

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board



Newsletter

Issue 31: July 2019



Welcome to the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board quarterly newsletter.

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1. Welcome from the OSCB Chair

I am delighted once more to provide a foreword to this Summer edition of the OSCB newsletter. As ever the newsletter is full of useful information, articles and so on and I am indebted to all those involved for the work that goes in to producing such a comprehensive document.



As we have just had a Full OSCB Board, I thought it would be worth me touching on some of the items that we talked about.

We talked briefly about the fact that Oxfordshire submitted to government towards the end of May. I am very proud of the excellent engagement and work that went into the document from a range of people across the partnership and the fact that it really does reflect the strength and work of the existing partnership.

The Board also received the Child Death Overview Partnership Annual Report. The report details all children who died in Oxfordshire in the past year and seeks to see if there were modifiable factors or learning from them. These are clearly often heart-breaking situations and I do think we do this process as well as could be expected in such a difficult area.

There are some challenges ahead as we seek to combine our arrangements with Buckinghamshire due to changes in Working Together. We also have to look in more detail at those children who died in Oxfordshire but are not normally resident here. This is challenging when we are a Regional Centre in terms of complex hospital care in which a small but significant number of children die each year.

The Board also received the Child Review and Governance Group Annual Report detailing our work in examining those most challenging of cases, including those being considered for Serious Case Reviews.

We received the Performance and Quality Assurance Annual Report too, which included the Children and Adult's Self-Assessment Report. This details again that in many areas we are doing well, but there are clearly challenges around the level of demand on statutory services and the knock-on effect on our performance levels.

We received the first full draft of the Annual Report and I have to say I think it is brilliant. The Business Unit have risen to the challenge of making it a much briefer, pithier document. We are in the process of putting the finishing touches to it and then we will make it available to people. We will then move on to the production of the Business Plan.

Following the Board, we had the combined Board with the Adult Safeguarding Board and received updates on our joint priorities of Domestic Abuse, Transitions and Housing, as well as an update on the progress around addressing Modern Slavery. We agreed that we would continue with the same joint priorities for the coming year.

At the joint Board, we were pleased to introduce Sue Ross who is the incoming new Chair of the Adult Board – it will finally allow me to feel a little bit of an “old hand”!

By the time you read this, we will have had the latest version of Practice Week when Senior Managers across the partnership go back to the frontline and visit Services. While I was not able to participate on this one, I will look forward to the hearing the reflections, thoughts and feedback of those that do.

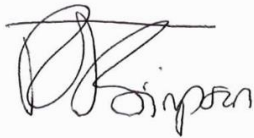
They invariably include just how impressed people are about what all of you are doing out there to protect children. They also usually come back with some thoughts about matters raised with them that we on the Board need to be ready to listen to – I look forward to hearing these too!

I also wanted to publicise this year's Annual Conference that will take place 12th March 2020 and will be around the Voice of Children and how to include it productively and positively in your work.

We are also thinking how we may build on last year's conference around Contextual Safeguarding and are looking to work with Barnardo's in a joint venture of working out what it means for our practice, etc.

Thank you for all that you do week in, week out to protect the children of Oxfordshire.

Best wishes



Chair of Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board

2. OSCB Training

It's been an even busier year for the OSCB Training Pool; according to our end of year figures for April '18 – March '19



- ✓ A total of 2628 multi agency practitioners have attended 123 core safeguarding courses
- ✓ 514 multi-agency practitioners trained on mental health, child sexual exploitation, working with men and boys, drugs and alcohol and sexual abuse
- ✓ 195 multi-agency practitioners trained on early help assessments
- ✓ 47 multi-agency practitioners trained on female genital mutilation/cutting
- ✓ 1554 early years multi-agency practitioners trained on safeguarding
- ✓ Total of 5,017 multi-agency practitioners have attended 254 safeguarding courses

This is an increase on the overall figures from 17/18 of 1163; a huge achievement and a great testimony to the commitment of all the trainers who are part of the OSCB Training Pool!

Non-attendance charging implemented

The OSCB would like to remind everyone that as from April 1st, 2019, we have implemented our charging policy of £50 for non-attendance on training courses and for late cancellations.



This has been a necessary move as during the last year 17/18, we would have collected £28,600 in charges. Many of our courses are fully booked and have large waiting lists of people who would like to attend, so it is very frustrating to see spaces not being used that have been booked.

OSCB COURSES COMING UP

Please remember that all OSCB courses are free of charge and are bookable via the OSCB website via <http://oscb.training@oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Each training delegate must be a registered user on the site, and once registered, each delegate is then able to book their place on courses. It is essential that delegates read the terms and conditions of booking for further information.

DATE	COURSE	TIMES	VENUE
12.08.19	Early Help Assessment	09:30 – 13:00	Didcot Children and Family Centre
16.09.19	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	09:30 – 16:30	County Hall, Oxford
25.09.19	Supporting LGBT Children, Young People and Families	09:30 – 16:30	Didcot Civic Hall
27.09.19	An Introduction to Children and Young People's Mental Health Awareness	09:30 – 16:00	County Hall, Oxford
16.10.19	Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - An introduction	09:30 – 13:00	Jubilee House
07.11.19	Sexual Abuse Workshop	09:30 – 12:30	County Hall

DOMESTIC ABUSE TRAINING

Domestic abuse training is arranged via the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board. In order to book a place, you will need to register on the OSAB booking portal [here](#)

The courses available are Basic Awareness, Children and Families, Risk Assessment and Safety Planning, and Champions.

We look forward to seeing you at a training event soon.

3. OSCB Learning and Improvement

Safeguarding Children at Risk of Exploitation Workshop 13th Sept 10-1130

From the 1st of September 2019 new partnership arrangements will be implemented to safeguard all Oxfordshire children at risk of exploitation.

We would like to invite you to attend a short workshop to learn about the new exploitation screening tool and the two main operational forums designed to deliver this work:

- **Children at Risk of Exploitation Network.** A multi-agency prevention network to discuss children at risk of exploitation who are not open to Children's Social Care (CSC)
- **Children Missing or Exploited Panel.** A panel who will discuss children who are currently open to CSC that have either gone missing and/or are being exploited.

The workshop will be delivered by Maria Godfrey and Dan Ruaux, on **Friday 13th Sept from 10-1130 at Unipart House.** To book a place, please see <https://training.oscb.org.uk>
NB Don't delay! Places are limited, and the previous 3 workshops were fully booked.

Please see the attached [Child Exploitation Screening Tool](#) and [Partnership Response Document](#) for further information and guidance on the new screening tool and process.

OSCB Annual Conference 2019/20



The OSCB Annual Conference will take place on Thursday the 12th of March at the Kings Centre in Oxford and will focus on the Voice of the Child.

Please save the date and keep an eye on our website for further announcements.

If you would like to be involved in the planning or delivery of the conference, please contact oscb@oxfordshire.gov.uk

OSCB Website

We are pleased to announce that we will shortly be launching a new and improved OSCB website.

We have redesigned the layout of the website in response to feedback from users and analysis of data from our website analytics to establish the most visited pages, frequency of visit, etc.

The updated site has been re-modelled to improve accessibility and ease of use, reduce repetition across the site and to include a new Twitter feed and Learning Zone to communicate key safeguarding messages across the partnership.



Look out for further communications on the launch in the coming weeks...

4. Safeguarding in Education

Early Years

Single and Multiagency Chronologies

It is commonly acknowledged that children and young people are most effectively safeguarded if professionals work together and share information.

Findings from numerous Serious Case Reviews have concluded that a chronology could have supported the earlier identification of risks to the child(ren). You can find out more about chronologies in this [guide](#).

Recruiting from Abroad

A reminder that anyone who has lived or worked abroad must have undergone the necessary pre-employment checks. The DfE have worked with [UK National Recognition Information Centre](#) (UK NARIC) to develop a bespoke Early Years' Service for people with an overseas qualification.

The government has produced guidance on how to obtain an overseas police check which you can find here: [Overseas Criminal Record Checks](#). Please also see [Home Office: An employer's guide to acceptable right to work documents](#) and [PRADO](#), a website created by the EU to help identify genuine documents with examples from across the world.

Free Training Dental Health

In April 2018, PHE released an approximate figure of 60,000 hours a year missed by school children due to tooth decay.

Have the children you care for brushed their teeth this morning? Visited the dentist? Ate a packed lunch containing too much sugar?



FREE Oral Health Training
for all Professionals working within Early Years
(Nurseries, pre-schools, primary schools)



TRAINING
A FREE 90 minute, interactive and informative, training session which counts towards the CPD of you and your staff.

Healthy Smiles
Get involved with an accreditation scheme designed to make your setting more tooth friendly!

RESOURCES
Resources can be borrowed for FREE, for up to 2/3 weeks. Role play, books and lots of activities available.

To book training or to borrow resources please contact us;
 Email: ohimp.oxfordshire@cds-cic.nhs.uk
 or call **01869 238335**

A Social Enterprise

Providing NHS Dentistry 



Paediatric First Aid (PFA)

Whether you work in a school, setting, or as a childminder, it is an EYFS statutory requirement that at least one person, who has a current paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate, must be on the premises and available at all times when children are present, and must accompany children on outings. The certificate must be for a full course consistent with the criteria set out in Annex A (of the EYFS). Childminders, and any assistant who might be in sole charge of the children for any period of time, must hold a full current PFA certificate. PFA training must be renewed every three years and be relevant for workers caring for young children and where relevant, babies.

Measles

World Health Organization figures show there were more than 110,000 measles cases worldwide in the first three months of 2019 – a rise of 300% compared to last year. You can find the NHS Immunisation schedule [here](#) and read a BBC report on Measles [here](#)

FGM training for Early Years Providers

Girls aged 0-5 are in the highest risk age bracket for FGM. Oxford Against Cutting, a local charity, is offering sensitive, high quality training that is delivered by facilitators from affected communities.

The training is 60-90 minutes and currently **free of charge** (subject to availability) - Please book your session by contacting: info@oxfordagainstcutting.org

In the meantime, please ensure you have the charity's helplines posters in your staff room, ready to help protect girls. You can find the poster [here](#)

Many girls are at highest risk during the long summer break when it is “cutting season” in some communities.

LADO Team

LADO: What is a LADO?

The LADO gives advice and guidance to employers and others, who are concerned about an adult who works with children, including volunteers and agency staff.

Allegations need to be referred to the team within 24 hours of the allegation being made. No investigation should take place until the LADO has been contacted. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children who has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children

What does the LADO do?

- The LADO is involved in the oversight and management of allegations against people who work with children, paid or volunteering
- Provides advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations about the most appropriate way to manage the concern or allegation
- Helps to establish what the next steps should be
- Makes sure that all relevant specific actions are taken
- Arranges and chairs a Position of Trust meeting if required
- Monitors the progress of a case

The LADO does not investigate cases.

Key Points:

- Any concern or allegation should be referred to the LADO within 24 hours
- In cases where the adult is unaware of the concern or allegation it may not be appropriate to tell them immediately - it may prejudice a possible Police investigation. The LADO will provide advice
- Settlement agreements are not an acceptable resolution to a concern, and even if someone resigns it should not prevent a full and thorough investigation
- The Allegations Process applies to paid, unpaid and volunteer workers, casual or agency staff and anyone self-employed
- The LADO will provide advice and guidance and help determine whether the allegation meets the thresholds of the LADO service
- The LADO helps coordinate information sharing with the right people
- The LADO will also monitor and track any investigation with the expectation that it is resolved as quickly as possible. Please note if the investigation is a Police led investigation this does effect timescales, and the conclusion of the case may take much longer
- On conclusion of the case, the LADO will discuss and consider with the employer if the threshold has been hit for any referrals to be made to other agencies, including referral to the [Disclosure and Barring Service](#)

Team:



Alison Beasley: Designated Officer (LADO)



Charlotte Allen: Assistant Designated



Donna Crozier: Assistant Designated Officer



Sandra Barratt: Assistant Designated Officer



Hannah Holland: Assistant Designated Officer (works Thursday and Friday only)



Lucy Grimaldi: Team Administrator

TEAM CONTACT: 01865 810603 lado.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk

5. Voluntary and Community Sector news

VCS Children and Young People's Forum

The Children and Young People's Forum is the third sector forum for everyone working with children and young people (0-25) in Oxfordshire. The forum runs 4 meetings a year and 2 networking sessions.

Over 65 organisations are actively engaged and excited about the recent developments and activities that this forum is enabling to happen. The next networking session is on the 29th August 6pm - 8pm, to book your place please visit -

<https://oxfordshireyouth.org/event/children-and-young-peoples-forum-4/>

Launch of an updated Voluntary and Community Sector Children's safeguarding webpage

Oxfordshire Children's Safeguarding Board (OSCB) will be launching a new local voluntary and community sector webpage in August, as part of a refresh of its website.

The development of the webpage is one aspect of a joint action plan agreed between the Children and Young People's Forum and the Board to help strengthen safeguarding within the wider community and to raise concerns and emerging issues with the Board.

The Board has worked with voluntary sector representatives to develop a page which provides a summary of essential resources and tools - linked to relevant areas of their website for further information. The page is intended as a portal for easy access to key information for both larger charities and local community groups.

Save the Date – Youth in Mind Conference

Oxfordshire Youth are delighted to announce that Youth in Mind will be back on Wednesday 12th February 2020. The day is dedicated to strengthening Oxfordshire's response to children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

Have your say by completing [a short questionnaire](#) on the topics you would like us to focus on at the event.

To read the blog on last years event, [see here](#)

6. DfE: Children in Need review

The DfE have carried out a national '[Children in Need' review](#) linked to education, please take some time to have a read through.

In short, some brief conclusions of the review include:

- needing help and protection, even briefly, has a profound impact on children's educational outcomes. This disadvantage is additional to other needs, although compounded for many children by also having special educational needs or living in a low-income family
- safety, stability and educational outcomes are linked: the longer a child is in need or the more significant the risk of harm, the greater the impact on education. Improving outcomes will therefore always require addressing why children have needed a social worker in the first place
- our findings have reinforced how far social work practice that makes a difference to families and communities is facilitated by strong local authority leadership, greater stability in social workers and placements, and lower caseloads that free up social workers to spend more time with children
- for children in need, engaging in education and being in school can also be a protective factor, helping to keep children safe whether they are at risk of harm within or outside the home
- children in need face barriers to education arising from their experiences, as well as barriers shared with other disadvantaged groups. These may include poor home learning environment; social, emotional and behavioural needs; and persistent absence. Some may have additional needs linked to a disability

Some interesting facts:

- nationally 6% of all children in a year will need a social worker
- the impact on attainment of such children in need is more severe than coming from a low-income background
- 98% of schools nationally include children in need (i.e. with a social worker)

- 6% on children who were in need at CGSE went to higher education compared to 27% of those not in need
- by age 20 one half of children in need had not achieved Level 2 qualifications (which include GCSEs), compared to 11% of those not in need
- ¼ of children in need were persistently absent, compared to less than 10% of those who had never been in need
- children in need are between 2 and 4 times more likely to be excluded than their peers
- 40% of looked after children had been on a child protection plan beforehand. In Oxfordshire this is 60%
- risk factors change with age - parental mental health decreases over childhood, whilst child mental health increases from the least to the most common factor by age 17

And finally, an insightful quote from the review:

“Education is a protective factor – at its best, it offers a safe space to access support, ensures oversight and support from professionals, and helps children discover their talents, develop resilience, and realise their potential. Where children are not in school – or if school ceases to be the safe place it should be – they miss both the protections and opportunities it can provide, whilst becoming more vulnerable to harm... Despite this, data and analysis through the review has shown that children who have needed a social worker have particularly unstable experiences of education.”

7. Local news

Self-harm networks and infographic

Self-harm networks operate in the North, Central and South areas of the County and meet 3 times per year. The networks are chaired by the Locality and Community Support Service (LCSS) and the steering group includes Anne Peake – Educational Psychologist, LCSS, OSCB and Public Health.

Aims of the steering group:

- To ensure multi-agency representation at all meetings
- Increase attendance from Education especially in the Central and South areas of the County
- Collect data at a community level across the County

The steering group has produced an infographic containing data on Self-Harm in Children and Young People in England and Guidance on Information Sharing, see [here](#). The infographic is shared with all delegates attending the OSCB Generalist Safeguarding training.

For further information please contact LCSS:

LCSS North	Tel: 0345 2412703
LCSS Central	Tel: 0345 2412705
LCSS South	Tel: 0345 2412608

The Truth Project

The Truth Project, set up to give victims and survivors of child sexual abuse the opportunity to share their experiences in a supportive and confidential settings, is holding sessions for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse in Oxford between 2-9 September.

The Truth Project is part of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, which is investigating institutional failures to protect children from sexual abuse. Information gathered in Truth Project sessions will mean the Inquiry can get a better picture of the past to help create a safer place for children in the future.

Over 3,500 people have already shared their experience with the Truth Project, including this victim and survivor from Oxford:

“I was drawn like a magnet to this opportunity to at last tell my whole story in a way that was offering formal validation. It took me two goes. The first time, nerves got the better of me, but I walked away with a deep sense of irony that I had come to The Truth Project and had only shared half of my experience.

Sharing my whole experience with the Truth Project felt vital to my recovery and I returned with a no-holds barred attitude and shared the rest.

It was liberating and cathartic and validating. It was managed sensitively and compassionately with insight and warmth.”

Michael May, head of the Truth Project in Oxford said:

“People from all walks of life experience child sexual abuse. Whoever you are, whatever your background, whatever your experience, the Truth Project is here to listen to you.

We do not underestimate the courage it can take to come forward, but the experiences you share with us are a vital part of the Inquiry’s work and will contribute to our final recommendations.”

For further information visit www.truthproject.org.uk

Getting in touch with the Truth Project

- Call: **0800 917 1000**
- Email: contact@iicsa.org.uk
- Post: **Freepost IICSA Independent Inquiry**

Water and window safety

Bracknell, Slough, Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead Clinical Commissioning Group produced the following short video clip in 2017 in response to increasing concerns about the distractions of mobile phones and electronic devices may impact on risks to supervision of babies and children.

[Keeping your kids live and kicking this Summer!](#)

Please can you cascade this water safety video clip across your organisations and share widely over the Summer months.

8. National news

Keeping children safe online: online course

This NSPCC online training course, developed in association with CEOP (the child protection unit of the National Crime Agency), is for anyone who works with children and young people. Over four hours the course helps adults understand what children and young people do online, why they take risks and how to respond to these risks. Topics covered include: harmful online content; sharing and sexting; sexual offending against children online; and bullying online.

Source: [NSPCC Learning: Keeping children safe online: online course](#)

Read more on NSPCC Learning: [Protecting children from online abuse](#)

Children home alone during school holidays

The NSPCC has released figures on the number of calls and emails to their helpline from adults concerned about children being left home alone unsupervised. Figures show that: 5,737 calls and emails were made to the helpline in 2018-19 about children being left unsupervised at home; 1,824 (almost a third) of calls and emails were made during the between July and September 2018, with 70% of cases judged so serious they were referred to the police or social services.

Source: [NSPCC](#) Date: 26 July 2019

Read more on NSPCC Learning: [Home alone guide](#)

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

The NSPCC has released figures which show that contacts to the FGM Helpline rose by 36%, increasing from 476 in 2017/18 to 645 in 2018/19. Since its launch in June 2013 the dedicated FGM helpline has received 2,747 contacts, of which 512 (19%) raised concerns so serious that they were referred to external agencies. If you are worried a child is at risk of or has already had FGM, call the free, anonymous dedicated FGM helpline on 0800 028 3550 or email fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

Source: [NSPCC](#) Date: 23 July 2019

Read more on NSPCC Learning: [Protecting children from female genital mutilation \(FGM\)](#)

Preparing young people with learning disabilities for adulthood

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has published a guide looking at what social workers need to do to help young people with learning disabilities prepare for adulthood. The guidance includes a practice framework which sets out what social workers need in order to do this, including: the right support, systems and commissioning; an understanding of social care law and theories; a commitment to human rights; the ability to work in multi-agency settings and a focus on the needs and wishes of the person they support.

Source: [SCIE](#) Date: 24 July 2019

Further information: [Preparing for adulthood: the role of social workers \(PDF\)](#)

Child sexual abuse

The Home Office has published a progress update on the government's implementation of recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). The government has made progress on ten of the 17 recommendations including: launching a consultation on revising the Victims' Code; abolishing the 'same roof rule' which denied victims compensation if they lived in the same house as their abuser; and delivering a programme of non-legislative changes to ensure a better understanding of safeguarding within the police service.

Source: [Home Office](#) Date: 22 July 2019

Further information: [Government response to the interim report by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse: progress update \(PDF\)](#)

[Interim report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse \(PDF\)](#)

Child trafficking

The Home Office has published its final evaluation report of the Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) service in early adopter sites from February 2017 to January 2019. The early adopter sites were Greater Manchester, Hampshire and Wales. Findings include: caseloads for ICTGs were higher than envisaged, particularly in Wales; 54% of children referred to the service were aged 16 or 17; and criminal exploitation was the most common form of primary exploitation for those referred to the service. The report concludes that the ICTG service has three areas of added value: building trust with children; providing advocacy; and providing specialist knowledge to professionals. The Home Office has also published interim guidance for ICTGs in early adopter sites.

Source: [Home Office](#) Date: 22 July 2019

Further information: [An evaluation of Independent Child Trafficking Guardians – early adopter sites: final report \(PDF\)](#)

[Interim guidance for Independent Child Trafficking Guardians early adopter sites](#)

National Crime Agency annual report

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has published its 2018-19 annual report. The report covers the NCA's performance over the last year, including on tackling child sexual abuse and assault, child trafficking and modern slavery and county lines in the UK. Findings include: 587 NCA-Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) ambassadors were trained this year; the total number of minors referred as potential victims of human trafficking increased by 48% compared to 2017; and 226 county lines were disrupted in two periods of intensified action overseen by the newly established National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC) in October 2018 and January 2019.

Source: [NCA](#) Date: 22 July 2019

Further information: [National Crime Agency: annual reports and accounts 2018-19 \(PDF\)](#)

Adoption support fund

The Department for Education (DfE) has published an evaluation of the long-term effects of the adoption support fund (ASF) in England. Local authorities can apply for support from the ASF on behalf of families or children to fund therapeutic post-adoption support or assessments of need. Findings from 372 responses to a survey include: parents showed greater understanding of their children's needs and increased confidence in taking care of their children; 76% of respondents felt the support they received through the fund benefitted their family as a whole; and despite positivity around the benefits of the ASF, levels of difficulties faced by families who responded remained high. The DfE has also published an evaluation of regional adoption agencies looking at the models they are using.

Source: [DfE](#) Date: 21 July 2019

Further information: [The evaluation of the adoption support fund: long-term follow-up \(PDF\)](#)

[Evaluation of regional adoption agencies](#)

Fostering and adoption

The Care Inspectorate has published a statistical bulletin on fostering and adoption in Scotland. Figures show that: the number of children and young people using fostering services decreased from 5,315 in 2017 to 5,171 in 2018; and 286 children and young people were legally adopted in 2018, down from 328 in 2017.

Source: [Care Inspectorate](#) Date: 24 July 2019

Funding to support victims of sexual abuse

The Home Office has announced £750,000 in funding to six groups supporting victims and survivors of child sexual abuse in UK-wide projects to set up support lines, counselling services and specialist tailored support. Projects funded include the NSPCC's Letting the Future In programme to support children with learning difficulties who have been sexually abused.

Source: [Home Office](#) Date: 20 July 2019

Read more on NSPCC Learning: [Letting the Future In](#)

Children's services

London Councils has released findings from a study by the independent research consultancy Isos Partnership, evaluating children's social care and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision funding and expenditure in London. Findings from a data analysis of London boroughs' funding include: evidence that boroughs' good-quality early intervention services prevent needs escalating and lead to better outcomes for children and young people.

Source: [London Councils](#) Date: 22 July 2019

Child mental health

NHS Digital has published statistics on the number of children and young people accessing NHS funded community mental health services in England for the period April 2018 to March 2019. Figures provided by 288 providers show that 377,866 children and young people aged under 18 accessed treatment by NHS funded community services during the period.

Source: [NHS Digital](#) Date: 18 July 2019

Domestic abuse in rural communities

The National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) has published a report looking at domestic abuse in rural areas. Findings from a literature review and a study of seven policing areas across England focussing on in-depth one-to-one interviews with victims of abuse, local support services and commissioning managers finds that: abuse can last 25% longer in the most rural areas; and where children are involved either as the subject of or as witnesses to the abuse it serves as a strong catalyst for action.

Source: [NRCN](#) Date: 11 July 2019

Further information: [Captive and controlled: domestic abuse in rural areas](#)

Children and young people's mental health

The House of Commons Library has published a briefing on children and young people's mental health (CAMHS) policy, services, funding and education. The briefing covers: government CAMHS policy since 2010; select committee inquiries into children and young people's mental health; and mental health in schools.

Source: [UK Parliament](#) Date: 16 July 2019

Children in care and higher education

The Guardian reports that Scotland's universities are to offer guaranteed undergraduate places to students who have been in care at any point in their lives who meet an institution's minimum entry requirements.

Source: [Guardian](#) Date: 25 July 2019

International child abduction

The House of Commons Library has published a briefing paper on international child abduction covering England and Wales. The briefing includes: the criminal law, who can take a child overseas; steps to prevent abduction occurring; and what to do if it happens.

Source: [UK Parliament](#) Date: 24 July 2019

Children and young people with disabilities

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) has published a report looking at key factors that are helping and hindering the integration of services around special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) for children and young people in England. Consultation with 76 education, health and care professionals and parent carers in three local authority areas in England found that the system around SEND is highly complex and fragmented. Recommendations include: senior leadership within national government and NHS England should review and align key priorities across all national programmes impacting this group of children and young people; and the National Leadership Board for children and young people with high needs should consider what further steps need to be taken to ensure that leaders in local areas prioritise integrated commissioning to deliver integrated services.

Source: [CDC](#) Date: 10 July 2019

Further information: [It takes leaders to break down siloes: integrating services for disabled children \(PDF\)](#)

Children and young people in custody inquiry

The House of Commons Justice Committee is holding an inquiry into children and young people in custody in England and Wales. The inquiry will look at: how the young offender population has changed and the challenges in managing this group; whether the secure estate is a fit and proper place to hold children and young people; and arrangements for resettlement and rehabilitation. The deadline for written evidence submissions is 01 October 2019.

Source: [UK Parliament](#) Date: 25 July 2019

Further information: [Children and young people in custody - inquiry](#)

Home education consultation

The Education Authority (EA) is launching a public consultation on its draft guidelines for elective home education for Northern Ireland. The consultation closes on 21 August 2019.

Source: [EA](#) Date: 24 July 2019

Further information: [Moving forward: guidelines for elective home education \(PDF\)](#)

Video sharing platforms: consultation

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is consulting on the UK government's proposed approach to implementing changes to the EU-wide regulatory framework for audiovisual media, which extend the framework's scope to cover video-sharing platforms (VSPs) for the first time. This extension in scope includes audiovisual content on social media sites, video-sharing sites, pornography sites and live streaming services. Services covered by the framework are required to take appropriate measures to protect children from harmful content.

Source: [DCMS](#) Date: 24 July 2019

Further information: [Audiovisual media services: interim approach to implementing requirements relating to video sharing platforms: consultation document \(PDF\)](#)

Young people wanted to re-design the welfare state

Children England is looking for young people aged 13-21 to lead the next phase of the ChildFair State Inquiry: research and development of a new vision for the welfare state. The project will deal with questions such as: how schools, housing and health can become child- and young people-centred, and how neighbourhoods can help young people thrive. This team of Young Leaders will be supported by Leaders Unlocked, a specialist social enterprise that helps organisations to engage effectively with young people and underrepresented groups, to design and deliver the research project, engaging a total of around 2,500 children and young people. The deadline for applications is 27th September 2019.

Source: [Children England](#) Date: 24 July 2019

Further information: [Young leaders of the ChildFair State](#)

Social workers

The What Works for Children's Social Care are inviting Principal Social Workers (PSWs) to participate in co-production sessions to ensure that the annual Social Work Health Check survey questions and responses are responsive to PSWs' needs and informed by the experience of delivering the survey in hundreds of children's services departments across the UK. The co-production sessions will take place on 29 July at Doncaster Children's Trust, and on 05 August at SCIE Offices in London.

Source: [What Works for Children's Social Care](#) Date: 17 July 2019

9. Glossary

Glossary	
CIN	Child in Need
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
DA	Domestic Abuse
DfE	Department for Education
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation 2016
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
IICSA	Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse
LADO	Local Area Designated Officer
LCSS	Locality and Community Support Service
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
NHS FT	National Health Service Foundation Trust
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
OSAB	Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board
OSCB	Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board
PHE	Public Health England
PRADO	Public Register of Authentic travel and identity Documents Online