



Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Safeguarding Newsletter

Changes to booking on to Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training

As you will know if you have booked a place on any of our multi-agency training, we have been using the MeLearning learning management system. In October this year we will be moving to a new learning management system and this is your early warning to make sure you download your training records before October as they will not be available after this date. You can find instructions on how to do this on the FAQ document here: <https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/FAQs-Form-by-Me-Learning-for-CP-Safeguarding-Boards.pdf>

CSA Centre- Child Sexual Abuse Pathway Tool

The Centre of Expertise on child sexual abuse have redesigned and updated their Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway to make it quicker and easier for multi-agency professionals to understand the steps they can take to protect and support children and families when there are concerns of sexual abuse, and it also provides new guidance on family law and family court processes alongside existing guides on child protection and criminal justice responses.

Visit [Response pathway home | CSA Centre](#)

Open water swimming safety

In the UK, between April 2019 and March 2024, 165 children have lost their lives from drowning.

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service have launched a short film highlighting the dangers of cold water shock, telling the story of Jack Lloyd, a 16 year old who died after entering Crown Lakes in Farcet. This film tells the story, with his father Darren giving a heartbreaking account of the impact the incident has had on him and his family. Fire and police officers also talk about the impact of these incidents, as well as giving advice about what to do to stay safe around open water

<https://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/community-safety/water-safety-film/>

DfE consultations

The DfE is launching a consultation on [Improving help and child protection: revised framework](#) which will inform updates to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, the Children's Social Care National Framework 2026, and the policy underpinning Multi-Agency Child Protection Team regulations.

These proposals form part of wider reforms to strengthen clarity, accountability and multi-agency working. They seek views on updates to the statutory framework for help, support and protection for children and families, which will inform revisions to both sets of statutory guidance and the development of Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams regulations.

The consultation seeks views on:

- Accountability of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including leadership, accountability and the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer;
- multi-agency child protection teams;
- the delivery of Family Help and earlier more joined-up support for families;
- family networks and family group decision making;
- a strengthened response to extra familial harms;
- child protection for looked-after children;
- responding to potential for extreme violence;
- enduring relationships for looked after children and care leavers;
- implementation of the Children's Social Care National Framework.

The consultation is now live and closes on 4 September 2026.

The DfE are also consulting on [Information Sharing duty statutory guidance](#) which includes a data sharing agreement template. These are designed to:

- set out the new information sharing duty, and who it's for
- help organisations and practitioners to interpret and apply the legislation in practice

The Information Sharing duty will apply from September 2026 and will replace the Department for Education's existing guidance on information sharing.

The consultation is now live and closes on 14th July 2026

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026. The Act is a major piece of education and safeguarding legislation with implications for Children's Services, the Education sector and associated safeguarding partners.

The Act introduces significant changes across several key areas:

1. Cost of Living & School Support

- **Free Breakfast Clubs:** Mandates free breakfast clubs in all primary schools.
- **Uniform Cost Caps:** Restricts secondary schools from requiring more than three branded items plus a tie, and primary schools to minimal branded items, saving families up to £1,000 annually.
- **Free School Meal Expansion:** Expands meal eligibility to all households receiving Universal Credit.

2. Education & Teacher Standards

- **Aligned School System:** Requires all state schools, including academies, to adhere to a common statutory pay/conditions framework for teachers and eventually follow the revised National Curriculum.
- **Qualified Teachers:** Mandates that all teachers in state-funded schools hold or are working toward Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).
- **Mobile Phones:** Gives schools and trusts statutory footing to enforce government guidance to make schools mobile-phone-free environments.

3. Safeguarding & Child Social Care

- **"Children Not in School" Register:** Requires local authorities to record all children educated outside mainstream settings (including home education) to prevent vulnerable children from falling through the cracks.
 - **Care System Overhaul:** Introduces Regional Care Co-operatives (RCCs) to improve placement planning and strengthens legal responsibilities to keep siblings in care connected.
 - **Support for Care Leavers:** Places "Staying Close" support on a statutory footing, requiring local authorities to assess and provide specialized support for young people aging out of residential care.
 - **Multi-Agency Teams:** Mandates the creation of multi-agency child protection teams in every local authority area, while establishing consistent unique identifiers for children across services.
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Crime and Policing Act 2026

The Crime and Policing Act 2026 introduces significant reforms that strengthen the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults, with a clear emphasis on early intervention, recognising exploitation as abuse, and multi-agency working.

1. Stronger recognition of exploitation as abuse

- The Act creates a standalone offence of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), making clear that exploited children should be treated as victims first, not offenders.
- Introduces a new offence of "cuckooing" (taking over the home of a vulnerable person for criminal purposes), recognising risks to vulnerable adults.
- These measures support earlier identification and safeguarding responses where criminality and vulnerability intersect.

2. Mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse

- Introduces a statutory duty for professionals in regulated activity (e.g. education, health, social care, voluntary sector) to report known or suspected child sexual abuse.
- Establishes a criminal offence for preventing or deterring a report.
- Reinforces professional accountability and strengthens child protection systems.

3. New offences and safeguards around abuse and exploitation

- Strengthens legislative responses to:
 - Child sexual abuse and exploitation, including technology-assisted abuse
 - Coercion, grooming and organised exploitation
- Expands the ability of agencies to intervene earlier where harm is emerging.

4. Increased powers to disrupt harm and protect victims

- Enhanced police and court powers to tackle:
 - Serious violence and child exploitation
 - Stalking, antisocial behaviour and coercive offending
- Greater use of orders and civil/criminal powers to manage risk and prevent escalation.

5. Focus on violence against women and girls (VAWG)

- Strengthened measures to address VAWG, sexual exploitation and online harms, particularly impacting adolescents and vulnerable individuals.

6. Emphasis on prevention and contextual safeguarding

- Recognises the overlap between violence, exploitation, organised crime and online harm.
- Encourages earlier identification of risk indicators across settings (education, health, community).
- Reinforces the role of safeguarding partners in contextual and place-based approaches.

Factsheets on the provisions within the sections of the Act can be found here: [Crime and Policing Act 2026 Factsheets](#) for more information.

Mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse in England: update on the Crime and Policing Act | NSPCC Learning

The Crime and Policing Act 2026 introduces a new statutory duty for individuals undertaking key roles with responsibility for children and young people in England to

report sexual abuse when they are made aware of it. It also includes a new criminal offence of attempting to prevent someone reporting child sexual abuse.

Ahead of implementation, the government will develop and publish detailed guidance on the mandatory reporting duty.

The duty applies to anyone taking part in regulated activity with children in England, such as teachers, social workers, healthcare professionals and those working in voluntary roles with children.

The duty requires those taking part in regulated activity to make a report if they:

- are told about child sexual abuse, either by a child or an adult involved
- witness child sexual abuse in person
- see or hear it in the form of images, videos or audio recordings.

The Act sets out specific conditions where exemptions apply, including in relation to certain consensual activities between children and specified services where confidentiality is necessary for the safety and wellbeing of children.

If an individual does not carry out the duty, they may be referred to the Disclosure and Barring Service, who will assess their suitability to work or volunteer with children in the future. Anyone who prevents or attempts to deter someone else from reporting will face criminal charges.

[Mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse in England: update on the Crime and Policing Act | NSPCC Learning](#)

Safeguarding Adults Board Strategies

The two Safeguarding Adults Boards for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have finalised and published their Strategies for 2026 – 2029.

The strategies set out the SABs' priorities and can be found here [Safeguarding Adult Boards Strategies](#)

Baroness Casey's letter and National Safeguarding Adults Board

Following Baroness Casey's Independent Commission on Adult Social Care, the government have set out how they will take forward her initial recommendations including establishing a new National Adult Safeguarding Board which will be chaired

by the Chief Social Worker. The National Adult Safeguarding Board will focus on the following initial priorities:

1. Work is commencing immediately to update the Care Act statutory guidance on adult safeguarding to drive better implementation and practice across a wide range of issues, including homelessness, drugs and alcohol, and transitional safeguarding
2. The board will oversee an urgent review of the legal framework for safeguarding. This will:
 - identify any improvements needed to ensure that the legal framework is robust enough to respond to serious safeguarding risks
 - examine the current mechanism for escalating local safeguarding concerns to national level
 - identify what statutory powers the board might need to operate most effectively
 - the board will work to strengthen national oversight of local Safeguarding Adults Boards and improve the quality of adult safeguarding practice

[Progress on Adult Social Care Reforms Recommendations](#)

Published Safeguarding Adults Review

The following local Safeguarding Adults Reviews have been published

- Three Human Stories of Daniel, Sarah and Marcin
- Chris
- Ben
- Jessica
- Norman

All can be found on the Partnerships website here: [Safeguarding Adult Reviews](#)

UK Supreme Court 2026 judgment on what constitutes a deprivation of liberty

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published this update as a result of the Supreme Court judgment on 2 June 2026. These changes to the definition of deprivation of liberty apply with immediate effect and extend across the UK.

This update is for:

- health and social care staff
- anyone who cares for an individual who lacks capacity to consent to their care and residence where there is or may be a deprivation of liberty
- staff with responsibility for organisational policies, procedures and internal or external facing documents relating to deprivation of liberty safeguards

Visit: [Changes to the Definition of Deprivation of Liberty](#)

Sara Rogers' retirement

As you are probably aware, after 21 years in post, Sara Rogers is retiring as Cambridgeshire's Education Safeguarding Manager on the 31st August. Sara has been a leading light in children's safeguarding for Cambridgeshire and we know she will be very much missed by all those who have worked with her.

We would also like to invite you to Sara's retirement event on Tuesday, 14th July 2026 from 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm at Over Community Centre. This will be your opportunity to say your last goodbye to Sara in person. If you would like to attend, please book here [Book a place at Sara Rogers' Retirement Event](#) (by the end of Friday, 3rd July please). You are welcome to attend the whole event or just 'pop in'.

Keeping in touch

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