



# Weekly e-bulletin

## Safeguarding/other

**How the government is reviewing support for children in need in order to support them and improve their outcomes.**

[Government report](#)

**CLOSED CONSULTATION - Children in need of help and protection - Analysis of the responses received to the call for evidence, along with key findings.**

[Government findings and analysis](#)

**CONSULTATION - Government are seeking views on a possible mandatory reporting duty, requiring certain professionals to report cases of forced marriage, and on how government guidance should be updated.**

This consultation seeks views about whether it is necessary to introduce a new legal mandatory reporting duty relating to cases of forced marriage and, if it is, what such a reporting requirement would look like. It also seeks views on how the current guidance on forced marriage could be improved and strengthened. The consultation is open to everyone. We are particularly interested in hearing from victims and survivors of forced marriage, those with expertise in the area of forced marriage, and relevant professionals, including those working in social care, education, the police and healthcare.

**Closing date: 23rd January 2019**

[Consultation](#)

**CONSULTATION - The DfE is consulting to inform the development and dissemination of a draft voluntary safeguarding code of practice for out-of-school settings; and accompanying guidance for parents setting out the key questions they may wish to consider when choosing an out-of-school setting for their child, i.e. any institution which provides tuition, training, instruction, or activities to children without their parents' or carers' supervision, that is not a:**

- School;
- College;
- 16-19 academy;
- Provider caring for children under 8 years old which is registered with Ofsted or a childminder agency.

**Closing Date: 24th February 2019**

[Consultation](#)

**Modernising the Mental Health Act – final report from the independent review of the 1983 Act** sets out recommendations covering 4 principles that the review believes should underpin the reformed Act:

- choice and autonomy – ensuring service users’ views and choices are respected
- least restriction – ensuring the Act’s powers are used in the least restrictive way
- therapeutic benefit – ensuring patients are supported to get better, so they can be discharged from the Act
- people as individuals – ensuring patients are viewed and treated as rounded individuals

The review looked at:

- rising rates of detention under the Act
- the disproportionate number of people from black and minority ethnic groups detained under the Act
- processes that are out of step with a modern mental health care system
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[Government report](#)

### **Guidance - Indecent images of children campaign: supporter pack**

How you can support the Home Office's campaign to educate young men on the law relating to indecent images of children online.

To better protect potential victims and reduce demand on the criminal justice system, the campaign aims to:

- prevent offending before it occurs
- disrupt the escalation of harmful offending behaviour

The supporter pack includes more information about the campaign and materials you can use such as videos, posters, infographics and social media messages.

[Campaign supporter pack](#)

### **Safeguarding children affected by parental alcohol and drug use**

A guide for LAs and substance misuse services to help them work together to safeguard children.

[Government guidance](#)

### **A Designate Domestic Abuse Commissioner is to be appointed to help the government transform its response to domestic abuse.**

The new Commissioner, who will be charged with standing up for victims and survivors, providing public leadership on domestic abuse concerns and driving the response to issues. The candidate will also give recommendations to the government and local bodies on how provisions could be improved and highlight where best practice is taking place. The Commissioner will also look at the needs of victims and survivors from minority or marginalised groups, and children affected by domestic abuse...

### **The Designate Commissioner**

- will be placed on a statutory footing once the Domestic Abuse Bill passes through Parliament. The position was created ahead of the Bill's introduction to ensure the government's response to all domestic abuse issues is as robust as possible
- will be required to establish an Advisory Board, composed of civil society groups, service providers, victims and experts, and a Victims and Survivors Advisory Group composed entirely of victims and survivors. Both groups will provide expert advice and ensure that the Designate Commissioner is carrying out the job in an appropriate manner.
- role has also been designed to complement work undertaken by other advisors within government and because of the specific need to tackle domestic abuse issues
- will work collaboratively with others, such as the Victims' Commissioner, when there are overlapping issues.

### **Measures the government consulted on included:**

- plans for a statutory government definition of domestic abuse so that no one is in any doubt of the range of behaviours it entails
- introducing new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs), to give courts the power to place conditions on domestic abuse perpetrators
- putting the guidance on which the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme is based into statute....

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be put in place early next year to formalise the working relationship between these roles.

### **The government's draft bill on domestic abuse may for the first time include violence by children to parents and carers.**

Violence to parents by children and adolescents is more prevalent in certain groups: children with mental health problems and special needs, adoption and fostering communities and where young people are abusing drugs.....

A freedom of information request last year revealed that in the year 2015/16, 10,051 cases of domestic violence against adults by children were investigated by 35 of the 43 police forces in England and Wales. Of these cases, 874 led to cautions being issued and 1,459 to juveniles being charged with offences. In 2015, the first major study into adolescent (aged over 16) to parent violence (APV) found that 77% of all parent victims were female and 87% of perpetrators male. "It is a hidden abuse of women," says the study's author, Rachel Condry, associate professor of criminology at the University of Oxford.....

[The Guardian article](#)

## Safeguarding practice/Learning Reviews

### Learning themes from Child B Serious Case Review - Leeds

- Risk assessments
- Attendance at meetings
- Positive relationships

Findings from 4 safeguarding reviews - all focused on incidents whereby a level of domestic violence and abuse was evident.

[Learning from reviews by Leeds Safeguarding Partnership](#)

**Shropshire LSCB** - Review carried out following the death of seven-year-old Archie Spriggs in September 2017. In March 2018 his mother was found guilty of his murder following a trial at Birmingham Crown Court.

[SSCB SCR Overview Report Child E](#)

[SSCB Foreword to Child E](#)

[Local news article](#)

**St Helens LSCB** - A review into the death of a 7-week old baby after her mother fell asleep on her on 19 November 2016 after drinking vodka. She woke up on the couch about four hours later to find the baby unconscious and unresponsive. Mother had a history of alcohol and substance misuse; she was given a 12-month prison sentence in October, suspended for 12 months. Mother admitted wilfully neglecting Chloe Atkinson Wilkie, causing unnecessary suffering or injury to health. A serious case review found the mother had a history with support services. "The risk could have been predictable" had there been "robust" sharing of information between agencies, it said. The review said children's social care logged 13 contacts with Ms Atkinson between 2009 and 2016 with further action taken on three occasions. It found "missed opportunities" to review support due to a lack of "management oversight and supervision" in maternity and mental health services, the Local Democracy Reporting Service said.

It highlighted:

- Failure to refer Ms Atkinson for specialist alcohol misuse support after she attended A&E in 2014 following a three-day drinking binge
- How a psychiatrist had tried to make a child protection referral before the birth but it was not properly logged because the correct box had not been ticked
- This referral was de-escalated the day after the birth but was "not managed effectively" and communication between was "ineffective"
- The community midwife and health visitor were not told Ms Atkinson's history of alcohol abuse and as a result were not alert to her risk of relapsing after the birth

[Serious Case Review](#)

**Lincolnshire Council Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) has recommended frontline practitioners should do more to intervene in domestic abuse cases.....GPs must do more to spot signs of domestic abuse after a man shot dead his estranged wife and daughter before turning the gun on himself.....To gain a wider public understanding of domestic abuse....the local safeguarding children's board should make requests to schools about running 'awareness sessions'!...**

[DHR](#)

[Learning Sheet](#)

[Daily Mail article](#)

## Ofsted Inspections

**London Borough of Haringey Children's Services Inspection**

[Inspection report](#)

**Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council Children's Services Inspection**

[Inspection Report](#)

## Training



Click the image below to access our training diary!

