

**Information Circular July 2017**

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**1. Measuring the scale and changing nature of child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation (Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse).** A scoping report produced in partnership with the London Metropolitan University and informed by two expert workshops, forms the background to reaching current best estimates for both child sexual abuse and exploitation. Infographics give at-a-glance summaries of what is currently known and not known. Includes a briefing which summarises key points from the scoping report and sets out next steps in working towards better and comparative data. The briefing is available in English and Welsh. To see all 3 items visit <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-publications/scale-and-nature-of-child-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation-report/>

**2. Joint inspections of the response to children experiencing neglect: May to December 2017.** Joint targeted area inspections include a ‘deep dive’ investigation – an evaluation of children and young people’s experiences. This guidance was updated in July with the joint targeted area inspection report of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Wokingham <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-inspections-of-the-response-to-children-experiencing-neglect-may-to-december-2017>

**3. The Children’s Commissioner’s Report on measuring the number of vulnerable children’** (Children’s Commissioner, Anne Longfield). This report publishes new analysis that reveals the scale of vulnerability among children in England. A range of statistics from government departments, agencies and others reveals shocking statistics about the number of children living in vulnerable situations. The report provides a set of 32 groups of children that have come to be associated with form of vulnerability or risk. The report is the first stage in a long-term programme of work which the Children’s Commissioner will carry out on vulnerability. It will continue with a consultation on the definitions of what counts as vulnerability and look at “how the thousands of ‘invisible’ children can be better identified”. <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-commissioners-report-on-vulnerability/>

**4. Exploitation of children by criminal gangs – a report.** The All Party Parliamentary Group on Runaway and Missing Children and Adults has published a briefing report looking at the needs of children targeted by gangs and risk to their safety and highlighting how risks of grooming for criminal exploitation by gangs are not routinely identified when a child is reported missing to the police. Recommendations include: the Department for Education should ensure the risks of grooming and exploitation for criminality should be included on the curriculum for healthy relationships and taught in both primary and secondary schools; resources for parents and carers should be made available; a new national database for missing people implemented as soon as possible to make it easier for police to share information about missing young people across force areas

<http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/files/PandR/APPG%20Missing,%20Gangs%20and%20Exploitation%20Roundtable%20Report.pdf>

**5. Missing Children – a report by The Children’s Society ‘Making connections: understanding how local agencies can better keep children safe’.** The report looks at ways for children’s services and the police to work together to share information about missing children to better inform risk assessment, and build local intelligence of places and adults that may pose a risk to children. Findings from Freedom of Information (FOI) responses from 104 English local authorities and 37 English police forces include: vulnerable children who run away are left at greater risk of abuse, harm and exploitation because important information about children is often not being shared between the police and local authorities; under two thirds (62) of local authorities that responded to the FOI do not share risk assessments with the local police for all looked-after children in their care.

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-we-do/resources-and-publications/making-connections-understanding-how-local-agencies-can-better>

**6. Child protection information sharing: free webinars in August and September (NHS Digital)** to help health care organisations and local authorities learn more about Child Protection – Information Sharing (CP-IS) and how to implement it. The CP-IS project is linking IT systems together and helping organisations to change business processes so that child protection information can be shared securely between local authorities and NHS unscheduled care settings. CP-IS aims to ensure that health and social care staff have a more complete picture of a child’s interactions with health and social care services. Source [NHS Digital](#) Further information: implementing child protection information sharing (CP-IS): what is it and how does it work? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-APrs4MhZM> You Tube video

**7. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales Annual Report 2016-17 (18 July 2017)** includes Section 5 Children in Custody which draws on inspections of young offender institutions and secure training centres holding children (boys and girls) aged 12-18. On 24 February, it was announced that a new Youth Custody Service, as a distinct arm of HMPPS, would become responsible for the operational running of the children and young people’s estate. Anne Longfield, Children’s Commissioner for England responded to the report saying “This is a damning description of the youth detention system.....there needs to be a

new standard of well-being for children across all detention centres. Click here [Children's Commissioner response](#) . To read the annual report click here [http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2017/07/HMIP-AR\\_2016-17\\_CONTENT\\_11-07-17-WEB.pdf](http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2017/07/HMIP-AR_2016-17_CONTENT_11-07-17-WEB.pdf)

**8. Allegations of domestic abuse in child contact cases – Joint research by Cafcass and Women's Aid.** The reports published by Women's Aid on the tragic and untimely deaths of children following parental disputes over child contact where domestic abuse was a feature of the relationship were a key driver for this research. By using Cafcass data the report builds a picture of the prevalence of domestic abuse allegations in contact applications in the family court; the links between domestic abuse and other safeguarding risks; and the legal outcome of proceedings.  
[https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/media/321990/allegations\\_of\\_da\\_in\\_child\\_contact\\_cases\\_pdf.pdf](https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/media/321990/allegations_of_da_in_child_contact_cases_pdf.pdf)

**9. Statutory Guidance School exclusion (DfE, July 2017).** This statutory guidance on the exclusion of pupils from local authority maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units on 19 July updated the exclusion review process and included non-statutory annexes for headteachers and parents. The changes are factual and aim to provide clarity. They do not change the rights of, or requirements on, schools, children or parents. For use from 1 September 2017. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion#2017-07-19T15:01:48+01:00>

**10. Guidance about the publishing of family court judgments (The Transparency Project).** The Transparency Project works towards promoting a better understanding of the family court system, it does not give legal advice. This guidance note mainly applies to judgments in children's cases. It helps with doing anonymisation better and gives the positives and negatives about publishing court judgments in order to inform families and practitioners about the risks and benefits, to help those involved in cases make informed choices and participate in the decision making process.  
<http://www.transparencyproject.org.uk/publication-of-family-court-judgments/>

**11. Ofsted launches annual point-in-time questionnaires to children's social services.** Ofsted is asking for responses by 13 August 2017. The questionnaires are about children's homes, fostering services, adoption agencies, adoption support agencies and residential family centres. Ofsted inspectors want to hear what children and young people, staff, social workers and other professionals have to say about these services. Their responses will help inform future inspections. Services should provide staff and users with a link to the questionnaire. There is guidance for providers, including a promotional poster.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-launches-point-in-time-questionnaires>

**12. The fostering system in England: review.** The DfE has published a review of the fostering system in England. The review, commissioned to inform the national ‘stocktake’ of fostering announced by the government in 2016, includes: a description of the current fostering system; a review of what work, and where improvements could be made to improve outcomes for children; a review of the evidence to identify gaps in the evidence base

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/629383/The\\_fostering\\_system\\_in\\_England\\_Evidence\\_review.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/629383/The_fostering_system_in_England_Evidence_review.pdf)

**13. Residential care settings – safeguarding children and young people online (Uk Safer Internet Centre)**

Key advice and resource for professionals working in residential care settings – including care homes and boarding houses – to help them understand the impact of digital technologies on child protection <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/residential-care-settings>

**14. £30 million boost to projects supporting vulnerable young people (July 2017).** In his first address to the children’s social care sector, Children’s minister Robert Goodwill announces funding for 24 projects, as part of the Children’s Social Care Innovation Programme.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-boost-to-projects-supporting-vulnerable-young-people>

**15. ‘Signs of safety’ practice in children’s services: an evaluation (Research report, Dfe, July 2017).** Evaluation of a project to transform children’s services in 10 local authorities by implementing signs of safety (SoS) practice. The aim is to improve: the quality of direct work with children, young people and their families; partnership work with parents and families that recognises their strengths and uses these as part of any intervention; the quality of planning to support the safety of children and young people; the skills and confidence of the social work workforce.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/625376/Evaluation\\_of\\_Signs\\_of\\_Safety\\_in\\_10\\_pilots.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/625376/Evaluation_of_Signs_of_Safety_in_10_pilots.pdf)

Note: *This is just one of the latest round of the Children’s Social Care Innovation Programme Evaluation Reports. A list of the most recent reports can be found at the end of this circular.*

## Tools for Children and Families, Parents and Carers

**16. The Blast! Project *Just for Boys* Male Sexual Exploitation** – A male only sexual exploitation service supporting and working solely with boys and young men who have experienced,

are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing child sexual exploitation, as well as information about grooming, sexual exploitation and safe relationships. For further information <http://www.mesmac.co.uk/projects/blast/for-boys-and-young-men>

**17. #ToughTo Talk campaign (NSPCC).** Childline urges boys to speak out about their problems and reassures them they're not alone. The suicide rate for boys aged 10-19 was more than double that for girls in 2015. For further information and support including a film [Things guys don't talk about](#) which focuses on suicidal feelings and how young people can get help and support. Includes posters which can be downloaded for free <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/childline-urges-boys-speak-out-suicidal-feelings/>

**18. #listentoyourselfie campaign (Childline)** Gives information, support and advice around healthy and unhealthy relationships, and reminds you to listen to your gut feeling. Including understanding a confusing relationship, being able to change your mind, being pressured into sex, and what to do if you feel unsafe. Gives practical tools such as a safety plan template to map out how you can stay safe. Also links to more support on Sexting, Online Grooming, Building confidence and self-esteem, and Asking an adult for help. Includes posters which can be downloaded for free <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/friends-relationships-sex/sex-relationships/healthy-unhealthy-relationships/>

**19. Online safety conversation "icebreakers"** - resources for parents via email. O2, as part of its partnerships with the NSPCC to help all children and families in the UK stay safe together online, has created a series of weekly emails for parents and carers to help them start a conversation with their children about online safety. Sign up for the series of 6 emails, containing useful tips, advice and activities to help parents have conversations with their child about staying safe online <https://nspcc.o2.co.uk/>

**20. Helping families on international parental child abduction (Reunite International, June 2017)** International parental child abduction occurs when a child is wrongfully removed or wrongfully retained away from their home country. Reunite International has published the first in a series of guides which will outline the possible options for parents and guardians following a parental child abduction to a specific other country. This first guide relates to Poland. The guide is free <http://www.reunite.org/edit/files/Child%20Abduction%20Country%20Guides/Guide%20for%20Poland.pdf>

## **21. DfE Research and Analysis – Latest Round of Children's Social Care Innovation Programme Evaluation Reports**

1. [New Orleans intervention model: early implementation](#)

2. [Daybreak family group conferencing](#)
3. [Creating strong communities in north-east Lincolnshire](#)
4. [Family Safeguarding Hertfordshire: an evaluation](#)
5. ['No Wrong Door' innovation programme: evaluation](#)
6. ['Signs of safety' practice in children's services: an evaluation](#)
7. [Durham County Council's Families First programme: an evaluation](#)
8. [Social care: 'Pause' programme](#)
9. [Islington 'Doing What Counts: Measuring What Matters' evaluation](#)
10. [Cornerstone adoption support programme: evaluation](#)
11. [Compass service evaluation](#)
12. [Scaling and deepening the reclaiming social work model](#)
13. [Multisystemic therapy for adolescent problematic sexual behaviour](#)
14. [Multisystemic therapy: family integrated transitions](#)
15. [Leeds Family Valued programme](#)
16. [Children in need: Project Crewe](#)
17. [Enfield family and adolescent support service](#)
18. [Cambridgeshire's multi-systemic therapy service](#)
19. [Implementation evaluation of Doncaster Children's Services Trust](#)
20. [Newcastle city council's family insights programme](#)
21. [Family support: Windsor and Maidenhead innovation programme](#)
22. [Wigan's 'Share service' project](#)
23. ['Stockport family' children's services project](#)
24. [Evaluation of the Gloucestershire innovation project](#)
25. [Belhaven residential care project](#)
26. [Innovation in social care assessments for disabled children](#)
27. [Evaluation of the Sefton community adolescent service](#)
28. ['Extended HOPE' project](#)