

Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children's Board Evidence Briefing 2019/20 Quarter 4 (April to June 2019)

This briefing provides an overview of key research and policy developments, emerging issues and good practice examples related to safeguarding children and the priorities of the Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children Board (WFSCB) for 2019/20 (namely Adolescents and Risk, Neglect, Safeguarding in Settings). This is in order to provide a national context to the work of the Board and ensure that the Board is aware and takes account of recent research, policy and legislative developments and emerging issues and good practice. Please click on report image to follow the link to the full report.

Cross-cutting priority: Adolescents Safeguarding (Exploitation)

Child exploitation – May 2019

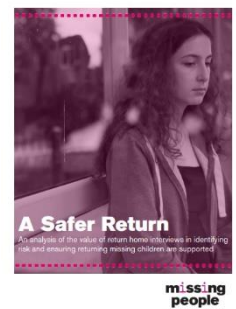
The Department for Education (DfE) has launched a national programme to protect children at risk of exploitation in England. The programme will be led by a team of academics and experts and will encompass education, health, social care, the police and the voluntary sector. [Click here](#) for more information.

County lines – May 2019

An operation led by the National County Lines Coordination Centre has resulted in over 500 arrests in one week in relation to county lines. As part of the activity, the Centre worked to safeguard 364 children purposes and there were more than 30 referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which assesses individuals as potential victims of human trafficking or modern slavery. [Click here](#) for more information

Missing children and young people – June 2019

Missing People has published research into the value of the return home interview (RHI), an in-depth conversation with a young person who has run away led by an independent, trained professional whom the young person trusts. Findings from analysis of 585 missing episodes for 214 returned missing children and young people aged 10 and over across three local authority areas in England include: 14% of the 214 children were either currently victims of child sexual exploitation at the time of their RHI or had been a victim in the past; 8% were either currently a victim of criminal or other form of child exploitation or had been in the past; and 21% shared information which suggested they had depression or another mental health issue. The research found that returned missing children and young people gave more detailed information in RHIs than in interviews with the police.



[Click here](#) to find out more information about the report

[Click here](#) or on the image for the report

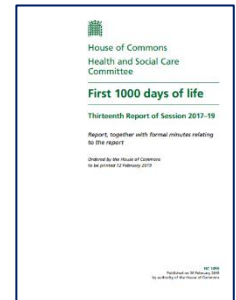
Source of articles:

- [NSPCC CASPAR](#) (Current awareness service for practice and policy research)
- [NSPCC Safeguarding in Education Update](#)

Priority: Neglect

Adverse childhood experiences – June 2019

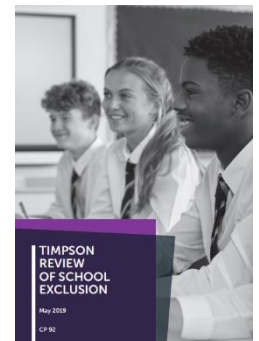
The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published the government's response to the conclusions and recommendations made in the Health and Social Care Select Committee's 'First 1000 days of life' report, which emphasised the impact that exposure to adversity can have during this period. The response outlines action the government will take in England including: implementing a continuity of carer model to help the most vulnerable mothers and babies and developing a Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPH) standard. [Click here](#) or on the image to view the report.



Priority: Safeguarding in Settings

School exclusions – May 2019

The Department for Education (DfE) has published a review of school exclusion in England. The review includes a section on safeguarding which recommends: regulations and guidance should be changed to ensure social workers are notified when a child receiving support from children's services is moved out of their school; real-time information on exclusions and other moves out of education should be routinely shared with Local Safeguarding Children Boards; and the DfE must take steps to ensure there is sufficient oversight of schools' use of alternative provision. [Click here](#) for more information or on the image for the report.



Online safety – June 2019

RM Education has published research undertaken with the NSPCC reviewing online safety practices in primary and secondary schools in the UK. Data was collected from a survey of 1,158 senior leaders, designated safeguarding leads and network managers in schools from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Findings include: only 37% of respondents felt very confident in identifying and handling online abuse incidents involving children; and 12% of schools provide online safety training biennially or more infrequently, with a further 12% providing training only when requested. [Click here](#) for more information or click on the image to view the report.



Safeguarding in faith communities – June 2019

The Church of England has published safeguarding data taken from annual safeguarding returns, collected by dioceses in England from 2015-17. Figures show that: the number of safeguarding concerns or allegations about children rose from 1,052 in 2015 to 1,342 in 2016 but fell slightly in 2017 to 1,257; in 2017 53% of safeguarding concerns or allegations relating to children were related to sexual abuse. [Click here](#) for more information. [Click here](#) or on the image for the report.



Source: [NSPCC](#)

Source of articles:

- [NSPCC CASPAR](#) (Current awareness service for practice and policy research)
- [NSPCC Safeguarding in Education Update](#)



Disadvantaged children – June 2019

The Education Secretary has announced new plans to help support the most disadvantaged children in England. New measures include: changing the schools admission code to ensure vulnerable children, including those fleeing domestic abuse, can access school places quickly; better information sharing between councils and schools; and tackling off-rolling, absences and exclusions in schools. [Click here](#) for more information

Source: [NSPCC](#)

Other cross cutting priorities:

Young people, social media and mental health – June 2019

Barnardo’s has published a report looking at what children, young people and practitioners say about the impact of social media on mental health and wellbeing and the social media experiences of vulnerable children in the UK. Findings from 80 Barnardo’s practitioners include: 79% said that 11-15 year olds that they work with have found cyberbullying impacted their mental health and wellbeing. Case studies and focus groups with children and young people found that those with additional life challenges are more susceptible to the negative impacts of social media as they are more likely to experience isolation from friends and family. [Click here](#) for more information or on the image to view the report.



Left to their own devices
Young people, social media and mental health
By Mabel Parnham and Steve Thomas, June 2019
Believe in children
Barnardo's

Knife crime – June 2019

The Home Office has released new Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) lesson plans designed to tackle knife crime for schools in England. The plans will help teachers challenge the myths around knife crime and feature real life case studies. [Click here](#) or on the image for more info



Source of articles:

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- [NSPCC Safeguarding in Education Update](#)