



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

WITH DR SANDRA WISEMAN

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Online Safety

Nominet has published its Digital Youth Index which looks at young people's digital lives and wellbeing in the UK. The report looks at data across a sample of 4,105 8 to 25 year-olds to gain insight into their digital experiences. **Findings include** that 79% of young people would trust a school or college teacher to help them if they experienced something that made them feel unsafe online.

Read:
<https://digitalyouthindex.uk/young-peoples-digital-lives/>

Children and social media

Yonder Consulting and Ofcom have released new research on children's 'user ages' on social media platforms. The research was based on a quota of 1,000 social media users aged 8-17. **Findings include:** 32% of children aged 8-17 with a social media profile on at least one platform, has a "user age" of at least 18. This included 23% of 8-12 year-olds, 34% of 13-15 year-olds and 46% of 16-17 year-olds.

Read:
<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/news-centre/2022/a-third-of-children-have-false-social-media-age-of-18>

Research:
https://www.ofcom.org.uk/___data/assets/pdf_file/0015/245004/children-user-ages-chart-pack.pdf

Language around sexting and sharing nudes

NSPCC Learning has published the latest in its series of blogs exploring the importance of language to safeguarding practice. The latest post looks at the different words professionals and children use when talking about taking, sending or receiving naked or semi-naked images or videos. It highlights the importance of being aware of the potential pitfalls around choices of language, and using this knowledge to communicate effectively with different audiences.

Read:
https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/why-language-matters/sexting-sharing-nudes-importance-of-overcoming-language-barriers?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Why%20language%20matters%3A%20E2%80%98Sexting%E2%80%99%20or%20E2%80%98sharing%20nudes%E2%80%99%3F&utm_campaign=20221031_KIS_CASPAR_October31

Safeguarding children with complex needs and disabilities

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (CSPRP) has published a report investigating allegations of abuse at residential homes for disabled children in England. A phase two report will be coming out in February 2023. **Findings include:** children and young people experienced significant and sustained abuse and neglect; the voices of the children and young people were not sought or heard; and children were placed in unsuitable settings that increased their vulnerability. **Recommendations include:** quality and safety reviews to be completed for all children currently living in residential specialist schools registered as children's homes; referrals, complaints and concerns relating to the workforce in these settings need to be reviewed; and Ofsted should conduct an analysis of their evidence around suitability, training and support.

Read:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/urgent-action-to-protect-children-with-disabilities-from-abuse>

Read:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-with-disabilities-in-residential-settings>

LGBTQ+ youth and mental health

The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAMH) has released a new podcast episode exploring a systematic review research paper on the impact of childhood adversities on the mental health of LGBTQ+ young people. The research paper includes studies from the United States, Asia, Canada and Europe. The episode discusses how sexual orientation disclosure is linked with mental health problems such as social anxiety disorder, phobia, or PTSD. Findings from the paper are discussed in relation to child and mental health (CAMH) professionals working with young LGBTQ+ patients, and how schools should prepare for working with LGBTQ+ students.

Podcast:
<https://www.acamh.org/podcasts/childhood-adversities-lgbt-youth-mental-health/>

Read:
<https://acamh.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/jcv2.12079>

Mental Health Resources

Dr Pooky Knightsmith (PhD) is the former chair of Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition, the author of several books and educator of thousands through her speaking, online training and YouTube videos. Take a look at her website for lots of resources about mental health.

Website:
<https://www.pookyknightsmith.com/>

Online harm and abuse

NSPCC Learning has published a summary of findings and learning around online harm and abuse from case reviews published between 2015 and 2022. The briefing summarises: **key issues;** reasons why some children and young people are particularly vulnerable to online harm and abuse; and learning to help professionals prevent and respond to incidences of online harm and abuse.

Read:
https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/learning-from-case-reviews/online-harm-and-abuse?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Online%20harm%20and%20abuse%3A%20learning%20from%20case%20reviews&utm_campaign=20221103_KIS_SIEU_November

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) for England and Wales has published its final report. The report draws on evidence from public hearings, including an investigation into residential school settings; the Inquiry's research programme; and submissions to the 'Truth Project' from people who were sexually abused as children. **Recommendations include:** introducing a statutory requirement of mandatory reporting, establishing a national scheme to provide monetary reparations to those who experienced sexual abuse in institutions, and creating Child Protection Authorities for England and for Wales to improve child protection practice, provide advice to government and monitor implementation of the Inquiry's recommendations.

Read:
<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/reports-recommendations/publications/inquiry/final-report>

Asylum seeking children accommodation

The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration has published a report investigating the use of hotels to accommodate unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the UK. **Findings from public data, visits, and interviews reveal:** although there were safeguarding processes and guidance in place, the operation was struggling to move on from being an emergency response; the Home Office had not provided mental health support within the hotels; it was not always clear how safety plans developed after the assessment of a young person were monitored; and identification of vulnerable young people was negatively impacted by poor record keeping prior to arrival at the hotels.

Read:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/an-inspection-of-the-use-of-hotels-for-housing-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-uasc-march-may-2022>

Hair discrimination in schools

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has put together resources designed to prevent discrimination based on hair in schools. **The resources include:** non-statutory guidance with examples of hair discrimination; a decision-making tool which aims to support education professionals with developing and reviewing policies; and videos designed to raise awareness.

Guidance:
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/preventing-hair-discrimination-schools>

Resources:
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/preventing-hair-discrimination-schools-decision-making-tool>

Video:
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/videos-preventing-hair-discrimination-schools>

Forthcoming free safeguarding webinars for Autumn term 2022

Anxiety - Wednesday 23rd November at 10am
Self-harm and suicidal ideation - Tuesday 29th November at 10am
County lines - Tuesday 6th December at 10am
Knife crime - Tuesday 13th December at 10am

For further information, please contact Jodie Richard.
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