

Safeguarding Children and Adults

January 2021

Dear Colleagues

Below are details of some recently published articles and other items of interest on Safeguarding and Protection of Adults and Children.

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Regards
Stella Scott
Senior Library Assistant

News items, books, reports

Including items from NSPCC's CASPAR bulletin

Child mental health: funding opportunity

Source: What Works for Children's Social Care

Date: 19 January 2021

What Works for Children's Social Care (WWCSC) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Service and Delivery Research Programme have announced funding for evaluative research to improve the quality of care, support and access to services for children and young people with mental health conditions, including children who have, or have had a social worker.

Read the news story: [New funding opportunity for interventions to improve mental health of children with a social worker](#)

Child abuse: consultation

Source: Office for National Statistics

Date: 21 January 2021

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published findings from research to understand whether a new survey to measure the current extent and nature of child abuse in the UK is viable. To help inform their decision on the future of the feasibility study, the ONS has launched a consultation to invite feedback from anyone with an interest in child protection and child protection policy. The consultation closes on 21 April 2021.

Read the research findings: [Exploring the feasibility of a survey measuring child abuse in the UK: January 2021](#)

Read the consultation: [Exploring the feasibility of a survey measuring child abuse in the UK](#)

How Safe 2021: online conference

Source: NSPCC Learning

Date: 21 January 2021

The NSPCC's two-day child protection and safeguarding conference is taking place online between 4 and 5 March 2021, and will be available on demand the following week. Speakers include Dez Holmes, the Director of Research in Practice, who will talk about adolescent safeguarding, including the implications of harms that often occur outside the family, such as youth violence, criminal exploitation, county lines and sexual exploitation. NSPCC Learning has published a blog in which she talks about transitional safeguarding.

Read the blog: ["Harm doesn't stop at 18": Dez Holmes talks to us ahead of How Safe 2021](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [How Safe 2021 conference](#)

Volunteering with vulnerable families

Source: NSPCC Learning

Date: 25 January 2021

NSPCC Learning has released a podcast discussing the evidence about using volunteers to support vulnerable families. In the podcast the authors of the report Dr. Louca-Mai Brady and Berni Graham, talk about how they conducted the research and what their findings were. Topics covered include: what volunteering with vulnerable families looks like in practice; where the volunteers who supported families usually came from; challenges and what worked. The podcast also discusses how this report could help develop future services.

Listen to the podcast: [How can volunteers support vulnerable families?](#)

Read the report: [Volunteering with vulnerable families: a rapid review of the literature](#)

Coronavirus: impact on babies

Source: Parent-Infant Foundation

Date: 19 January 2021

The Parent-Infant Foundation has published a report looking at the impact of the Spring 2020 national lockdown on babies, and how local systems responded to the challenges of the coronavirus crisis. Findings from a survey of 235 senior leaders of pregnancy and 0-2 services across the UK include: 98% of respondents said that babies that their organisation works with had been impacted by parental anxiety, stress or depression which was affecting bonding and responsive care; 80% said that some babies they work with had experienced increased exposure to domestic conflict, child abuse or neglect, with 29% saying many babies they work with had been impacted.

Read the news story: [Working for babies: lockdown lessons from local systems](#)

Read the report: [Working for babies: lockdown lessons from local systems \(PDF\)](#)

Coronavirus: parental mental health

Source: Co-SPACE

Date: 16 January 2021

The Supporting Parents, Adolescents, and Children in Epidemics (Co-SPACE) study which has been tracking parents, children, and young people's mental health since March 2020 has published a report on parental mental health. Findings from the study, based on data from over 6,000 UK parents, include: parental stress and depression were elevated during the first lockdown (when most children were home-schooled) and reduced when the lockdown restrictions eased in the summer. However, parental stress, depression, and anxiety increased between November and December when new national restrictions were introduced; and higher levels of stress, depression, and anxiety were reported by parents from single adult households and low-income families, as well as those who have children with SEND.

Read the news story: [Changes in parents' mental health symptoms and stressors \(Jan 2021\)](#)

Read the report: [Changes in parents' mental health symptoms and stressors from April to December 2020 \(PDF\)](#)

Child sexual abuse strategy

Source: Home Office

Date: 22 January 2021

The Home Office has published the Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy setting out the government's vision for preventing, tackling and responding to child sexual abuse whether it is committed in person or online, in families or communities, in the UK or overseas. The strategy is based on three objectives: tackling all forms of child sexual abuse and bringing offenders to justice; preventing offending and re-offending; and protecting and safeguarding children and young people, and supporting all victims and survivors.

Read the news story: [Priti Patel publishes new strategy to protect children from sexual abuse](#)

Read the strategy: [Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy](#)

Sibling sexual abuse

Source: CSA Centre

Date: 20 January 2021

The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (CSA Centre) has published an overview of the current research and practice knowledge around sibling sexual abuse. The report covers: sexual behaviour between siblings; the scale and nature of sibling sexual abuse; the impact of sibling sexual abuse; and professional responses. It aims to provide an accessible resource to help professionals understand the issues and challenges raised by sibling sexual abuse.

Read the news story: [Sibling sexual abuse](#)

Read the report: [Sibling sexual abuse: a knowledge and practice overview \(PDF\)](#)

Coronavirus: remote family group conferences

Source: Community Care

Date: 14 January 2021

Community Care has published an article discussing the challenges and benefits of virtual family group conferences (FGCs) during the coronavirus pandemic.

Read the news story: [How virtual family group conferences have fared under Covid-19](#)

Coronavirus: updates to safeguarding content

Source: NSPCC Learning

Date: 08 -13 January 2021

Following the announcement of the national lockdown, NSPCC Learning has updated the following safeguarding content on its website.

[Supporting children and young people's mental health](#)

[Safeguarding during coronavirus: voluntary and community groups](#)

[Safeguarding during coronavirus: school governors and trustees](#)

[Coronavirus: 5 steps to update your safeguarding policies and procedures](#)

[Recruiting safely during coronavirus](#)

[Online safety during coronavirus](#)

[Undertaking remote teaching safely](#)

Coronavirus: Cafcass updates

Source: Cafcass

Date: 7, 14 January 2021

Cafcass has published updated organisational guidance on working with children and families through the coronavirus pandemic. Separately Cafcass has reissued their position on parental alienation.

Read the updates: [Cafcass publishes updated organisational guidance on working with children through Covid-19](#)
[Cafcass reissues position on parental alienation](#)

Coronavirus: health visitors

Source: The Institute of Health Visiting

Date: 21 December 2020

The Institute of Health Visiting has published findings from its annual survey of health visitors in England. Findings from responses to the survey from 862 health visitors include: 82% reported an increase in domestic violence and abuse since the coronavirus pandemic began, 81% reported an increase in perinatal mental illness and poverty, 61% reported an increase in neglect and 45% report an increase in substance abuse.

Read the news story: [Survey confirms babies and young children have been forgotten and failed in the nation's pandemic response](#)

Download the report: [State of health visiting in England: are babies and their families being adequately supported in England in 2020 to get the best start in life? \(PDF\)](#)

Sexting: guidance

Source: The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, UK Council for Internet Safety. Welsh Government
Date: 23, 24 December 2020

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport and the UK Council for Internet Safety have published guidance to support designated safeguarding leads and senior leadership teams and others working in education settings in England in responding to incidents involving the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and safeguarding children and young people. The guidance covers: risk assessing incidents; safeguarding and supporting children and young people; handling devices and imagery; recording incidents; and providing education on the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes. The Welsh Government has also published guidance.

Read the guidance - England: [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

Journal articles

Counseling for Young People and Families Affected by Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: A Qualitative Investigation of the Perspective of Young People, Parents, and Professionals

Joanna Farr, Julian Edbrooke-Childs, Rosa Town, Deborah Pietkiewicz, Ian Young & Emily Stapley (2021), Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, DOI: [10.1080/10538712.2020.1848959](https://doi.org/10.1080/10538712.2020.1848959)

Abstract:

Despite growing awareness of the negative impact of child sexual exploitation on young people's psychological, emotional and relational lives, little is known about how counseling can support young people and their families. The aim of this study was to explore the experience of counseling for young people and parents affected by child sexual exploitation and abuse, with a view to examining what facilitates progress, from the perspective of young people, parents and professionals. In-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with 10 young people, 8 parents and 7 professionals and were analyzed using thematic analysis. Findings suggest that through counseling, young people experienced affective and relational improvements that were attributed to the process. Characteristics of the counseling relationship that facilitated progress included being able to talk openly in a caring, non-judgmental and unpressurized environment, as well as receiving advice, techniques or solutions within a holistic approach. Facets of service delivery were also highlighted, including the provision of confidentiality, flexibility and consistency, along with a multi-agency approach that promoted engagement. Perceived obstacles to progress included resistance at the outset and service location issues.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10538712.2020.1848959>

Physical Versus Sexual Abuse as Reflected in Adolescents' Self-Figure Drawings: A Preliminary Study,

Rachel Lev-Wiesel, Oren Ramot, Hagar Niv, Einav Daniel, Yoav Gosh, Amir Dahan & Susan Weinger (2021) ,
Journal of Child Sexual Abuse DOI: [10.1080/10538712.2020.1856993](https://doi.org/10.1080/10538712.2020.1856993)

Abstract:

Based on the lack of validated assessment tools to detect past physical or sexual abuse, the current study examines to what extent the experience of either sexual or physical abuse is reflected in self-figure drawings of adolescents at-risk. A convenience sample consists of 93 adolescents at risk between the ages of 12–17 recruited from Welfare institutes divided into three groups: Group 1 included adolescents who experienced sexual abuse, Group 2 included adolescents who experienced physical abuse but not sexual abuse, Group 3 included adolescents who experienced neither sexual abuse nor physical abuse. A self-report anonymous questionnaire that consisted of demographics, traumatic events questionnaire, and the Medical Somatic Dissociation Questionnaire (MSDQ) was administered following Ethical approval and signing of consent forms. Participants were asked to draw themselves on an A4 sheet of paper using a pencil. Five social workers who were unaware of participants' experiences assessed the drawings independently for the level of obviousness of the following indicators: face line, eyes, nose, ears, hair stand, forehead, lower body, arms, and hands. Results yielded differences in pictorial indicators (nose, hair stand, lower body) among the groups. MSDQ score was found significantly higher among sexually abused victims.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10538712.2020.1856993>

An innovative multi-agency consultation model for harmful sexual behaviour displayed by children and young people: practice paper

Jeyda Ibrahim (2021) ,

Journal of Sexual Aggression, DOI: [10.1080/13552600.2020.1845832](https://doi.org/10.1080/13552600.2020.1845832)

Abstract:

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) has been regularly documented as a demanding area of practice within the United Kingdom (UK). The aim of this paper is to share a practice model developed in an under-resourced inner London borough. The HSB forum is formed of a multi-agency group of professionals and runs monthly providing a platform for practitioners to seek consultation for young people they are working with who are displaying HSB's. Initial feedback for the forum from practitioners has been consistently positive and they have valued specifically the opportunity to formulate, have clear directions, and the multi-disciplinary perspective. In addition, most reported feeling empowered to implement the recommendations suggested. Given the shared vulnerability factors between those displaying HSB's and other at-risk young people such as those who are being sexually exploited, this model provides an innovative way that practitioners can be supported by multiple agencies where there is a lack of specialist services.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13552600.2020.1845832>