



PIER TRAINING SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

What's New?

Department
for Education

Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive

Breaking down barriers to opportunity
November 2024

5 major government safeguarding proposals

- 1. Strengthening the role of schools**
Schools will become statutory safeguarding partners, sitting alongside local authorities, the police and health services.
- 2. Single identification system**
The government plans to introduce a Single Unique Identifier (SUI) for every child. An identifier has the potential to increase confidence that practitioners from different agencies are talking about the same child and information sharing.
- 3. Improving data confidence**
Another key reform tackles barriers around information sharing between agencies.
- 4. Virtual School Heads**
Virtual School Heads (VSHs) will now have their remit expanded to include children on child protection and child-in-need plans, as well as those in kinship care.
- 5. Home education**
Children under child protection plans whose parents wish to home educate will need local authority consent to withdraw their children from school to be home educated.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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Artificial Intelligence Exploitation

Did you know?

Over half of children use AI but only 31% of parents are aware, NSPCC reveals (NSPCC).

AI exploitation refers to the misuse of artificial intelligence technologies to create harmful or deceptive content. This can include generating deepfake videos, spreading misinformation, or using AI tools to manipulate or bully others online. Children are particularly vulnerable to these risks.

Predators are now using AI-generated images to target children, making it harder for schools and parents to detect threats.

Become more aware and help protect children by:

- Having open conversations
- Educating them about AI
- Discussing AI misuse
- Verify Information: Teach your child to double-check information from AI chatbots
- Informing them where to go for support

Click [here](#) to read more.

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Knife Crime

Knife crime in the UK has been increasing in recent years, with the number of offences rising year on year. The leading causes of knife crime include street violence, gang attacks, family issues, and robbery.

In the year ending June 2024, there were 50,973 knife-enabled crimes recorded in England and Wales. This is an 80% increase over the past decade.

London has the highest rate of serious knife crimes.

The West Midlands Police recorded the highest rate of knife crime offences per 100,000 population in 2023/24.

Click the poster below to open our Newsletter.



Knife crime is spreading

Knife crime is spreading across the UK, with an average of four people stabbed to death every week.

Idris Elba

For Idris Elba, this isn't just a statistic - it's personal. Growing up in east London, where violence was a constant threat, he understands the critical choices that shape futures. Aware of how easily his own path could have gone in a different direction, Idris - actor, campaigner and man determined to make a difference - embarks on a mission to confront this crisis.

Why is knife crime rising in so many places?

How do we stop it?

Can we balance punishment with prevention?

He has discussions about possible solutions with King Charles and Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, advocating earlier interventions and pointing to successful initiatives like one in Coventry, where a teenager who once carried a knife is now training as a football coach. His requests culminate in a knife crime summit at 10 Downing Street, bringing together those directly affected to influence policy and inspire change.

- It is against the law to carry a knife in public place.
Under the Knife Act 1997, it is illegal to carry a knife in public place. There are exceptions for certain types of knives, such as folding pocket knives, and for certain purposes, such as for work or for a hobby. It is also illegal to carry a knife on behalf of another person.
- A person must be 18 or over to purchase a knife.
The minimum age for purchasing a folding pocket knife is 18. A person over the age of 18 and 18 can legally purchase a combat knife.
- If the blade is less than 3 inches in length and is a manual folding blade, a person over the age of 18 can purchase this knife.
- It is illegal to bring into the country, sell, possess, hire or give someone a banned knife.
Banned knives include butterfly knives, disguised knives, ball knives, and combat knives. A full list of banned knives on the UK can be found on the UK website.

In the West Midlands, Idris learns of an unprovoked murder by two 12-year-olds. At Feltham Prison and Young Offender Institution, he meets perpetrators who feel they were driven to carry knives and hears warnings from the governor that by the time the boys are locked up, it's often too late to turn their lives around.

WATCH NOW

Idris speaks with victims, offenders, police and grieving families, uncovering harsh truths and challenging stereotypes. While often seen as an inner-city problem affecting black and brown communities, the reality is broader: white offenders are the majority of those arrested for carrying knives, and rural areas like Avon & Somerset, Bedfordshire and Sussex have seen significant increases in the knife crime rate.

Whats happening in your area?
Click the paperclip & use your own postcode to find out!

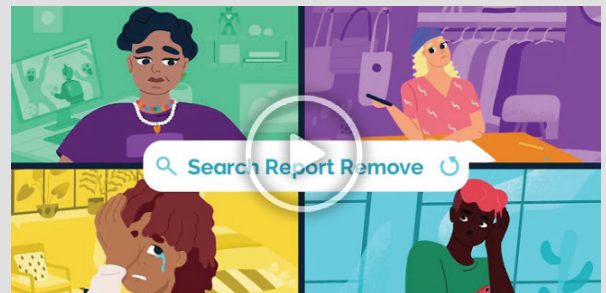
Report / Remove



Nude image of you online?
We can help take it down.

It's against the law for anyone to share a sexual image or video of someone who's under 18, and childline are working with the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and Yoti to help you remove any sexual image or video of you that's online.

Click the image below to watch the video.



If you have any concerns you can talk to our Safeguarding leads in confidence*

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Or call **Crime Stoppers** 0800 555 111