



### Forced Marriage Unit



Home Office

In 2015, the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) gave advice or support relating to a possible forced marriage in 1,220 cases. The FMU also received approximately 350 calls per month in total. These figures include contact that has been made to the FMU through the public helpline or by email in relation to a new case.

Of the cases that FMU provided support to: 329 (27%) involved victims below 18 years of age; and 427 (35%) involved victims aged 18-25. In 2015, the majority of cases 980 (80%) involved female victims, and 240 cases (20%) involved male victims.

[Click to open link](#)

### The effects of poverty on children's friendships and family life

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published a report on the effects of poverty on children's friendships and family life.

#### Key findings include:

- Children living in poverty are four times more likely to bully other children and twice as likely to be bullied;
- Children living in poverty are less likely to talk to family members about their concerns.

[Click to open](#)

### 10-year-old boy awarded damages for breaches of his human rights

A judge has awarded a 10-year-old boy damages for breaches of his human rights while he was in local authority care.

The judge criticised delays in the council revoking a placement order stopping the boy making contact with his extended family and having his case reconsidered by the court.

A copy of the transcript is available:

[Click to open](#)

### Safeguarding for dentists

The British Dental Journal reports on the tenth anniversary of the launch of the safeguarding guidance Child Protection and the dental team (CPDT) and the impact that CPDT has had on the provision of dental care for children.

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### Independent review of South Yorkshire Police's handling of child sexual exploitation 1997 – 2016



The findings of the Drew Review, an independent review of South Yorkshire Police's (SYP) handling of child sexual exploitation between 1997 – 2016 have been published.

**Recommendations include:** develop a new, thematic action plan using gap analysis of all investigations to date; commission 'Learning Lessons Reviews' after the conclusion of each major investigation; implement a standard operating procedure for the investigation of child sexual exploitation and the management of intelligence related to it.

[Click to open link](#)

### Police response to missing children

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMIC) has published a report on the police response to missing children.



#### Issues raised include:

- \* There are inconsistencies in risk assessment and provision of support;
- \* Information is not always shared effectively;

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### Rethinking Children's Services— Fit for the Future?

Catch22 and the National Children's Bureau (NCB) have published a collection of essays, exploring new

perspectives on how to do better for vulnerable children across the country in the current economic climate.

[Click to open](#)

Don't forget – you can send items for inclusion at any time. Please email using the following link:  
[MECCG.SCCN@nhs.net](mailto:MECCG.SCCN@nhs.net)

## Parents speak out about CSE

Pace have published a report in which parents powerfully speak for themselves about their crucial contribution to safeguarding their children but also the frustration when their distinctive knowledge and expertise is not respected and valued.

This report is offered as a contribution to the shared and demanding task of bringing the sexual exploitation of children to an end. [Click to open](#)



## Identification and Disclosure of Sexual Exploitation among boys and young men



The Children's Society has published a report on improving identification and disclosure of sexual exploitation among boys and young men trafficked to the UK.

### Key points raised include:

- ◇ Boys and young men who are sexually exploited are unlikely to receive appropriate care and support due to lack of awareness;
  - ◇ Disclosure of sexual exploitation may not be full or direct;
- More training for frontline staff and practitioners is needed. [Click to open](#)

## Helping Mothers Rebuild Relationships with Their Children after Domestic Abuse

### Evaluation of the Domestic Abuse, Recovering Together (DART) service

The NSPCC's DART programme is for mothers and children who have experienced domestic abuse. Mothers who have lived with an abusive partner may underestimate the effects of the abuse on their children. DART provides joint sessions for mothers and children to do activities together that help them talk about their experiences and feelings.

This primary focus on relationships between mothers and children is unique to DART. A requirement for all the families taking part in DART was that the abuser was no longer part of the household.

The NSPCC have compiled a report that provides evidence about what helps to reduce the impact of domestic abuse on the relationships between mothers and children.

[Click to open Research in Practice](#)

## Helping healthcare staff spot the signs of child sexual exploitation



Health Education England

A video aimed at helping health and social care professionals to spot possible signs of child sexual exploitation (CSE) has been launched.

Supported by Health Education England, in association with the Department of Health and NHS England, the video presents a series of scenarios involving a young person potentially at risk of CSE and uses the voice of a real-life victim who talks about her experiences at the hands of a CSE gang. The video provides practical advice on what to do if healthcare professionals and others suspect a patient or person in their care is at risk and makes it clear that there is a responsibility to report any activity that they think is suspicious.

To access please use the following link, as below:

[Click to open](#) or use [you tube link](#)

## Serious Case Review into the sexual abuse of a 2 year old child

Devon Safeguarding Children Board has published the overview report of a serious case review into the sexual abuse of a 2 year old child.

### Issues identified include:

- ⇒ Family history of abuse;
- ⇒ Restructure of Children's Social Care;
- ⇒ Lack of clarity about signs, symptoms, disclosure and escalation of sexual abuse in young children.



### Recommendations include:

- ⇒ Stronger analysis of family history/dynamics when assessing the risks to the child;
- ⇒ Institutional management of change including risk assessment ahead of implementation.

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## Your guide to the social networks your kids use - Stay up to date and keep your child safe in today's digital world

To children, online friends are real friends. Online life is real life. There's no distinction. But for some parents, keeping children safe online can seem much harder. The NSPCC have joined with O2 to help parents and carers understand their child's online world and to talk to them about it, just as they would their day at school.

They have updated Net Aware — their no-nonsense guide covering the top 50 sites, apps and games children use. [Click to open](#)

## Criminal Care: Children's homes are criminalising children

This report calls for more support to be given to looked after children during their teenage years so that they are not pushed into the criminal justice system by homes that are supposed to be helping them.

The report draws on Department for Education statistics, which indicate that about 4 per cent of children aged 10 to 12 who live in children's homes have been criminalised, rising to more than 19 per cent among children aged 13 to 15.

[Click to open](#)

## Interagency cooperation to safeguard unaccompanied children from going missing



Missing Children Europe has published a SUMMIT report on best practices and key challenges on interagency cooperation to safeguard unaccompanied children from going missing.

[Click to open](#)

### Key recommendations include:

- ⇒ Frontline workers need more training on the disappearance and protection of unaccompanied children;
- ⇒ Early and thorough risk assessment could trigger a faster;
- ⇒ More appropriate response from law enforcement agencies.

**NSPCC**

## Safeguarding children and young people within faith settings

The NSPCC has created 7 short films showing how to safeguard children within religious or faith settings. The films focus on the 6 main faiths practised in the UK: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.

Our last film shows leaders from all faiths and religions sharing their views on safeguarding issues and good practice. The films give an insight into what faith teaches about the value of children and how to ensure young people are kept safe within a faith setting. *They show:*

- \* People talking about their faith and how their work with children in a faith setting;
- \* Safeguarding issues faced by faith communities and how best to respond to concerns;
- \* Good practice examples to help improve the safeguarding of children in faith communities;
- \* Examples of how religious teachings can be used to encourage people to value and respect children and young people and to keep them safe from harm;
- Reflection on the diversity that exists within faith groups.

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## The links between child poverty and mental health issues



The Children's Society has published a report on the links between child poverty and mental health issues.

### Recommendations include:

- ◇ *the direct and indirect impacts of income poverty on children's mental health should be considered when making national and local mental health policy.*

[Click to open](#)

## Care Act Guidance

The new edition of the Care Act Guidance, revised earlier last month takes into account the regulatory changes, feedback from stakeholders and care sector developments following the postponement of social care funding reforms to 2020.

Of note, are updates to the safeguarding chapter highlighting the growing prevalence of internet and doorstep scams, and the role of professional and practice leadership in adult safeguarding.

There is a useful table of all the changes - available to view now on the Local Government Association website.

[Click to open](#)





**Q) What's happening with MARAC in Essex? I've heard things might be changing.**

Over the past 6 months a multi-agency task and finish group has been evaluating and reflecting on how MARAC's are working and looking at ways to improve them.

**Q) Why do things need to change?**

It is important to review what we are doing and listen to those involved in MARAC to make sure we are all working together as effectively as possible to increase the safety of those at risk.

This new proposed way of working that's being developed will allow cases to be heard quicker by key core multiagency representation, join up multi-agency action plans to address the identified risk which will increase the safety and wellbeing of those at risk.

The current system of triaging has reduced the backlog of cases but has led to un-necessary duplication of cost and cross over work from JADATT and the Community MARAC's.

- Currently representation at MARAC from agencies is inconsistent;
- Identification of repeat victimisation and referrals from non-police agencies remains below national guidelines;
- In addition, there is not sustainable funding in place for MARAC;
- We are not currently using the technology available to make information sharing and case management more efficient and effective.

**Q) What decisions have been taken so far?**

- To move from the current model of triaging cases through the Essex JDATT and then multiple MARAC's in the community, to a centralised MARAC model covering Essex, Southend and Thurrock;

- Within the task and finish group they are looking at which core agencies will be represented on the centralised MARAC teams and how other agencies will link in;
- Cases will be heard at MARAC within 2 calendar weeks post incident;
- Contact from an Independent Domestic Advisor (IDVA)\* within 48 hours;
- The decision making framework to support the static team;
- To consider the introduction of a review process for some cases;
- To put in place a new case management system to support the process which agencies within the task and finish group are involved in a developing to be implemented next year.

**Q) How will this improve outcomes for victims?**

The new process offers the opportunity to:

- Re-energise the MARAC response to high risk victims of domestic abuse;
- A centralised MARAC team will allow cases to be heard quicker by the core multi-agency representatives to implement a robust action plan;
- Joined up action planning (increase accountability across agencies);
- Increase the safety of victims and children as a result of timelier interventions and support.

The new timing provides a quicker response to high risk victims but is not so immediate that they are still in a point of crisis; it continues to allow for their views and needs to be sought and represented at the meetings, informing the MARAC's creation of an action plan. It allows sufficient time for all the multi-agency team to conduct their research and provide relevant and proportionate information at the MARAC meeting.

There will be additional focus on creating a robust multi-agency action plan to address the identified risks and increase the safety and wellbeing of all those at risk as well as the possibility of a case review process to monitor outcomes.

The combination of a simplified process, with improved representation from agencies, improved multi-agency action planning, as well as looking at options around a case review process to monitor outcomes achieved should help to realise better outcomes for families.

**Q) Will the set-up be the same across Greater Essex?**

We are all working closely together to make sure that the processes are as aligned as possible, but there will be some differences due to local circumstances in Southend and Thurrock. Final proposals will be shared.

**Q) What are the timeframes for this being introduced?**

We are aiming to start introducing the new model from July 2016. Southend will start taking their own cases from the beginning of June.

**Q) I work with MARAC's, how do I find out more about how this will affect me?**

You can contact a member of the Domestic Abuse Programme Team (contact details as below).

**Q) I've got some ideas that I'd like to contribute. Who do I talk to?**

Please feel free to offer any ideas or suggestions to the following contacts:

Michelle Williams, Essex Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator (michelle.williams@essex.gov.uk) or  
Shona Pearce, Senior Project Manager (shona.pearce@essex.gov.uk).

\* IDVAs play a pivotal role within MARAC's to support a co-ordinated response to victims at high risk of domestic abuse. By acting as the representative of the victim, IDVAs play an essential part in engaging the victim in the process in addition to their involvement in the development and delivery of safe and effective action plans.



## **New multi-agency statutory guidance on Female Genital Mutilation**



Home Office

This multi-agency guidance on female genital mutilation (FGM) should be read and followed by all persons and bodies in England and Wales who are under statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

This guidance should be considered together with other relevant safeguarding guidance, including (but not limited to):

- ⇒ Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) in England
- ⇒ Safeguarding Children: Working Together under the Children Act 2004 (2007) in Wales

It is not intended to replace wider safeguarding guidance, but to provide additional advice on FGM.

The information in this guidance may also be relevant to bodies working with women and girls at risk of FGM or dealing with its consequences.

**[Click to open](#)**

## **Promoting young people's resilience**



A public health approach to promoting young people's resilience: a guide to resources for policy makers, commissioners, and service planners and providers.

This resource from the Association for Young People's Health (AYPH), funded by Public Health England, and developed with input from the Early Intervention Foundation, provides a new focus on public health approaches to supporting young people's resilience. It highlights ways that services have successfully worked together, provides links to useful interventions and other resources, and draws on the perspectives of young people about what works well for them.

**[Click to open](#)**

## **New system to reduce the risk of deaths caused by guns**



Home Office

The vast majority of people who hold a firearms certificate do so without posing a risk to themselves or others.

However, there have been recent cases where legal gun owners have carried out shootings after the onset of depression or dementia. In such cases the GP may be aware of the patient's health condition but not that they own a gun, while the police will be aware they hold a gun licence, but not that they are suffering from depression or dementia.

To improve information sharing between GPs and the police and reduce the risk of future tragedies, a new firearms licensing system came into effect on 1 April. Under the new system:

- ◆ GPs will place a firearm reminder code on the patient's record when they have been issued with a firearm licence, so the GP will know the person is a gun owner when they visit the surgery (GPs will be able to inform the police licensing department if the patient's health deteriorates after the gun licence is issued);
- ◆ New guidance has been published to help GPs and the police operate the new system (responsibility for deciding if a person is suitable to hold a firearm certificate remains with the police);
- ◆ Later this year, further improvements are planned so that every applicant's GP will be contacted by the police before issue of the firearm licence.

The new system was developed by the British Medical Association, the police, shooting organisations and the Information Commissioner's Office. Guidance for applicants, the police and GPs have been published, and a new firearms application form has been introduced, which makes clear to applicants that information about their health will be shared between GPs and the police.

**[Guide on Firearms Licensing Law](#)**  
**[Firearms application form](#)**

This is particularly relevant following the publication of the Domestic Homicide Review report into the deaths of Mr & Mrs A in Colchester. At 06:37 hours on Saturday 24th May 2014. A '999' telephone call was made to Essex Police by a man identifying himself as Mr. A and he provided his address. He informed the Police operator that he had just shot his wife and was going to shoot himself in the very near future. The DHR report can be accessed via the Essex Safeguarding Adult Board website:



**[Click to open](#)**

## Resources Update Impact and Evidence Series

# NSPCC

### **Caring Dads: Safer Children programme**

The NSPCC has published a report which shares learning from process evaluation and delivering the Caring Dads: Safer Children programme. It is aimed at other organisations delivering the programme or similar interventions for abusive fathers.

The NSPCC has also published an evaluation of its Caring Dads: Safer Children service which helps dads address violent behaviour and improve their parenting.

Key findings include: fathers and partners reported fewer incidents of domestic abuse post-programme. To open, click the following links below:-

[How it works](#)

[Learning from Delivering the Programme](#)

[Evaluation Report](#)

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### **Domestic Abuse, Recovering Together (DART) service**

The NSPCC has published an evaluation of its Domestic Abuse, Recovering Together (DART) service - a group work programme for mothers and children who have experienced domestic abuse.

Key findings include: after the programme, mothers had significantly greater self-esteem, more confidence in their parenting abilities and more control over their child's behaviour.

To open, click the following links below:-

[How it works](#)

[Evaluation Report](#)

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### **Whistleblowing Advice Line**

The NSPCC recently launched a government funded Whistleblowing Advice Line. This will take calls from professionals from any sector who are worried about the way their, or another, organisation is dealing with child protection issues.

Employees who don't feel able to escalate these issues internally can contact the service, as well as those who have been unsuccessful in doing so.

It can be reached for free on **0800 028 0285** and can be contacted anonymously.

More information and free resources are available on the NSPCC website.

To open, click the following link below:-

[Whistleblowing Advice Line](#)

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### **Database of social policy and practice resources**

The NSPCC Knowledge & Information Services have recently joined a consortium of information professionals who have created a database of social policy and practice resources.

In a CILIP Update article, the NSPCC's Hazel Wright explains more about how the database has developed. To open, click the following link below:-

[Saving social policy and practice](#)

Like to be added to the circulation? Please send an email to [:-MECCG.SCCN@nhs.net](mailto:MECCG.SCCN@nhs.net)