

Safeguarding Newsletter

29th November 2023



Online Safety Act

The UK Government has announced that the Online Safety Act has now received Royal Assent putting rules to make the internet safer in the UK into law. The Act initiates Ofcom's new powers and places legal responsibility on tech companies to prevent and remove illegal content and stop children seeing harmful content.

Read the press release: UK children and adults to be safer online as world-leading bill becomes law

Parental support services

NSPCC Learning has published a podcast episode on early intervention and support for parents experiencing adversity. The two-part episode focuses on For Baby's Sake, a service providing therapeutic and trauma-informed support to expectant parents who have experienced domestic abuse. The episodes discuss: the first 1001 days of a child's life; how trauma affects brain development; and building trusting relationships between services and service users.

Listen to the podcast: Podcast: Supporting new parents through adversity

Visit the YouTube for part one: Supporting new parents through adversity – part one Visit the YouTube for part two: Supporting new parents through adversity - part two

Fabricated or induced illness

Cerebra has published a report on the prevalence and impact of allegations of Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII) in England, Scotland and Wales. The study found that: FII allegations appear to be increasing, with parents in at least 74% of English children's services experiencing FII allegations; disabled parents appear to be four times more likely to be accused of FII than non-disabled parents; 84% of FII allegations resulted in no follow up action or were abandoned and in 95% of cases the child(ren) remained living with the parents; and the making of a FII allegation often causes life-long trauma to those accused and their children. The report calls for urgent revision to the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health 2021 FII guidance.

Read/Download the report: Fabricated or induced illness research report

Online grooming

The Lucy FaithFull Foundation has released a new film about online grooming as part of the Stop It Now! campaign, which offers support to adults worried about their own or someone else's sexual thoughts about or behaviours towards children. The film discusses adults illegally engaging in sexual conversations with under-16s. It provides information about the law and consequences associated with online grooming.

Find out more: Conversations with strangers: launching our new film spotlight to deter online grooming