

**Information Circular May 2017**

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**1. No good options: Report of the Inquiry into Children’s Social Care in England.** The All Party Parliamentary Group for Children (APPGC) published the findings of their latest Inquiry into children’s social care services in England in March 2017. The inquiry has found the system is struggling to keep pace with the rising numbers of children and families who need help.  
<https://www.ncb.org.uk/resources-publications/resources/no-good-options-report-inquiry-childrens-social-care-england>

**2. National FGM Centre – Information to gather for a good referral: Female Genital Mutilation.** This question guide is for professionals who are concerned about FGM and want to make a referral to social care. It includes what information is helpful for a referral.  
<http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Questions-of-referral.pdf>

**3. A Children’s Rights Approach in Wales – Children’s Commissioner for Wales.** (March 2017) A principled and practical framework for working with children, grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The principles of a Children’s Rights Approach are: Embedding children’s rights; Equality and Non-discrimination; Empowering children; Participation; Accountability.  
<https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/The-Right-Way.pdf>

**4. Indecent images of children: guidance for young people** (Home Office, updated 29 March 2017). Taking, making, sharing and possessing indecent images and pseudo-photographs of people under 18 is illegal. A pseudo-photograph is an image made by computer-graphics or otherwise which appears to be a photograph. The guidance includes definitions of the different terms used and help with understanding the law around indecent images of children. Information on where to report concerns and gain support. Includes short films to highlight the serious harm that viewing indecent images of children can cause. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/indecnt-images-of-children-guidance-for-young-people>

**5. Research and Analysis – Education, health and care plans: parents and young people survey** (DfE, March 2017). The views and experiences of people who received an education, health and care (EHC) plan in 2015. An Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan) sets out the education, health and care support that is to be provided to a child or young person aged 0-25 years who has Special Educational Needs (SEN) or a disability (SEND). It is drawn up by the local authority after an Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment of the child or young person has determined that an EHC plan is necessary, and after consultation with relevant partner agencies and with children, young people and parents.  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/604384/Education\\_health\\_and\\_care\\_plans\\_parents\\_and\\_young\\_people\\_survey.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/604384/Education_health_and_care_plans_parents_and_young_people_survey.pdf)

**6. Pathways to harm, pathways to protection: a triennial analysis of serious care reviews 2011 - 2014.** The site includes materials to support learning in practice for LSCBs, social work and early help, police and criminal justice, health and education practitioners.  
<http://seriouscasereviews.rip.org.uk/>

**7. National Statistics – Characteristics of children in need: 2015 to 2016 (DfE)** (updated 23 March 2017). Children referred to and assessed by children’s social services for the year ending 31 March 2016. The number of children in need at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 has increased slightly but the overall trend remains stable; and has remained relatively stable over the last seven years. There has been an increase of 1.2% in the number of children who were the subject of a child protection plan at 31<sup>st</sup> March, and the number of children who were the subject of a child protection plan starting and ending a child protection plan in the year continues to increase.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/characteristics-of-children-in-need-2015-to-2016>

**8. Outcomes for care leavers (DfE, May 2017)** Additional tables and text for attainment of children who have left care. Statistics show that for the headline measure reading, writing and mathematics, the percentage reaching the expected standard or above for children who left care through adoption, special guardianship order (SGO) or child arrangements order (CAO) is 30% compared with 25% for looked after children and 54% for non-looked after children.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/outcomes-for-children-looked-after-by-las-31-march-2016>

**9. NSPCC Blog – new research to help understand what ‘good’ means in children’s social care** (Impact and Evidence Series, 22 May) by Chloe Gill. Led by the Child Outcomes Research Consortium (CORC) in partnership with the NSPCC, Loughborough University and a researcher affiliated with the University of East London exploring the processes involved in improving children’s social care services in England. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/impact-evidence-evaluation-child-protection/impact-and-evidence-insights/the-quest-to-improve-childrens-social-care-services>

**10. Technology-assisted harmful sexual behaviour – a report from the NSPCC Turn the Page service** which supports children and young people aged 5-18 who display harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) looking at the characteristics of children and young people who display HSB using online and mobile channels. Findings from analysis of 275 cases and case file data from a random sample of 91 boys and young men include: 46% of all the children and young people who were assessed for Turn the Page displayed some form of Technology-assisted harmful sexual behaviour (TA-HSB) including 7% who only displayed TA-HSB with no offline HSB; within the random sample of boys and young men, the most common form of TA-HSB was the possession, making and/or distribution of indecent images of children; the developmentally inappropriate use of pornography was identified as a trigger for offline HSB in more than half of the cases where boys and young men displayed both offline and TA-HSB. Source: [NSPCC](#) View the report: [Children and young people who engage in technology-assisted harmful sexual behaviour: a study of their behaviours, backgrounds and characteristics \(PDF\)](#)

**11. ADCS response to a consultation on the draft [Nice guideline on child abuse and neglect](#) which was published in February 2017.** NICE was tasked by the DfE and DoH in 2014 with producing guidelines on abuse and neglect for professionals working with children, which is due for publication in September. The ADCS have responded saying that at 581 pages long the guidance is ‘too long’ while specific advice on identifying child neglect is “too simplistic” and does not consider wider factors such as poor housing that can impact on family life. For further information on the ADCS’s response.

[http://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/ADCS\\_response\\_NICE\\_guidelines\\_on\\_abuse\\_and\\_neglect\\_FINAL.pdf](http://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/ADCS_response_NICE_guidelines_on_abuse_and_neglect_FINAL.pdf)

- 12. [State of child health short report: sustainability & transformation partnerships \(Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health\)](#)** (RCPCH May 2017). This report follows a review of sustainability and transformation plans (STPs) - the proposals put together by the NHS and local councils to meet the health needs of the local population. The review of 44 STPs in England found that: the majority contain little mention of the health and wellbeing needs of children, except in relation to child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS); and the majority do not demonstrate appreciation of the life-long impact of poor health in childhood.

Source: [RCPCH](#)

## **Tools for Children and Families, Parents and Carers**

- 13. Contacting Childline using sign video** - To coincide with Deaf Awareness Week, Childline has launched a video for deaf or hard of hearing children and young people to explain the Childline SignVideo Service as well as using sign language to discuss different types of abuse. Young people can download an app to contact Childline through a British Sign Language (BSL) SignVideo service. The young person then signs to the SignVideo interpreter who, in turn, contact as Childline counsellor on their behalf. This service is available Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/deafzone/>

- 14. Voice box, Childline's weekly video chat talks about overcoming the challenges of deaf or hard of hearing children and young people come up against in everyday life, and how to overcome them.**

Source: [You Tube](#)

Further Information: [Childline](#)

- 15. Share aware campaign** (NSPCC) – Launch of a video 'Be Share Aware – safety advice from a 10 year old' to raise awareness and give parents and carers the confidence and skills to talk to their child about staying safe online. [https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/?utm\\_source=youtube&utm\\_medium=banner&utm\\_campaign=201705+share](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/?utm_source=youtube&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=201705+share)