Hall, Oxford
The Journey to Belonging: Supporting Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in Oxfordshire	16.10.18	09:30 – 16:30	Christian Life Centre, 300 Cowley Road
Consent and Sexual Health Awareness	15.01.19	09:30 – 12:30	County Hall, Oxford
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	16.01.19	09:30 – 16:30	County Hall, Oxford
Young People and Mental Health	28.01.19	09:30 – 16:00	County Hall, Oxford

Please remember that we introduced a new training platform in September 2017, so if you haven't yet registered as a user via <http://training.oscb.org.uk> you will need to do so before you can book a place on any of the training courses.

undertaking assessments or developing plans, identifies six key issues in family work and also signposts additional support for professionals such as the neglect practitioner portal, themes and tools on the OSCB website and the troubled families' employment advisers.



Community Around the School Offer

Please see the link below - this document sets out the Community Around Schools Offer to educational settings within Oxfordshire.

Currently the Locality and Community Support Service (LCSS) is offering a named link worker to schools. School Health Nurses (SHN) are based in secondary schools and CAMHS have offered In Reach Workers to all Secondary Schools too. There will be CAMHS In Reach Workers provided for primary schools aligned with the SHN primary model.

Attached to this offer you will see contact details relevant to your schools for:

- o Locality and Community Support Service (LCSS) Link Workers
- o CAMHS (In Reach Workers
- o School Health Nurses

You will also see contacts and roles for the following agencies who have agreed to contribute to this offer when there is a need:

- o Police
- o Education Inclusion Service
- o Young Carers
- o Special Educational Needs Support Services (SENS)
- o Oxfordshire School Inclusion Team (OXISIT)
- o Informed PSHE support service for schools
- o Education, Employment and Training (EET) service
- o Community Co-ordinators
- o Kingfisher (Child Sexual Exploitation)
- o Phoenix Team (Looked after Children's Health team)

<http://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Community-Around-the-School-Offer-.pdf>

Mind of My Own App



MOMO (Mind of My Own) app is live in Oxfordshire County Council!

We try hard to put children and young people at the heart of our work here but every time we make a decision which will affect one of the children or young people we work with, we need to be sure we've considered and evidenced their views. MOMO apps make this process easier, quicker and even fun and are successful in a number of other local authorities where young people, carers and staff value it.

Good for our children and young people...

The experience of using MOMO on their own or with their carer or worker will give our young people more confidence to speak up, attend meetings and articulate problems. They can use the app on their own, any time there's a problem or something they want to change. Or to help them prepare for a CP conference, LAC review, Social Worker's visit or to contribute to their Foster carer's Annual Household Review. They can also use it to tell us when they want to celebrate something important to them.

MOMO Express is an additional option designed for children under 11 or those who have communication difficulties to complete alongside their worker or carer.

How can you help?

Any child or young person whose case is open to a worker in Children's Social Care (Early Help, Child in Need, Child Protection or Looked After) can send a MOMO statement in to the worker they choose. Only workers with email addresses ending **oxfordshire.gov.uk** can have a MOMO worker account, however anyone can help a child or young person set up their own account. In fact, this is the priority so they can have access to sending in their views at any time and aren't dependent on a worker being with them. Our partners can help with this!

It's really very simple to learn how so please have a go on the demo at one-demo.mindofmyown.org.uk and click on the workers and carers tab to learn how to help a child sign up. MOMO requires an email address for a young person to sign up to an account. If the child has a personal or school email address then they are ready to sign up. However, if they don't, or if there is a reason why their use of internet is restricted then please contact their allocated worker or MOMO@oxfordshire.gov.uk for further advice. MOMO needs Wi-Fi to work and works on most phones and computers including android, iPhones/pads and home computers. A child can sign up for an account on one device but then use MOMO on any other they wish.



Please test the app out with them and help them think about what they want to say or support them to have the privacy to use it on their own.

Helping a child or young person to use the app is one way to make it easier to have meaningful conversations with a child about their views, wishes and feelings. MOMO guides the conversation then creates a clear and dynamic statement of their views that's easy to understand. The child selects which worker they wish to send their statement to and CSC administrative systems will update the worker and the child's electronic case file.

Please give it a go and promote it with the children and young people you are working with. Go to www.mindofmyown.org.uk for further information or contact MOMO@oxfordshire.gov.uk with any queries.

Safeguarding in Education

Early Years

Retention of child protection records

The NSPCC has published [guidelines on child protection records retention and storage](#). The guidelines cover the storage of child protection records; retention periods; recording concerns about adult behaviour; disclosure and barring checks; and the destruction of child protection records.

Scarlet fever

It has been widely reported about an outbreak of Scarlet Fever in Oxfordshire. The children's workforce settings should promptly notify their local Health Protection Team of suspected scarlet fever outbreaks. You can find out how to contact them at <https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team>

For more information:

- [Guidelines on Scarlet Fever outbreaks](#) including guidelines on Infection control advice
- [Guidance on notifiable diseases](#)
- Information on Health visiting services and support available can be found on the Oxfordshire [0-5 Public Health Service pages](#). These include [Useful links](#) which parents can be signposted to.

Dental Health

With the government's [Soft Drinks Industry Levy](#) coming into effect, [Public Health England](#) has released some startling statistics that every 10 minutes a child in England has a rotten tooth removed.

In 2016/17 nearly 450 children aged between 0-9 years old in Oxfordshire were admitted to hospital to have teeth extracted. Tooth decay is a mostly preventable condition but can lead to issues such as low self-esteem and confidence, pain, speech problems and days missed from school or settings.





Charlotte Iddon, Oxfordshire's Oral Health Improvement Manager recently delivered training to NQTs/Teachers new to the EYFS. It was a fun, interactive and informative. To find out more about the *Free* training and loaning resources (including the ones in the photo) contact

[Community Dental Services](#)

National Smile Month 14th May to 14th June 2018 is a way to raise awareness and promote the 3 key messages for better oral health for all;

1. Brush teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste
2. Eat less sugary food and drink
3. Visit dentist every 6 months

More info and ideas can be found at www.nationalsmilemonth.org

Alternatively contact the Oxfordshire Oral Health Improvement team for advice, training, leaflets or to borrow resources. ohp.oxfordshire@cds-cic.nhs.uk

Schools Safeguarding

Hannah Holland is now on maternity leave and we are pleased to share that we have recruited Charlotte Allen to cover Hannah. Charlotte is contactable on:

Mobile – 07919298311 or Landline – 01865 323918.

Our LADO Conference will be taking place on Friday 15th June 2018 at Unipart, Oxford. We will be arranging workshops that you will be able to pre-book and have various speakers joining us throughout the day. One of the topics we will be covering are cyber-bullying and issues relating to that.

Please see the attached flyer for further information

<http://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/conference-flyer-002-2.docx>

If you would like to book a place, please complete the booking form below

<http://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Booking-Form-Safeguarding-Conference-2018-1.docx>

and send it to lado.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Home Education: Call for Evidence and Revised Department for Education (DfE) Guidance

The Department for Education (DfE) is calling for evidence on greater oversight of children whose parents elect to educate them at home, and consultation on revised DfE guidance documents on arrangements for elective home education. The Open Consultation runs until 2nd July 2018.

The consultation has two parts. First, it is a call for evidence on issues connected with elective home education, in particular:

- a. registration of children educated at home;
- b. monitoring of home education provision; and
- c. support for home-educating families

Secondly, it seeks comment on draft versions of two DfE guidance documents about elective home education, one designed for local authorities and one for parents.

Please see the following link: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-frameworks/home-education-call-for-evidence-and-revised-dfe-a/>

Voluntary and Community Sector Update

Supporting voluntary and community groups to do safeguarding work.

The OSCB has developed a template safeguarding policy for local groups, as well as a checklist for those organisations who have a policy in place but want to check it has everything it should. The policy template and checklist are on the OSCB website <http://www.oscb.org.uk/vcs/>

SAFE! Training

SAFE! is running a **Protective Behaviours Foundation** course on the 14th and 15th June, 10am-4pm in Kidlington, Oxfordshire.

Protective Behaviours is an internationally recognised approach to building emotional literacy and resilience in children, young people and adults. It is a pragmatic approach to personal safety awareness encouraging empowerment and teaching strategies to counter abusive behaviour. The training will develop helpful exercises and approaches to be used widely in work with all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

This is an accredited course giving participants a foundation level certificate from the Protective Behaviours Consortium.

The cost for this 2 day course is £225 per participant.

SAFE! is running a two-day Restorative Approaches training on 21st and 28th June, 9.30 to 4pm in Didcot

Restorative Approaches are all about relationships – making, maintaining and, when necessary, repairing relationships

This two-day course provides an introduction to Restorative Approaches, restorative language and conflict management and form modules 1 & 2 of the full 4-day Restorative Practitioner training.

This training is aimed at: Head teachers, Senior Leadership Team, Anti-Bullying Leads, Teaching staff and Pastoral Support Staff. Suitable for primary and secondary schools.

The cost of this two day course is £200 per participant. To book your place, or to find out more, please email us on safe@safeproject.org.uk.

National Policy News

Guidance on homeless 16 and 17 year olds published

New government guidance has been published on the duties of children's services and housing services to provide accommodation for 16 and 17 year old children who are homeless. The guidance updates the 2010 version, in light of changes in homelessness and children's legislation.

The new guidance highlights the importance of children's services and housing services working together to plan and provide services that are centred on young people and their families, and prevent young people from being passed back and forth between services.

http://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Provision_of_accommodation_for_16_and_17_year_old_children_who_may_be_homeless.pdf

Children's Society Criminal Exploitation Toolkit

The Children's Society have developed a toolkit for professionals working with young people affected by criminal exploitation. This toolkit both raises professionals' awareness of the issue of 'county lines', and gives them the necessary skills and information to protect young people from it.

Please see the link below:

https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/toolkit_criminal_exploitation_and_county_lines.pdf

Sexting Platforms on Social Media

Please be aware of the following hashtags on multiple platforms, including #paypalme, #findom, #spoilme, #rinse, #drain, #paypig, #comeplaywithme and #cashfornudes which are used to exchange explicit images/videos/sexual messages for money.

An Oxfordshire young person was recently targeted online, asked for explicit photos and paid £40 each time. As pictures may not be identifiable and only an email address shared, vulnerable young people may see this as a 'low risk', easy way to make money. The young person then has no further control over the use and distribution of the images and may be subject to blackmail, fraud, victimisation and/or other abuse.

Where children and young people are targeted in this way, multiple laws are being broken (whether the exchange of money/images happens on the site or not), and the terms and conditions of the site broken.

Be mindful when completing internet safety, or when looking on Instagram pages to keep young people safe. Please see the following links for further information and resources on sexting and youth produced sexualised imagery:

Schools Safeguarding, <http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/internet-safety-and-cyberbullying>

NSPCC, <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/sexting/>

Thames Valley Police Hidden Harm Campaign, <https://releasd.com/p/83fb>

Prevent

The Prevent referral information form has recently been updated, please see below;

http://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/A_Prevent-Information-Sheet_Jpeg_0504182.jpg

Useful Information / Updates

NSPCC conference: How safe are our children? Growing up online

The NSPCC's annual conference takes place on 20-21 June 2018 in London. The conference will feature talks from sector leaders, and explore the latest research and insight on keeping children safe in the digital age. Speakers include Digital Secretary Matt Hancock MP, who will deliver the keynote address on day one, clinical psychologist, Professor Tanya Byron and experts from O2, Facebook, Snapchat, the Internet Watch Foundation and CEOP. The conference will also see the launch of the NSPCC's How safe are our children? 2018 report, a comprehensive overview of the latest child protection data from the UK.

Source: [NSPCC conference: How safe are our children? Growing up online](#)

Further information: [Conference schedule \(PDF\)](#)

Further information: [NSPCC #WildWestWeb campaign](#)

School referrals for mental health treatment

The NSPCC has released figures from a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to NHS Trusts in England looking at the number of referrals by schools seeking mental health treatment for pupils between 2014/15 and 2017/18. Figures show that: 123,713 referrals were made by schools during the period; 56% of referrals came from primary schools; and on average 183 referrals were made per school day in 2017/18.

Source: [NSPCC: School referrals for mental health treatment rise by over a third](#) **Date:** 14 May 2018

Further information: [NSPCC Are you there? campaign](#)

Keeping children safe in education: statutory guidance

The Department for Education (DfE) has published 2 new guidance documents for schools and colleges in England on keeping children safe in education, which will come into effect on 3 September 2018. Schools and colleges must continue to have regard to Keeping children safe in education 2016 until this point. Sections of the guidance, including those relating to multi-agency working and information sharing, will be updated again when the new Working together to safeguard children statutory guidance is published.

Source: [DfE website](#) **Date:** 17 May 2018

Further information: [Keeping children safe in education: statutory guidance for schools and colleges \(PDF\)](#)

[Keeping children safe in education: statutory guidance for schools and colleges. Part 1: information for all school and college staff \(PDF\)](#)

The NSPCC has published a briefing on the key updates to the statutory guidance.

Source: [NSPCC : Key updates to statutory guidance for schools in England](#) **Date:** 21 May 2018

Further information: [NSPCC briefing on key updates to statutory guidance for schools in England – Keeping children safe in education \(2018\) \(PDF\)](#)

Resources on preventing teenage relationship abuse

The PSHE Association has published teaching resources designed to support the government's Disrespect NoBody campaign to help prevent abusive behaviours within young people's relationships.

Source: [PSHE](#) **Date:** 17 May 2018

Further information: [Disrespect NoBody campaign](#)

Children's services

The Department for Education (DfE) has published a summary of responses from senior leaders in local authorities in England to questions asked in the Children's services omnibus survey. Findings from the third wave of the DfE Children's Services Omnibus Survey include: 84% of local authorities who responded said they had access to sufficient care placements for children aged under 5, and 61% said they were able to meet the demand for those aged 5-13; 4% of responding authorities said that children and young people in care are able to access the mental health support and services they need 'all the time' while 26% said this happened 'very often'.

Source: [DfE](#) **Date:** 17 May 2018

Further information: [Children's services omnibus: wave 3 \(PDF\)](#)

Transgender awareness in child and family social work

The Department for Education (DfE) has published research looking at evidence for transgender awareness in child and family social work in England. Findings from a rapid evidence review of literature; a content analysis of a sample of social work courses and semi-structured interviews with stakeholders include: the limited research identified suggests that transgender people commonly report having poor experiences within social and care settings; a lack of evidence around the inclusion of transgender issues in social work education in England; and interviews with stakeholders suggest that transgender people continue to have poor experiences when in contact with child and family social services.

Source: [DfE](#) **Date:** 17 May 2018

Further information: [Transgender awareness in child and family social work education; research report \(PDF\)](#)

Children experiencing domestic abuse

The BMJ has published findings from research carried out by the universities of Bristol, Queen Mary and Cambridge in the UK and McMaster and Western in Canada looking at evidence on the best ways to identify and respond to children experiencing domestic abuse. Findings from a review of 11 studies with 42 children, 220 parents, and 251 health care and social services professionals include: children and mothers wanted professionals to talk to children directly and engage them in safety planning; professionals preferred to engage with children via the parent, and did not perceive children exposed to domestic abuse as patients or clients in their own right; health care professionals should enquire about the child's safety when they see clinical signs of domestic violence and abuse in children.

Source: [The Conversation](#) **Date:** 09 May 2018

Further information: [Identification and initial response to children's exposure to intimate partner violence: a qualitative synthesis of the perspectives of children, mothers and professionals \(PDF\)](#)

Live-streaming

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has published findings from a study of the distribution of captures of live-streamed child sexual abuse which were publicly available online between August and October 2017. The study shows that children are being groomed, coerced and blackmailed into live-streaming their own sexual abuse over webcams, tablets and mobile phones. Findings from 2,082 images and videos assessed include: 96% depicted children on their own, typically in a home setting such as their own bedroom; 98% of imagery depicted children assessed as 13 years or younger; 96% of the imagery featured girls; and 40% of the imagery were Category A or B, which indicate serious sexual abuse. The UK Safer Internet Centre has published a blog including advice to parents and carers to help children to be safe online whilst live-streaming.

Source: [IWF](#) **Date:** 15 May 2018

Further information: [Trends in online child sexual exploitation: examining the distribution of captures of live-streamed child sexual abuse \(PDF\)](#)

[Staying safe online whilst live-streaming - advice for parents and carers](#)

[Net Aware](#)

Open consultation: asylum seeking children - family and friends care

The Department for Education (DfE) is seeking views on revisions made to the draft statutory guidance for local authorities to include asylum seeking children being brought to the UK under the Dublin III Regulation to join family or relatives. The deadline for responses is 04 July 2018.

Source: [DfE](#) **Date:** 10 May 2018

Further information: [Consultation on the revised statutory guidance for local authorities on family and friends care \(PDF\)](#) [Family and friends care: draft statutory guidance for local authorities \(PDF\)](#)

Mental health checks for new mothers

The Guardian reports that 60 MPs and peers have written to Steve Brine, the minister for public health and primary care, calling for all mothers in England to have an assessment of their emotional and mental health carried out by a GP, practice nurse or health visitor six weeks after the birth of their baby.

Source: [Guardian](#) **Date:** 14 May 2018

Foster carers

The Fostering Network has been published figures at the start of The Fostering Network's Foster Care Fortnight (14-27 May), which show that 8,100 new foster families are needed across the UK (6,800 in England, 550 in Scotland, 550 in Wales, and 200 in Northern Ireland), to ensure that all fostered children can be found the right foster home first time.

Source: [The Fostering network](#) **Date:** 14 May 2018

Parental neglect among affluent families

The BBC reports that Goldsmiths University has published findings from research looking at the issues that arise for social workers around discovering and confronting parental neglect in affluent families. Findings from a literature review and evidence and experiences from social workers working in 12 local authorities across England indicate that: the majority of the cases described by social workers concerned emotional neglect, although other forms of maltreatment, such as sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation and emotional abuse, were also identified; and that highly resistant parents were more likely to use legal advocates or the complaints procedures to challenge social workers.

Source: [BBC](#) **Date:** 14 May 2018

Further information: [An exploration of how social workers engage neglectful parents from affluent backgrounds in the child protection system \(PDF\)](#)

New podcast for social care sector

Research in Practice has launched a new podcast series, aimed at those working within social care sector. This free, open access resource is centred on five key areas: trauma, neglect, mental health, complex exploitation and strengths-based approaches.

Source: [Research in Practice](#) **Date:** 11 May 2018

Further information: [Podcasts](#)

Rise in teenage drug arrests

The Guardian reports that a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to police forces in England found a sharp rise in the number of arrests of teenagers for drug dealing. Data from 24 police forces shows that the number of arrests of under-18s for possession with intent to supply and supplying drugs rose by 28%, from 1,639 to 2,097, between 2013-2017. "County lines" trading, which involves young people being groomed to help urban gangs expand their drug dealing activities into smaller towns and rural areas, was cited as a contributing factor to the rise.

Source: [Guardian](#) **Date:** 12 May 2018

Children's social worker burnout

Community Care reports on a study about factors associated with burnout in social work, published in the journal Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research. Analysis based on a survey conducted from 2010-2013, of 3,786 social workers employed in 22 English local authorities found that: burnout levels were significantly higher among children's social workers than adults' social workers; with work engagement and administrative support having the biggest impact on burnout outcomes.

Source: [Community Care](#) **Date:** 14 May 2018

Further information: [Work engagement, burnout and personal accomplishments among social workers: a comparison between those working in children and adults' services in England \(PDF\)](#)

Glossary

CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CYP	Children and Young People Forum
DCS	Department of Children Services
EGA	Local Government Association
EIF	Early Intervention Foundation
EPI	Education Policy Institute
HBSC	Health Behaviour School-age Children
HMIP	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MP	Member of Parliament
NCB	National Children's Board
NHS FT	National Health Service Foundation Trust
OCVA	Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Association
OSAB	Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board
OSCB	Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board
SCR	Serious Case Review
SEN	Special Educational Needs