# Newsletter



# Issue 32: December 2019

**Welcome to the Winter edition of the OSCB newsletter.**

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1. **Introduction from the OSCB Chair**

It is once more my honour to introduce the latest edition of the OSCB newsletter. As ever I hope you find it an interesting and informative read and my appreciation to Carole for the work that goes into making this such a comprehensive document.

Before talking about the work of the Board and some of the recent developments, I did want to use the opportunity of the bulletin to publicise and draw your attention to the [Trans Toolkit](https://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Trans-Inclusion-Toolkit-for-Schools-and-Education-Settings-Oxfordshire-2019-FINAL.pdf).

This document was developed some months ago now but following a challenge by a group of local parents it has undergone a comprehensive review. While this review retained much of the content and messages, it has led to improvements in language, structure and clarity. The Toolkit is intended as guidance to schools and educational settings looking to support children and young people who identify as Trans. We realise this is a challenging area and we hope the toolkit will be a useful document.

It has been a busy time for the Board since the last Newsletter, with the publication of the Child M Serious Case Review, the bedding in of the new arrangements and the publication of the Annual Report with its associated round of presentations to key committees.

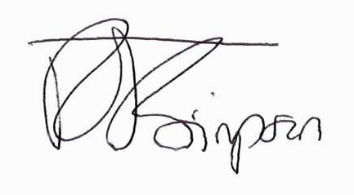
We now have our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Executive in place made up of the Chief Executives of the County Council and CCG, as well as senior Police representation. The main Board has stayed much the same as before in terms of representation and the former Executive has become known as the Business Group.

At the last Board, we received the first draft of the Business Plan which will guide the work of the Board over the coming years. We also signed off a new OSCB logo as agreed by children and young people – there was a view that the previous one was perhaps a little child-like. We received several reports including: Safeguarding in Education, Private Fostering, Complex Cases, MAPPA and MARAC. All of these reports gave us both assurance about how these issues are being managed and addressed, and a sense of the challenges and difficulties they present. We are working with the Adult Board to refresh how we deal with our Joint Priorities and we will be discussing and agreeing our future approach at the joint Board in December.

For my part I am planning to follow up the days I have spent visiting Children’s Services and Health Services earlier in the year, by spending a day with operational policing in December. I am hoping that this will give me a taste of the work and challenges of our front-line police officers, as well as continue my aim of trying to narrow the gap between the Board and frontline services. It is very important to me that you feel the Board has your back as you undertake the challenging work with children that so many of you do.

If you have any questions about any aspect of this newsletter or the workings of the Board, feel free to get in touch with us.

Best wishes



Chair of Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board

1. **OSCB Business Unit Update**

The OSCB aims to keep children in Oxfordshire as safe as possible by making sure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities regarding safeguarding through training, learning and local resources. The Business Unit supports the OSCB to do this.

Our [**Business Unit**](https://www.oscb.org.uk/about-us/meet-the-team/) is funded through partnership contributions. There are six of us but only two are full-time. We sit next to the education safeguarding advice team on the 4th floor in county hall. The County Council is our main funder and accountable body but everything we do is done in partnership with colleagues not just from social care, education and community safety but health, police, schools and the voluntary sector to name a few. Our chair is independent and from Barnardo’s, which helps to ensure that the partnership has independent scrutiny and challenge.  We are a small but established team, passionate about keeping children safe and committed to our work.

Over the last 12 months we have worked with the OSCB Chair, Richard Simpson, to [**refresh the board structure**](https://www.oscb.org.uk/about-us/structure-chart/). We have kept the same name but now refer to ‘three safeguarding partners’.  This means that the OSCB has a new [**executive group**](https://www.oscb.org.uk/about-us/) comprising the county council chief executive, the chief officer from the clinical commissioning group and the assistant chief constable from the police.  Our overall new safeguarding arrangements are outlined in the [**Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Publication**](https://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/OSCB-MASA-Publication-2019.pdf).

To reflect this new set up, the OSCB [**website**](http://www.oscb.org.uk/) has been updated, now has a twitter feed and we have a new logo, chosen with the help of the Children in Care Council. The logo was chosen because the children and young people felt that it looked like people united and felt inclusive in that the different colours represent diversity for them.

Our role is varied as a team: we organise over 60 partnership meetings each year, keep 6 partnership reviews underway, organise training for over 6000 practitioners across the county each year, and lead 3 learning events and an annual conference.  We have developed safeguarding advice and guidance, which you can find on our website as well as the ten most frequent learning points from [**serious case reviews**](https://www.oscb.org.uk/practitioners-volunteers/serious-case-reviews/).

1. **Safeguarding Children at Risk of Exploitation**

A series of briefings took place in July and September to raise awareness of the new Child Exploitation Screening Tool and Pathway which sets out the partnership response to safeguard children at risk. Briefings were attended by 192 practitioners across the children’s workforce and the new screening tool and pathway document can be downloaded from the OSCB Website [**Multi-Agency Toolkit**](https://www.oscb.org.uk/practitioners-volunteers/multi-agency-guidance-tools/)page.

The first of the new network meetings took place in November and next meeting dates are as follows:

* South: 14th Jan 2020 at 9:30am – UTC Oxfordshire

11th Feb 2020 at 9:30am – location tbc

24th Mar 2020 at 9:30am – location tbc

* West: date to be confirmed
* North: 4th Feb 2020 at 12.30pm at Banbury Children & Family Centre
* Central: 8th Jan 2020 at 12:00pm at Knights Court, Room 2

19th February – 12:00pm at Knights Court, Room 2

1. **OSCB Training**

**Train the Trainer**

The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board has a model of training that is not replicated in many other LSCBs around the country. We train approximately 5000 delegates a year and the majority of this training is delivered by a pool of volunteer trainers from a variety of agencies and we received a ‘Highly Commended’ recommendation in the NSPCC/BASPCAN Trainer of the Year Award in 2018.

We are always looking for additional trainers to join us, so if you are interested in this area of work or for your own personal development, we ask you to contact the OSCB training co-ordinator – [gay.suggitt@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:gay.suggitt@oxfordshire.gov.uk) - for a discussion about what we can offer in return.

We would ask that you:

* Are up to date with your Designated Safeguarding Lead training
* Attend a ‘Train the Trainer’ day
* Observe a course being delivered by experienced trainers
* Co-train 3 courses with a more experienced trainer per year
* Attend one half day trainer development morning per year
* **AND** most importantly of all, have a passion for safeguarding children which you would like to pass onto others!

**eLearning**

Have you looked at the eLearning courses that are on offer on the OSCB website recently? Along with 2 core safeguarding children courses, there are some other courses also available:

* Introduction to Homelessness Prevention
* Raising Awareness of Advocacy
* Raising Awareness of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

There are also some further eLearning courses under development to be launched in 2020:

* Awareness of Neglect
* Autism
* Child Criminal Exploitation

**Course availability**

Please see below a list of courses with availability in the Spring term, please book your place via the OSCB website:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 08.01.20 | Gang awareness and County Lines: Tackling Child Criminal Exploitation | Unipart House |
| 09.01.20 | Gang awareness and County Lines: Tackling Child Criminal Exploitation | Unipart House |
| 10.01.20 | Restorative Practice: An Introduction | Unipart House |
| 17.01.20 | Restorative Practice: An Introduction | Unipart House |
| 23.01.20 | Restorative Practice: An Introduction | Unipart House |
| 30.01.20 | Foundations of Attachment | Unipart House |
| 31.01.20 | Restorative Practice: An Introduction | Unipart House |
| 04.02.20 | Restorative Practice: An Introduction | Unipart House |
| 05.02.20 | Complex Trauma and lost identities | Unipart House |
| 07.02.20 | Anxieties Workshop | Didcot Civic Hall |
| 12.02.20 | The Journey to Age Assessment UASC | Unipart House |
| 12.02.20 | Healthy and Unhealthy Sexual Behaviours | County Hall |
| 12.02.20 | Restorative Practice: An Introduction | Unipart House |
| 28.02.20 | Restorative Practice: An Introduction | Unipart House |
| 04.03.20 | Sexual Abuse Workshop | County Hall |
| 04.03.20 | Restorative Practice: An Introduction | Unipart House |
| 05.02.20 | Digital Safeguarding | County Hall |
| 09.03.20 | An Introduction to Children and Young People’s Mental Health | Bodicote House, Banbury |
| 11.03.20 | Restorative Practice: An Introduction | Unipart House |
| 17.03.20 | Restorative Practice: An Introduction | Unipart House |
| 19.03.20 | Consent and Sexual Health Awareness | County Hall |
| 19/20.03.20 | Neglect and Emotional Abuse Day – 2 days | Unipart House |
| 27.03.20 | Restorative Practice: An Introduction | Unipart House |
| 31.03.20 | Restorative Practice: An Introduction | Unipart House |

**Training Sub-Group Chair**

We said a fond farewell to Alison Chapman, who has been the chair of the training sub-group for more years than she cares to remember. The OSCB would like to thank her for her commitment to ensuring that our training is of the highest quality.

This role is now been taken on by Jayne Harrison (Trust Lead Nurse for Safeguarding Children, Oxford Health) and Moira Gilroy (Safeguarding Adults Manager, Oxford Health) as joint chairs; we look forward to working with them.

1. **OSCB Learning and Improvement**

**Child Exploitation, Violence and Vulnerability Learning Event 29th November**

125 delegates attended this event at Unipart, hearing from speakers from across Thames Valley Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, RAW Potential, Locality and Community Support Service, Sovereign Housing, Forensic CAMHS and St Giles Trust on national and local approaches to working with children affected by gangs, violence and exploitation.

At the time of writing we are collating evaluations, feedback to date has been positive with one delegate saying it was the best event they had been to on exploitation. Those returning forms noted the variety, knowledge and experience of speakers, “excellent speakers gave a great overview”.

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All respondents recorded increased awareness and understanding following the event, and all rated it good or excellent at enabling them to understand the local picture and partnership response.

**OSCB Annual Conference 2019/20**

The theme of this year’s annual conference is ‘the Voice of the Child’ and the OSCB are delighted to announce award winning poet, playwright, author and broadcaster Lemn Sissay MBE as keynote speaker for the event.

Lemn was awarded an MBE for services to literature and along with Chimamanda Ngoze Adichie and Margaret Atwood, won a Pen Pinter Prize in 2019. He was the first poet commissioned to write for the London Olympics and poet of the FA Cup. Lemn’s recently released memoir ‘[My Name Is Why’](https://canongate.co.uk/books/2450-my-name-is-why/) was a Sunday Times number one bestseller and his Channel 4 Documentary [Superkids: Breaking Away from Care](https://www.channel4.com/programmes/superkids-breaking-away-from-care) was BAFTA nominated. He started The Christmas Dinners Project for care leavers in Manchester in 2012, which now take place throughout the UK.

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The conference will also hear from youth ambassadors from the Sexual Violence and Exploitation Network, Children in Care Council and VOXY. Keep an eye on our [website news](file:///\\oxfordshire\children%20young%20people%20and%20families\Early%20Years%20and%20Family%20Support\C&F%20Senior%20Management\OSCB\Communications\E-Bulletins\SiE%20bulletin%202019\website%20news) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/OSCB6?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Eembeddedtimeline%7Ctwterm%5Eprofile%3AOSCB6&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.oscb.org.uk%2F) feeds for updates on the event programme and booking in the coming month.

**Learning Events 2020-2021**

We are starting to plan next year’s learning events and would like to hear your views on the proposed themes below.

The following are some of the key themes from reviews over the past year that have been proposed:

* **Response to physical abuse**: identifying it, listening to children and following safeguarding processes thoroughly
* **Parental wellbeing/vulnerability**: mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse are recurring themes. With respect to mental health colleagues need to recognise the risks and impact on the safety of the child; don’t minimise ‘older’ information
* **Professional curiosity**: being curious about the family’s past history, relationships and current circumstances in a way that moves beyond reliance on self-reported information

Theme proposed from feedback from past events:

* **Child exploitation** – feedback from the contextual safeguarding conference and recent exploitation, violence and vulnerability learning event for a follow up event; to include social media and child exploitation, briefing on the new exploitation service once launched, prevention and early intervention in education and the NRM in more detail

Please get in touch if there are any topics you would like covered, if you have any suggestions for speakers or would like to be involved in the planning and/or delivery of future events by emailing [Carole.Kinnell@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Carole.Kinnell@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)

1. **Safeguarding in Education**

**Education One Minute Briefing**

Oxfordshire County Council have produced a One Minute Briefing on Education for Professionals Working with Children in Oxfordshire (not schools) to provide information and guidance on children and parents rights, school places and absences.

This briefing can be found on the OSCB website via [this link](https://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Oxfordshire-County-Council-1-minute-guide-to-education.doc), please share it with colleagues.

**New Lead for Learner Engagement at Oxfordshire County Council**

Clare Pike, who has worked in Oxfordshire as a teacher and leader in both primary and secondary settings since 2002, joined the Local Authority in August as Lead for Learner Engagement.

The Lead for Learner Engagement is available, in collaboration with other professional services, to support settings and families with complex cases where children and young people are disengaged within a learning context

The Lead for Learner Engagement’s ongoing work to improve well-being, behaviours and school attendance across the county involves celebrating diversity, promoting respectful relationships, sharing quality inclusive practice and working restoratively with families, schools and associated services to better understand and remove barriers to learner engagement in Oxfordshire.

The Learner Engagement Team intends to run a conference for school leaders and related professional service leads to raise awareness and share best practice when supporting LGBT+ and gender questioning/non-conforming children and young people. **The plan is that the conference will take place on Monday 3rd February (to launch LGBT History Month) at Unipart House**. To declare your interest in this event and tell us what you would like it to cover, click on the below link to complete our 1-minute survey. If there is sufficient interest, conference details and booking information will be published in the first week of December on Schools News, via the Oxfordshire Partners in Learning website and in the Lead for Learner Engagement's 'We All Matter' newsletter.

[Click here](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/R6K6CVN) to complete the 1-minute survey

To contact the Lead for Learner Engagement directly, email: [clare.pike@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:clare.pike@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**Government guidance on managing cases of infectious diseases and winter preparedness**

As winter approaches, it is important that staff are reminded and updated on important health considerations for the prevention of infectious diseases.

[This document](https://www.england.nhs.uk/south-east/our-work/info-professionals/public-health/winter/) provides key messages on winter preparedness and [this guide](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities#history) provides information about managing a range of common and important childhood infections in settings. It is not intended to be used as a tool for diagnosing infectious disease but to help and direct staff about where and when to seek further advice. It advises the way to prevent and manage infectious disease in your setting is to:

* promote immunisation
* promptly exclude the unwell child or member of staff
* check that effective handwashing is being carried out routinely

Although England is a world leader in childhood vaccinations uptake has been slowly decreasing since 2012. This means that some children have missed out and may remain vulnerable to serious or even fatal infections that are vaccine-preventable.

Please share this information with parents and careers - [Childhood vaccination – What you need to know](https://publichealthengland.exposure.co/childhood-vaccination) . You can also find which immunisations should happen when [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/824542/PHE_complete_immunisation_schedule_autumn_2019.pdf).

**Mental Health Through Movement, Physical Activity Guidelines and Child Mental Health Charter**

Getting children moving can kick-start a solution to the children’s mental health crisis according to the APPG on A Fit and Healthy Childhood. APPG Chair, Steve McCabe MP said: ‘Nobody nowadays will deny that a crisis in children’s mental health exists. We’re saying that getting children moving is an obvious part of the solution’.

The [report](https://royalpa.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/mentalhealththroughmovement_301019.pdf) celebrates the many ways that movement in all its many forms, is being realised and highlights the relationship between movement and positive mental health is absolutely crucial but is often ignored.

[New physical activity guidelines issued by UK Chief Medical Officers](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-physical-activity-guidelines-issued-by-uk-chief-medical-officers?utm_source=Foundation+Years&utm_campaign=b569cdff85-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_03_25_03_13_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8f9a6de061-b569cdff85-321664053&mc_cid=b569cdff85&mc_eid=e77ac9ac65) presents guidelines for different age groups, covering the volume, duration, frequency and type of physical activity required to achieve health benefits.

You can also read about and sign up to the Child Mental Health Charter [here](https://childmentalhealthcharter.com/).

1. **Suicide in children and young people**

Suicide (including deaths of undetermined intent from poisoning and injury) is the leading cause of death in both males and females aged 5–19 years in England and Wales (Office for National Statistics, 2017a). Furthermore, there is evidence of a rise in rates of suicide amongst 15–19 year olds in England since around 2010 (Office for National Statistics, 2018a; Bould et al., 2019).

In the attached review paper, ‘**Clustering of suicides in children and adolescents’ by Keith Hawton, Nicole T M Hill, Madelyn Gould, Ann John, Karen Lascelles, Jo Robinson** the authorsinvestigate definitions and epidemiology of such clusters, the factors associated with them, mechanisms by which they occur, and means of intervening and preventing them.



The attached research paper ‘**The incidence of suicide in University students in England and Wales 2000/2001–2016/2017: Record linkage study’** **by David Gunnella, Sarah Caul, Louis Appleby, Ann John and Keith Hawton**, aims to investigate trends in the incidence and characteristics of university student suicides in England & Wales for the academic years 2000/01 to 2016/17.



Further guidance and resources on suicide and self-harm can be found on the OSCB website via [this link](https://www.oscb.org.uk/safeguarding-themes/mental-health/suicide-self-harm/).

1. **Private fostering myth busting**

Private fostering’ is the name for an informal arrangement made by parents and carers for a child to live with another family. A child is automatically being ‘privately fostered’ if they are:

* Under the age of 16 (or 18 if the child is disabled), and
* They are being cared for and provided with accommodation by someone who is not a close relative\*, and
* The arrangement has lasted or is intended to last for 28 days or more.

\*Close relatives are parents, grandparents, aunt, uncle or step parent (by marriage) but not a cousin, grand aunt or a family friend.

Oxfordshire County Council Family Placement Team have produced the a short guide to private fostering, [see here](https://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Private-Fostering.doc), to help dispel any myths regarding what private fostering involves.

If you have any questions, please contact Kerry Chrisp (Senior Practitioner), [kerry.chrisp@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:kerry.chrisp@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or Debra White (Social Worker), [Debra.White2@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Debra.White2@Oxfordshire.gov.uk) or call 01865 323126.

1. **Voluntary and community sector news**

**[](https://oxfordshireyouth.org/events/)Youth in Mind Conference 2020**

Have you got your ticket for the Youth in Mind 2020? Make the most of the event by promoting your organisation to 500 delegates by also booking a stall in the busy marketplace. The event will host national experts, local youth programmes, a professional theatre company performing an inspiring play and an expert panel discussion not to be missed.

To find out more about last year’s event, see the [Youth in Mind 2019 blog](https://oxfordshireyouth.org/sector-insider/youth-in-mind-a-conference-for-anyone-working-with-children-and-young-people/)

**A chance to star at the Youth Awards**

Oxfordshire Youth are seeking outstanding young performers to audition for the Youth Awards 2020. If you know a young person or group who would make the evening even more outstanding, please encourage them to [sign up for an audition!](https://oxfordshireyouth.org/youthawards-auditions/)

Whatever their unique talent, OY want to see what they can do to add sparkle to this event.

For more information about Youth Awards 2020, or to nominate a young person or group for one of the awards, please visit the [Youth Awards 2020](https://oxfordshireyouth.org/youthawards/) page.

You can also [download the flyer](https://oxfordshireyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/OY-YA-A5-FLYER-LOWRES.pdf) and share it with your friends, family and colleagues.

**What are you doing to protect people who come into contact with your charity from abuse or mistreatment?**

As a trustee, part of your duties includes taking reasonable steps to protect people who come into contact with your charity from harm. Protecting people and safeguarding responsibilities should be a governance priority for all charities and are a fundamental part of operating as a charity for the public benefit.

But what exactly does this mean? Visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees) to find out what your responsibilities are and what you need to do to manage risks, protect volunteers and staff, ensure you have the right policies, procedures and practices, and more.

Should you, or your staff, trustees or volunteers need safeguarding or mental health awareness training, Oxfordshire Youth can provide these. Take a look at OY [Learning and Development](https://oxfordshireyouth.org/training/) page to see all the courses offered.

1. **Useful information**

[](https://autismoxford.org.uk/)**2-day conference at the Kings Centre, Oxford**

**Attwood & Garnett on Autism**

**Date: 13th January 2020 - 14th January 2020 9:30 am - 4:00 pm**

**Day 1: Mental Health & Autism; inch Depression & Suicide Risk**

Research has shown that Children, Young People and Adults on the autism spectrum are more likely to experience mental health problems. They often have difficulty with the understanding, expression and regulation of emotions, resulting in high levels of anxiety, stress, anger and/or depression and subsequent effects on family, teachers, other professionals, friends and peers.  Our Speakers will explore common issues and what may help.

**Day 2: How do Autistic people learn best – in education, at home, at work, in therapy, in general, to live a ‘good life’?**

Thanks to extensive research into how autistic and non-autistic brains function, we know that there are significant differences. It follows, therefore, that methods of learning, teaching and explaining which work well for non-autistic brains, will need adjustments in order to be effective for autistic people of all ages. To be successful in teaching autistic people at school, at work, at home, in everyday life, we need to properly understand natural autistic learning processes and how to adapt our methods to suit. ***What are the keys to helping autistic children, young people and adults learn how to live a good life as an autistic person rather than striving to be like the majority and feeling like a ‘faulty version of normal’?***

Also, on Day 2:  **Professor Geoff Bird** of Brasenose College, University of Oxford on **Alexithymia.**

**This event will be of great interest, usefulness and importance to everyone working and living with autism.** We need to adjust our working and home practices and environments to work and live successfully with autistic people of all ages. ***Without appropriate adjustments, we risk continuing to exclude autistic people from the services we provide.***

**Booking rates for both days**, including refreshments and lunch:

Professionals: £330 + vat; Group Discount: 20% off for groups of 5 or more professionals

People with ASC & Family Members: £275 + vat; Concessions: £225 + vat

B**ooking rates for one day**, including refreshments and lunch:

Professionals: £215 + vat; Group Discount: 20% off for groups of 5 or more professionals

People with ASC & Family Members: £180 + vat; Concessions: £145 + vat

For further info and booking, please see <https://autismoxford.org.uk/events/attwood-garnett-on-autism-2/>

**‘Was not brought toolkit’ Dentists**

The British Dental Association has launched a new toolkit to support the safeguarding of children and young people who miss appointments.

Representing a break from the 'did not attend' pathway, the new approach which was first developed by community dentistry professionals at Charles Clifford Dental Services, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, recognises that children do not 'call the shots' on whether they attend appointments. The 'was not brought' pathway, 'WNB-CYP', was [published in the British Dental Journal](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41415-019-0621-z) and is now [available for all dentists and teams to use via the BDA website](https://bda.org/safeguarding).

The [toolkit](https://bda.org/dentists/advice/Documents/Was%20Not%20Brought%20implementation%20guide%20AW.pdf) is a step-by-step guide to managing the pathway in dental practices. It offers a flowchart for action and downloadable template letters to help the team follow a standardised approach which will keep young patients safe. It will help practices to identify at each stage of the process, which other healthcare professionals they need to communicate and share information with if they are worried about patients facing dental neglect.

**Ministry of Justice publish, County Lines: Practice Guidance for YOTs and frontline practitioners**

The Ministry of Justice has recently published a report entitled [**‘County Lines Exploitation: Practice Guidance for YOTs and frontline practitioners**](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/county-lines-exploitation)**.**’ Whilst not statutory guidance, this publication promotes 3 referral pathways that are considered best practice and if followed, will increase national consistency, improve the response to county lines and the safeguarding of those children exploited through such.

The report stresses that in order to safeguard children involved in county lines, it is critical to identify them as exploited victims before seeing them as offenders. However, it is clear that as county lines evolves it becomes increasingly difficult to differentiate.

The Ministry of Justice emphasizes the need for better communication and increased information sharing. Inconsistent and poor communication coupled with a lack of effective multi-agency working will always result in an insufficient response to tackling the problem at hand. Tackling county lines presents a national challenge as its growth is partially down to agencies failing to work collaboratively across boundaries.

**Money Mules**

Thames Valley Police have written to parents asking for help to warn young people about the dangers and consequences of becoming a money mule, as follows:

“We have identified a significant increase in instances of this nature and many young people across the Thames Valley Police area may be vulnerable to being drawn into this criminality.

What is a money mule?

A money mule is someone who transfers stolen money through their own bank account on behalf of someone else and is paid for doing so.

Criminals need money mules to launder the profits of their crimes.

Young people are increasingly being targeted to become money mules. They are approached online or in person, including through social media, at school, college or sports clubs. Sometimes people they know persuade them to take part, often because they are also acting as money mules.

Mules will usually be unaware of where the money comes from – commonly fraud and scams – and that it can go on to fund crimes such as drug dealing and people trafficking.

Being a money mule is illegal.

When someone is caught, their bank account will be closed, and they will have problems getting student loans, mobile phone contracts and credit in the future. They could even face arrest for money laundering which carries a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison.

What to look out for

Tell-tale signs that someone might be involved could be them suddenly having extra cash, buying expensive new clothes or top-of-the-range mobile phones and gadgets with very little explanation as to how they got the money. They may also become more secretive, withdrawn or appear stressed.

You and your child can learn more and get advice by visiting [http://www.moneymules.co.uK](http://www.moneymules.co.uk/)

If you are worried that someone close to you might be caught up in money muling, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Please do not attempt to contact any individual you suspect of organising money muling”.

**Victims of Terrorism Leaflet**

Please see the attached leaflet containing information on where to seek advice and assistance following a terrorist attack in the UK. Further detail is available on the website [www.victimsofterrorism.campaign.gov.uk](http://www.victimsofterrorism.campaign.gov.uk), which is updated regularly.



**Safeguarding from Radicalisation**

South East Counter Terrorism Policing have produced the attached reference guide, ‘Safeguarding young people and adults from ideological extremism’. The guide is for practitioners in regular, direct contact with young people or members of the public. It is also relevant to managers, senior officers and safeguarding leads at all levels of local authorities.

It is designed to help you recognise when young people or adults may be vulnerable to extreme or violent ideologies.

Identification of any one of the signs presented here, in isolation, may not be indicative of vulnerability or radicalisation. However, in combination or in circumstances where they do not ‘fit’, they may indicate an individual at risk.



**Contextual Safeguarding**

**New tutorial: Case review for cases of extra-familial harm**

This free [tutoria](https://alexiproject.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f5f7e75053b0b223588eeaa95&id=bf85aa7fb1&e=461c14c9f2)l outlines the methodology we use for understanding threshold decisions for cases of extra-familial harm. It is aimed at those working in children’s social care to help audit responses and decision making by practitioners.

**New blog: Why ‘zero tolerance’ doesn’t work**  
‘My research in schools over the last three years has highlighted that often ‘zero tolerance’ approaches don’t work. That is not to say that we should accept sexual harm. But while ‘zero tolerance’ may sound appealing, in practice, sexual violence and its causes are complex, and can’t be tackled by a two-word policy.’ Read the latest [blog](https://alexiproject.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f5f7e75053b0b223588eeaa95&id=b3bc87e18b&e=461c14c9f2) by Dr Jenny Lloyd, Senior Research Fellow in the Contextual Safeguarding team, to learn more.  
   
**In case you missed it…‘Peers’: a working peer definition**  
‘We often talk about young people’s ‘peers’ within Contextual Safeguarding research and practice. Often, we’re arguing for greater recognition of the relevance of young people’s peer relationships for their safety and wellbeing.’ To find out more about this working definition, read this [blog](https://alexiproject.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f5f7e75053b0b223588eeaa95&id=9a98c8bc62&e=461c14c9f2) by Katie Latimer, Research Fellow in the Contextual Safeguarding team, for an introduction.

**Carlene Firmin TEDX Tottenham:** [**Contextual Safeguarding: Re-writing the rules of child protection**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCFZQcaIgDM)

In this ground-breaking talk Dr Firmin, the founder of Contextual Safeguarding outlines three things.

**One**: how contexts beyond families are associated with abuse.

**Two**: how traditional child protection systems fail to engage with these contextual dynamics.

**Three**: the components of the Contextual Safeguarding system that would redefine what child protection means.

1. **National news**

**Case reviews**

The NSPCC have added **six case reviews to the collection this month featuring a number of issues including voice of the child, sleeping behaviour, self-harm and suicide.**

**The reviews can be accessed via the** [NSPCC library](http://library.nspcc.org.uk/HeritageScripts/Hapi.dll/retrieve2?SetID=E68A7654-C987-438D-B169-53A086EFA27B&DataSetName=LIVEDATA)**.**

##### **Resources for young people with learning disabilities: podcast**

**Source:** NSPCC

**Date**: 09 December 2019   
The NSPCC has released an episode of its podcast in which the NSPCC’s joint head of safeguarding in communities and Dr El Stannage discuss Love Life, a series of films and resources developed to help young people with learning disabilities learn strategies for staying safe as they grow up and gain independence.   
**Listen to the podcast:** [Supporting young people with learning disabilities](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16oCW2ufqwX7teOlq14pUhCU3l)  
  
**Online child abuse**

**Source:** NSPCC

**Date**: 05 December 2019  
The NSPCC has released figures from responses, received from 32 police forces in England and Wales, to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request which asked for a breakdown of the platforms used to commit child sexual offences or indecent image offences against children aged under 18 for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. Figures show that: over 9,000 instances were recorded where the method of communication was known, including 2,009 instances reported on Instagram, 1,719 on Facebook or Facebook Messenger, and almost 300 on WhatsApp. The NSPCC is warning that child sexual abuse will go undetected if Facebook continues with its plans to encrypt messaging on Facebook and Instagram without first putting clear safeguards in place.  
**Read the news story:** [Facebook must be stopped from creating hiding places for child abuse](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16oCXsfP212KswmJD1D3Cf8q2t)  
**Sign the petition:** [Stop Facebook creating hiding places for child abusers](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16oCYa8BPL5yXa8VJwUntdTb22)

##### **Instagram asks for date of birth from new members**

**Source:** BBC

**Date**: 05 December 2019  
The BBC reports that Instagram will ask new members to provide their date of birth when setting up an account. The report includes an NSPCC statement which said that asking users to provide an unverifiable date of birth will do nothing in practice to protect children from harmful or age-inappropriate content and that the emphasis has to be on ensuring that platforms are safe in the first place for children to use.  
**Read the news story:** [Instagram demands date of birth from new members](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16oD0hMYeZe0r5tw32Kl2a9s0J)  
**Read the Instagram blog:**  [Making Instagram safer for the youngest members of our community](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16oD0ZFL2JgOVJfI9y1ET8Ud0i)

##### **Children in care**

**Source:** Department for Education

**Date**: 05 December 2019  
The Department for Education (DfE) has published statistics on looked-after children in England at national and local authority levels for 2018/19. Figures show that: there were 78,150 looked after children at 31 March 2019, an increase of 4% on 2017/18; 49,570 children were looked after as a result of or because they were at risk of abuse or neglect - the most common reason identified.   
**Read the news story:** [Children looked after in England including adoption: 2018 to 2019](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16oD1HyxQtjDqn1Ug3iYK7EXZR)  
**Read the report:** [Children looked after in England (including adoption), year ending 31 March 2019 (PDF)](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16oD2prkEdmrV0O6myAiB6pIZq)

##### **Perinatal peer support**

**Source:** Maternal Mental Health Alliance

**Date**: 03 December 2019   
The Maternal Mental Health Alliance (MMHA) has published the Perinatal peer support principles, co-designed by Mind and the McPin Foundation. The principles set out five values to help peer supporters meets the needs of women and families affected by mental health problems during pregnancy or in the year after birth.   
**Read the news story:** [Perinatal peer support principles now available](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16oD37k7rXpgpEAit3RCs5atYZ)  
**Read the principles:** [The perinatal peer support principles](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16oD3PcUfHs4Uimuzz8Wj3VeYy)

##### **Female Genital Mutilation**

**Source:** Department of Health

**Date**: 28 November 2019   
The Department of Health (D0H) has published quarterly figures for reports of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in England for July – September 2019. Findings include: healthcare providers recorded attendances by 1,930 women and girls where FGM was identified in July 2019-September 2019, of which 15 were under the age of 18.   
**Read a summary:** [Female Genital Mutilation July-September 2019](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16oD4x5H3ruToW8GG4qga2FZY7)  
**Read the report:** [Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) enhanced dataset (PDF)](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16oD5eYtRbxHTzUSMzHA11qKXG)

##### **County lines**

**Source:** Europol

**Date**: 27 November 2019   
The EU drugs agency (EMCDDA) and Europol have published their 2019 report on the EU drugs market, highlighting the exploitation of young people by county lines drug trafficking gangs in the UK.   
**Read the report:** [Drugs markets report 2019](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16oD5WRgEVAwodH4T4YTS0bvXf)  
**Read the Children and young people now article:** [EU report highlights 'extensive abuse' of vulnerable children by county lines drugs gangs](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16oD7mCQgpG9nvft65xxzXH1Wn)

##### **Homelessness**

**Source:** Shelter

**Date**: 03 December 2019   
Shelter has published a report looking at levels of homelessness in Britain. Findings include: an estimated 135,000 children in Britain are homeless and living in temporary accommodation, and the number of children in Britain that are homeless and living in temporary accommodation has risen by 51% in the last five years.    
**Read the press release:** [A child becomes homeless in Britain every eight minutes](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16oD84vD49IXS91FcAORqWrMVW)   
**Read the report:** [Generation homeless: the numbers behind the story (PDF)](http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/16oD8MopRTLMmMNRj66bhVcxVv)

1. **And finally**



**We wish you a very happy and peaceful festive season and all the best for 2020!**

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| Glossary |

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| APPG | All Party Parliamentary Group |
| BDA | British Dental Association |
| CAMHS | Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service |
| CCG | Clinical Commissioning Group |

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| EMCDDA | European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction |
| EYFS | Early Years Foundation Stage |
| FGM | Female Genital Mutilation |
| LADO | Local Area Designated Officer |
| LCSS | Locality and Community Support Service |
| LSCB | Local Safeguarding Children Board |
| MAPPA | Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements |
| MARAC | Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference |
| NSPCC | National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children |
| OSCB | Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board |