

## **Voluntary and community sector perspectives on safeguarding**

*We have so many wonderful voluntary sector organisations here in Haringey that work closely with our young people. Important when considering contextual safeguarding, and how that impacts teenagers more, when receiving safeguarding referrals or child protection concerns being raised.* Children England has published a study of voluntary and community group's perspectives on child safeguarding in London in the context of changes in statutory service funding and policies. Findings from an online survey, targeted interviews and a cross-sector focus group with almost 100 organisations include: 86% reported an increase in the number of children, young people and families accessing their services; 61% of survey respondents cited an increase in child protection concerns and referrals; 53% of survey respondents cited an increase in referrals to child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS).

**Source:**[Children England](#) **Date:** 25 October 2017

**Further information:** [Beneath the threshold: voluntary sector perspectives on child safeguarding in London](#)

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## **Wellbeing mentoring initiative**

*One of the most impactful ways of reducing risk in young people is by building self-esteem, purpose and self-confidence. A great initiative here helping young people find their sporty side.* Youth Sport Trust has launched an initiative to improve the physical, social and mental wellbeing of secondary school children in England. The project, which will be piloted in 25 schools, will see 250 young people, aged 15 to 18 act as mentors to a total of 750 young people experiencing mental health and wellbeing issues, supporting them in becoming physically active.

**Source:**[Youth Sport Trust](#) **Date:** 23 October 2017

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## **Film on child trafficking from Vietnam to the UK**

ECPAT UK has released an animated film highlighting the growing issue of Vietnamese children being trafficked to the UK for cannabis cultivation. The Secret Gardeners is based on real-life experiences of children who have been supported by ECPAT UK.

**Source:**[ECPAT](#) **Date:** 18 October 2017

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## **NSPCC research funding: child abuse education programme for primary school children**

The NSPCC is seeking to commission an impact, process and economic evaluation for the Speak out. Stay safe. programme which teaches primary school children to speak out and stay safe from abuse. Contact [evidenceteam@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:evidenceteam@nspcc.org.uk) for more information and the full request for proposal. The closing date for proposals is 10 November 2017.

**Source:**[NSPCC](#) **Date:** 27 October 2017

**Further information:** [Speak out. Stay safe](#)

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## **County lines - children forced to sell drugs**

The BBC reports that about 4,000 teenagers from London are being exploited and trafficked every year to sell drugs in rural towns and cities. Known as “county lines”, gangs use children as young as 12 to traffic drugs using dedicated mobile phones or “lines”.

**Source:** [BBC](#) **Date:** 24 October 2017

**Further information:** [Crossing the line: Britain’s teenage drug mules](#) (File on 4; BBC Radio 4)

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## **Review of children’s mental health services**

*When it comes to CSE we are so lucky to have the CSE/CSA CAMHS hub, offering MH support and court advocacy to young people. Please ensure you are accessing this vital service.* The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published a review looking at the quality and accessibility of mental health services for children and young people in England. Findings from the review, commissioned by the Prime Minister, include: the system is complex and fragmented - mental health care is funded, commissioned and provided by many different organisations that do not always work together in a joined-up way; children and young people expressed major concerns about how long they waited to access mental health support and that mental health care did not always feel person-centred and responsive to their needs; safety is seen as the greatest overall area of concern in specialist child and adolescent mental health services.

**Source:** [CQC](#) **Date:** 26 October 2017

**Further information:** [Review of children and young people’s mental health services: phase one report \(PDF\)](#)

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# **FOCUS ON: SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Working as professionals in CYPS we are all well aware of the impact that social media can have, both positive and negative. When it comes to CSE and the rapid rise of peer on peer abuse, malicious communications and online grooming, it is vital that we are at the forefront of research and policy into this ever changing field. I’ve summarised a few interesting takes on social media below.**

## **Online safety surveys**

The NSPCC Child Safety Online team are looking to expand their understanding of how professionals working with children promote online safety, and what frameworks exist within their organisations to support them to do this. They have designed three online surveys to capture this

information, and would welcome your views if the surveys are relevant to you. If you have time, let your knowledge be shared!

**Further information:** [Looked after children and online safety](#)

[d/Deaf children and online safety](#)

[Youth organisations and online safety](#)

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## Young offenders

*Really interesting study into what else is going on for the young people who become involved with the criminal justice system. The effects of trauma proves to be long lasting, and the fact that a quarter of participants found that social media had a strong impact on their choices in certainly something to consider.* HM Inspectorate of Probation has published a report looking at the work done by Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) with young people convicted of violent and other serious offences. Examination of the case files of 115 young people who had committed violent, sexual and/or other offences where there were potential public protection issue found that: more than three in four had experienced emotional trauma or other distressing or disturbing things in their lives; and that In one in four of the cases inspected, the young person's use of social media was directly related to the offence they had committed.

**Source:** [HM Inspectorate of Probation](#) **Date:** 26 October 2017

**Further information:** [The work of youth offending teams to protect the public \(PDF\)](#)

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## Social media: malicious communication statistics

*If you work with teenagers you will be aware of the issues social media can present, and the sexual offences that come with it. Massive increases seen in reporting of such crimes below.* The BBC reports that figures obtained by BBC Yorkshire on offences of malicious communication recorded by police forces in England and Wales. Figures reported to 38 out of 43 police forces who responded to the request show that there were 79,372 offences recorded in 2016, up from 42,910 the year before.

**Source:** [BBC](#) **Date:** 24 October 2017