

Safeguarding Update



1. Article - Facebook

July 2015

The NSPCC's CEO, Peter Wanless has written to Facebook and the government urging social media companies to take online safety more seriously. The letter is in response to a disturbing video of a crying baby being constantly immersed in a bucket of water which was posted on Facebook.

“The NSPCC believes we have now reached the long overdue point where it is time for social networking sites to be held to account for the content on their sites and pay more attention to their safeguarding duties to protect children and young people, whether they are viewing the content or appearing in it.

A Digital Manifesto was published by the Children's Charities Coalition for Internet Safety earlier this year. It recommended that a new body be established, armed with the legal powers to ensure internet companies are transparent and accountable in respect of actions aimed at supporting online child safety.

Such a body or division should also be given the power to make legally binding orders requiring internet companies to take necessary and proportionate measures to safeguard children online. A global commitment to tackling this problem is also needed as too often the companies involved are based abroad. As was highlighted recently the UK may also lose further control if EU proposals regarding 'net neutrality' are implemented.

It is now time for the light to be shone on the responsibilities of social media companies, an area where progress has been extremely slow. As you know, the Government convened a meeting of the social media companies to look at these issues in February 2014 but there has been no substantial progress since then. We have just re-elected a new government and now is the time for a renewed mandate and focus.”

Link: <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/news-opinion/online-safety-social-media-companies/>

2. Article - School based education to prevent CSE

The NSPCC information service has written a summary of key findings and recommendations from the recent Cochrane review of school-based education programmes for the prevention of child sexual abuse.

The findings were:

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- There is evidence these programmes increased children's knowledge of how to keep themselves safe from sexual abuse (measured through questionnaires and scenarios).
- Follow-up demonstrated that children retained this knowledge 1 to 6 months after the programmes ended.
- There is also evidence that school-based sexual abuse prevention programmes were effective in giving children the skills they needed to keep themselves safe from abuse.
- Children demonstrated these skills in simulated at-risk situations.
- The authors could not assume that children would respond in the same way in actual at-risk situations.
- They also did not know if simulated at-risk situations involving strangers helped children deal with threats from familiar adults – who are most likely to sexually abuse children.
- It is also possible simulated situations could desensitise children to similar things happening in real life

Link: <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/news-opinion/school-based-education-programmes-prevention-child-sexual-abuse/>

3. Article - The Independent- Police dog helps young victim testify

Caber, a seven-year-old yellow Labrador assigned to British Columbia's Delta Police Trauma unit, was allowed into the courtroom to comfort the girl, who reportedly held tightly to his leash throughout the testimony.

"While testifying, the child bent down several times to pet Caber, which appeared to refocus and calm her," Caber's handler Kim Gramlich told reporters.

On occasion the child, who has not been named in order to protect her identity, lay down next to the yellow labrador and cuddled him..

Link: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/canadian-police-dog-allowed-into-courtroom-to-comfort-child-sex-abuse-victim-during-testimony-10286371.html>



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4. Article - The Guardian - Anti-slavery

July 2015

Young children are being tasked with pickpocketing, shoplifting and begging on Britain's streets in scenarios like those in Oliver Twist, the anti-slavery commissioner has warned. Kevin Hyland said young people who should be at school are being used as part of criminal operations in cities.

The former Met detective was appointed in November to spearhead the government's fight against modern slavery.

Link: <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jun/01/young-children-used-street-crime-anti-slavery-commissioner-hyland-oliver-twist>

5. Article - Children and Young Now - Ofsted

Children and Young Now reports that Ofsted has ceased to regulate third party providers of children's social care. This is the result of a provision in the Deregulation Act 2015 which means third party providers no longer have to register with Ofsted before taking on local authority contracts.

Link: http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/1151699/concern-as-ofsted-ceases-regulation-of-outsourced-social-work?utm_content=&utm_campaign=290515%20Daily&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm_medium=adestra_email&utm_term=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow

6. Legal - Gang Injunctions - Home Office

The Home Office has published statutory guidance to help local agencies apply for and manage gang injunctions in order to prevent gang-related violence

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-guidance-injunctions-to-prevent-gang-related-violence--2>

7. Legal - Gang Injunctions - NSPCC

The BBC reports that the NSPCC has queried a judge's comments that authorities need to make allowances for a 'cultural context' in cases involving parents. She made the remarks during a High Court ruling concerning a man from India accused of slapping his son. The NSPCC believes children should be protected from physical abuse irrespective of cultural sensitivities.

Link: <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/news-opinion/response-to-judgment-on-smacking-and-cultural-context/>

8. Article - The Safe Network

July 2015

The Safe Network has published safeguarding advice and information for organisations that work with or come into contact with children.

Link:

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventingabuse/safeguarding/?utm_content=buffer7c8b9&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

9. Government - The Safe Network

The BBC reports that the Work and Pensions Secretary has announced a new way of measuring child poverty which will, in addition to income, consider other factors including educational achievement and living in workless households. The government will repeal the Child Poverty Act 2010 and has scrapped the definition of child poverty as living in a household with an income below 60% of the UK's average.

Link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-33346989>

10. Government - Social Media Advice and Guidance, Radicalisation

The Department for Education has issued advice and social media guidance to schools and childcare providers to help them keep children safe from the risk of radicalisation and extremism

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-safeguarding-advice-for-schools-and-childcare-providers>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-use-of-social-media-for-online-radicalisation>