

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN  
INFORMATION UPDATE 292  
13<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**Life in Likes (04/01/18)**

Anne Longfield, Children's Commissioner for England, is launching a new report on the impact of social media on the lives of children before they become teenagers.

Whilst most social media sites have an official age limit of 13 years, some research has suggested ¾ of 10-to-12 year olds have a social media account.

Today's report reveals many children are approaching a 'cliff edge' as they transition from primary to secondary school, with social media becoming much more important in their lives but causing them greater anxiety. The study suggests some children are becoming almost addicted to 'likes' as a form of social validation that makes them happy and that many are increasingly anxious about their online image and 'keeping up appearances'.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2018/01/04/children-unprepared-for-social-media-cliff-edge-as-they-start-secondary-school-childrens-commissioner-for-england-warns-in-new-report/>

**New survey shows half of all schoolchildren feel sad or anxious every week (05/02/18)**

Almost half of children aged from 12 to 16 in England feel sad or anxious at least once a week with worries about their future and school their biggest concerns, a survey by Barnardo's has found.

By the age of 16, 70% report feeling sad or anxious at least once a week with 22% having negative feelings as much as once a day.



48% of 12 year olds in England surveyed also felt this way at least once a week, with only 2% in this age group saying they never had.

The survey conducted by YouGov on behalf of Barnardo's reveals what is troubling today's children and how they can be better supported.

[http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news/New-survey-shows-half-of-all-schoolchildren-feel-sad-or-anxious-every-week/press\\_releases.htm?ref=128176](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news/New-survey-shows-half-of-all-schoolchildren-feel-sad-or-anxious-every-week/press_releases.htm?ref=128176)

**Wales bans the intimate piercing of under 18s (01/02/18)**

Wales is the first country in the UK to introduce a nationwide ban on the intimate piercing of under 18s. The new law, coming into force today is making it an offence for piercing practitioners to arrange and/ or carry out an intimate piercing on under 18s.

The aim of the new law is to protect children and young people from the potential health harms which can be caused by an intimate piercing. The change will come under the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017, prohibiting the intimate piercing of persons under 18 in Wales. It will also be an offence to 'make arrangements' to perform an intimate piercing on a child or young person under 18 in Wales.

The intimate piercing of children and young people under 18 could also be considered a child protection issue. By undergoing an intimate piercing procedure, young people under the age of 18 may be placed in a vulnerable position.

<http://gov.wales/newsroom/health-and-social-services/2018/piercing/?lang=en>

**Education in inpatient mental health units**  
(01/02/18)

Report summarising findings of a survey of education provision for those in inpatient children and young people's mental health services.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-in-inpatient-mental-health-units>

**SEND reform funding for local authorities**  
(25/01/18)

Funding for carrying out special educational needs and disabilities reforms.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-reform-funding-for-local-authorities>

**Schools causing concern** (25/01/18)

Statutory guidance on LAs' and regional schools commissioners' responsibilities re schools and PRUs causing concern.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-causing-concern--2>

**Searching, screening and confiscation at school** (18/01/18)

Guidance explaining the powers schools have to screen and search pupils, and to confiscate items they find.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>

**Youth criminal records: response to the Justice Committee report** (31/01/18)

Government response to the House of Commons Justice Committee's inquiry into the disclosure of youth criminal records.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-criminal-records-government-response-to-the-justice-committee-report>

**Youth Justice annual statistics: 2016 to 2017** (25/01/18)

Annual statistics for England and Wales.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-justice-annual-statistics-2016-to-2017>

**Youth custody data** (12/01/18)

Monthly statistics on the population in custody of children and young people within the secure estate.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data>

**Changes to domestic violence evidence requirements come into effect** (08/01/18)

From today, victims of domestic violence will get more support in taking abusive former partners to court. There will no longer be a time limit on abuse evidence, which previously stood at 5 years.

Additionally, the range of documents accepted as evidence of abuse has been widened to include statements from domestic violence support organisations and housing support officers.

Legal aid is available to people involved in private family disputes if they are victims, or are at risk of becoming victims, of domestic violence or child abuse. To qualify, applicants must provide objective evidence of the abuse while their case is also subject to means and merits tests.

Today's changes follow a review of the evidence requirements set out in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012. The changes are the latest in a series of reforms the government is making to support victims of domestic violence, having previously announced a £17m fund to support 41 projects to tackle violence against women and girls.

The landmark Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill will also ensure that no stone is left unturned in protecting and supporting domestic violence victims and children.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-domestic-violence-evidence->

### **Number of care order applications - Monthly statistics**

In December 2017, Cafcass received a total of 1,008 care applications. This figure represents an 8% decrease in comparison with December 2016 and is the third-highest monthly total for December on record.

<https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/about-cafcass/research-and-data/public-law-data/>

### **Private law data**

In December 2017, Cafcass received 2,790 new private law cases – down 2% compared with those received in December 2016.

<https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/about-cafcass/research-and-data/private-law-data/>

### **Measles outbreaks confirmed in 5 areas across UK (02/02/18)**

Public Health England (PHE) issues advice for the public to ensure they have had the MMR vaccine after outbreaks of measles are confirmed in 5 areas of England.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/measles-outbreaks-confirmed-in-leeds-liverpool-and-birmingham>

### **Data submission template: child health record departments (01/02/18)**

Data reporting template for 01/10 – 31/12 /17 with guidance for child health record departments.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/screening-data-submission-template-child-health-records>

### **School leaver booster (Td/IPV): vaccine coverage estimates (27/01/18)**

Annual reports from the national school leaver booster (tetanus, diphtheria and polio, Td/IPV) vaccination programme for adolescents.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-leaver-booster-tdipv-vaccine-coverage-estimates>



### **Child development outcomes at 2 – 2 ½ years metrics: 2017 to 2018 (31/01/18)**

Quarterly and annual LA metrics on outcomes for children at 2 – 2 ½ years as measured by the ASQ-3.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-development-outcomes-at-2-to-2-and-a-half-years-metrics-2017-to-2018>

### **Seasonal flu vaccine uptake in children of primary school age: monthly data, 2017 to 2018 (25/01/18)**

Cumulative uptake data for the childhood seasonal flu programme in England.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake-in-children-of-primary-school-age-monthly-data-2017-to-2018>

### **The wellbeing of 15-year-olds: analysis of the What About YOUth? Survey**

(17/01/18)

Report highlighting associations between health behaviours, other self-rated life factors (e.g bullying and body image) and wellbeing.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-wellbeing-of-15-year-olds-analysis-of-the-what-about-youth-survey>

### **Teenage pregnancy prevention framework (15/01/18)**

Guidance for local teenage pregnancy prevention programmes to help young people avoid unplanned pregnancies and develop healthy relationships.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teenage-pregnancy-prevention-framework>

### **Child vision screening (09/01/18)**

A set of resources to support the commissioning and delivery of child vision screening. Includes a service specification, competencies, leaflets and template letters.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-vision-screening>

**Adverse childhood experiences increase risk of mental illness, but community support can offer protection (18/01/18)**

People who experience abuse, neglect and other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) such as living with domestic violence are at greater risk of mental illness throughout life.

Findings from a study across Wales found adults who had suffered 4 or more types of ACE were almost 10 times more likely to have felt suicidal or self-harmed than those who had experienced none.

The study also found that some basic community measures help build resilience which can help protect individuals from developing the mental health problems that ACEs can cause.

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/news/47341>

**New identity checking guidelines (25/01/18)**

New identity checking guidelines have been introduced for standard and enhanced disclosure checks.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-identity-checking-guidelines>

**DBS ID checking guidelines (25/01/18)**

Guidance to help you validate the identity of a DBS check applicant and a new lead/countersignatory.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-identity-checking-guidelines>

**DBS guide to eligibility (18/01/18)**

Disclosure and Barring Service eligibility guidance for those working with children and adults.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-check-eligible-positions-guidance>



**The Independent Inquiry into CSA**

**Inquiry clarifies Operation Hydrant referrals (16/01/18)**

The IICSA has today clarified its position on the referrals it makes to Operation Hydrant.

Paragraph eight of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference requires the Inquiry to pass all allegations of CSA it receives to the police. Operation Hydrant acts as a single point of contact for the Inquiry, receiving and disseminating allegations that a crime has been committed to the relevant police forces in England and Wales.

The Inquiry works to ensure the information it provides to Operation Hydrant is appropriate. We will not share someone's personal details with the police unless the individual agrees. The exception is where a current child protection issue has been identified or someone is at risk of serious harm. Even in cases where the Inquiry cannot pass on someone's personal details, the circumstances of the case may reveal important information about particular locations or institutions which may be of assistance to the police. Local police forces are responsible for notifying other statutory authorities, as appropriate.

The Inquiry recently updated its Truth Project website and made a portal change from "Share Your Experience" webform to the simpler "Get in Touch" form (expression of interest form) - this made it easier for victims/survivors interested in attending our Truth Project sessions to get in touch, by reducing the amount of information required. <https://www.iicsa.org.uk/news/inquiry-clarifies-operation-hydrant-referrals>

### **Support for home educating families – Wales (30/01/18)**


Education Secretary, Kirsty Williams, has announced plans for a comprehensive package of support for home educators and assistance for LAs to identify school aged children not in formal education.

Support for home educators will include help with exam registrations, the same health offers made to children in school, access to Wales' digital learning platform Hwb, exploring opportunities for home-educating families to learn Welsh and support from Careers Wales.

The Education Secretary has also announced that she intends to consult on using existing legislation to require LAs to establish a database to assist them in identifying children not on a school register, not in education otherwise than at school and not receiving a suitable education. At the same time the Cabinet Secretary will consult on statutory guidance setting out the arrangements for the operation of the database and how it will be managed.

The consultation will consider which partners will be able to contribute to providing the most complete database, such as local health boards, and whether independent schools should be required to tell LAs about the pupils who attend those schools.

The above powers could not be used to compel a parent to register that their child is being home-educated. However, the powers would enable the LA to compile a reasonably complete database of children not on any LA education or independent school register.

The statutory guidance will outline the arrangements LAs will be expected to put in 

place to identify home-educated children, and to assess the suitability of education.

In order to be able to make an assessment the education is suitable, it would not be unreasonable for the LA to see the child. This will be for the LA to decide and will be influenced by a number of factors including the context and circumstances surrounding each individual child.

The statutory guidance will provide clear advice to LAs on this matter.

<http://gov.wales/newsroom/educationandskills/2018/education-secretary-announces-package-of-support-for-home-educating-families/?lang=en>

### **Nearly fifty thousand children missing suitable education (30/01/18)**

Research published by the NCB raises fresh concerns over the welfare of children missing education in England.

- 49,187 children in England were reported as missing education in 2016/17.
- Children missing education (CME) are defined as children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education elsewhere.
- As stated by Government, CME are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) later in life.
- 15% of children recorded as CME were known to social services.
- The proportion of CME receiving free school meals was 9% higher than the whole school population.

<https://www.ncb.org.uk/news-opinion/news-highlights/nearly-fifty-thousand-children-missing-suitable-education>



**Don't be left in the dark: children and young people's mental health (02/02/18)**

This short guide published by the LGA provides an overview of the challenges facing mental health and wellbeing services for children and young people.

At least one in 10 children and young people are affected by mental health problems, and the unreported figures are likely to be even higher. Young people are increasingly struggling with problems like anxiety, depression and self-harm, with nearly 19,000 young people admitted to hospital after harming themselves in 2015 - a 14% rise over 3 years. We are also just beginning to understand how the increasing prevalence of social media in young people's lives is negatively impacting their emotional health.  
<https://www.local.gov.uk/dont-be-left-dark-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health>

**Changes to children's social care services registered and/or inspected by Ofsted (02/02/18)**

Information for registered providers of children's social care services who want to request a change to their conditions of registration.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-childrens-social-care-services-that-are-registered-andor-inspected-by-ofsted>

**Register as a provider of children's social care services (02/02/18)**

Information for social care providers and managers on how to register with Ofsted as well as separate guidance to help with online applications.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guide-to-registration-for-childrens-social-care-services>

**Register as a children's social care provider: checklist (02/02/18)**

Download a checklist of documents you need to submit as part of a children's social care application.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/become-a-childrens-social-care-provider-checklist>

**Local area SEND inspection outcome letters (30/01/18)**

Outcome letters from inspections of local area services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-outcome-letters>

**Joint inspections of the response to children experiencing neglect (30/01/18)**

Guidance for inspectors and inspection reports for joint targeted area inspections of local area services.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-inspections-of-the-response-to-children-experiencing-neglect-may-to-december-2017>

**Inspecting schools: guidance for parents (26/01/18)**

A leaflet for parents and carers of children whose school is due for inspection.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspections-a-guide-for-parents>

**Childcare protocols between Ofsted and other organisations (24/01/18)**

How Ofsted will work with other organisations.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protocols-between-ofsted-and-other-organisations-in-relation-to-childcare>

**School inspections: staff and pupil questionnaire text** (16/01/18)

During Ofsted school inspections, staff and pupils can give their views via an online survey. This page provides the questions for reference only.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspections-staff-and-pupil-questionnaire-text>

**Joint inspections of the response to children living with domestic abuse** (12/01/18)

Inspection guidance and reports on the multi-agency response to children living with domestic abuse.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-inspections-of-the-response-to-children-living-with-domestic-abuse-september-2016-to-march-2017>

**Become a childminder: pre-registration briefing** (09/01/18)

This is a presentation of the pre-registration briefing for childminders.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-registration-briefing-for-those-wishing-to-become-childminders>

**Further education and skills inspection handbook** (08/02/18)

Guidance on how further education and skills providers are inspected under the common inspection framework.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-education-and-skills-inspection-handbook>

**Inspecting LA children's services from 2018** (09/02/18)

Ofsted's framework and guidance for inspecting LA services for children in need, children in care and care leavers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-local-authority-childrens->

**Local area SEND inspection** (08/02/18)

Outcome letters from inspections of local area services for children and young people with SEND.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-outcome-letters>

**Automated external defibrillators in schools** (07/02/18)

How schools can buy, install and maintain.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/automated-external-defibrillators-aeds-in-schools>

**Characteristics of young people who are long-term NEET** (08/02/18)

Analysis of the characteristics of young people who were not NEET for a year, 3 years after completing key stage 4.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/characteristics-of-young-people-who-are-long-term-neet>

**Schools causing concern** (09/02/18)

Statutory guidance on LAs' and regional schools commissioners' responsibilities re schools and PRUs causing concern.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-causing-concern--2>

**Parental Alcohol Misuse and Children** (09/02/18)

PAM can negatively affect children's physical and mental health, and other outcomes including educational attainment and behaviour. Effects can be acute when experienced in conjunction with other adverse experiences such as domestic abuse, marital conflict, and deprivation.

PAM is a common feature in child protection and care proceedings, and places a considerable burden on social services.

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PN-0570>

## Consultations

### **Nationwide Pupil Online Safety Survey**

LGfL DigiSafe & NSPCC are running a pupil online-safety survey for all UK schools for Safer Internet Day 2018. It is free and live until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

Open to pupils in Y3\*-11 (Scotland P4\*-S5; Northern Ireland P4\*-Y12), it will help develop a better understanding of young people's online lives: nationally, via an academic report we have commissioned, and locally, through the data which will be returned to participating schools.

<https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/survey>



### **Social Work England: secondary legislative framework (08/02/18)**

This consultation seeks views on the policy underpinning draft regulations for the new regulator for the social work profession in England.

Social Work England will be the new professional regulator for social workers in England. It will undertake core regulatory functions including:

- setting standards
- holding the professional register
- approving initial education and training courses for social workers
- running a 'fitness to practise' system

This consultation seeks views on the:

- overall approach to creating a modern, proportionate regulatory framework
- specific approach taken in each of the regulatory areas
- possible oversight procedures for regulatory rules
- likely impacts of the proposed changes

Closing date: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/social-work-england-secondary-legislative-framework>

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/social-work-england-implementation-team/social-work-england-consultation-on-secondary-legi/>



## Conferences

### **Responding to the New Children's Services Inspection Regime**

21<sup>st</sup> March 2018      London  
£295 + VAT

Ofsted recently published the framework for its new inspection regime which will begin rolling out from January 2018. At its core, authorities will be required to evaluate themselves on the quality and impact of social work practice. This is so the gathered information can be used to tailor and prioritise inspections to each children's service.

Key issues to be addressed at this briefing include:

- Understanding the changes to children's service inspections by Ofsted
- Applying a proportionate and risk-based approach to inspection
- Outlining the difference between standard, short inspections and focused visits
- Monitoring inadequate local authorities
- Exploring inspection methodology and post-inspection actions
- Roles and expectations of inspectors
- Demonstrating good performance
- Self-evaluations on an annual basis to determine inspection priorities
- Ensuring you are making a significant impact on lives of cared for children in your local authority area
- Measuring performance to determine where there needs to be improvement
- Examples of organisations preparing for inspections

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/Children-Services-Inspections>



### **Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation**

15<sup>th</sup> March 2018      London  
£295 + VAT

Tackling CSE is a key priority for both Government and local services. Despite significant progress, more must be done to safeguard children from CSE. The Government continues to push forward its national strategy under the pillars of tackling offending, reducing vulnerability and supporting victims and survivors.

Join us for an up-to-date brief on what is being done at a national and local level to combat CSE. You will explore the Government's strategy and learn from good practice case studies to take back and implement in your own setting.

Key Issues to be Addressed:

- Update of Government action to tackle CSE and the national picture
- Funding and commissioning update: opportunities for frontline services
- Strengthening multi-agency working across local authorities, police, health services, the third sector and other partners
- The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and its impact on child safeguarding
- The key role of the criminal justice system in preventing CSE and punishing offenders
- Practical steps to tackle CSE and advice from successful local strategies
- Working with local partners to build resilience and ensure a robust response to CSE

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/Child-Sexual-Exploitation>

## Conferences (continued)

### **Online Safety Live**

Online Safety Live is a programme of events designed exclusively for professionals working with children and young people and they're completely FREE.

The events, delivered by the South West Grid for Learning, are two hours long and cover a broad range of online safety topics, a briefing session in its truest sense.

At the end of the event all delegates receive access to an online resource area containing links to all the materials mentioned, signposting to sources of help and support as well as a live copy of the presentation itself.

13 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	0930	Ealing
15 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	0930	Ramsgate
8 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	0930	Portcawl
8 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	1430	Llanelli
9 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	1430	Colwyn Bay
11 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	0930	Cardiff

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/online-safety-live>

### **Supporting Student Wellbeing in Independent Schools**

26<sup>th</sup> April 2018      London  
£349 - £459 + VAT

This event aims to help you support mental health challenges and stay up to date on the latest risks to keep your student safe.

Issues to be addressed include:

- Anxiety: Understand the root causes of anxiety and know how to offer meaningful

support to students suffering high levels of anxiety

- Resilience: Know how to build resilience within your students and enable them to deal with challenges
- Parents: Gain methods to work with parents to manage the extra pressure they can put on their children
- Social Media: Hear the latest new and emerging trends in online safety and work with students to prevent cyberbullying
- Stress: Learn new ways to share with students to manage stress from parental and exam pressures

<http://my.optimus-education.com/conferences/supporting-student-wellbeing-independent-schools>

### **NSPCC conference: How safe are our children? Growing up online**

20th – 21st June 2018      London  
£169 - £219 (early bird prices)

The conference will explore the latest research and insight on keeping children safe in the digital age. The conference will also see the launch of the NSPCC's How safe are our children? 2018 report, an overview of the latest child protection data from the UK.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/charity-runs-cycles-and-challenges/social-and-special-events/how-safe-are-our-children-conference-2018-growing-up-online/>

This newsletter collates information from various sources that is relevant to safeguarding children. Anyone working in this area who would like to be added to the circulation list can forward their details to – [keithdriver@btinternet.com](mailto:keithdriver@btinternet.com)