



JANUARY
2026

NEWSLETTER



Welcome

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you enjoyed a peaceful break!

We have gathered information about upcoming safeguarding drives and other resources – and hope that you will all find something of use for your safeguarding preventative programme here.



Safer Internet Day 2026 (SID) will take place on **Tuesday 10 February 2026**, with the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'. As this global event falls during half-term here, schools are encouraged to celebrate Safer Internet Day the week before, perhaps on **Tuesday 3 February 2026**.

Free resources from the UK Safer Internet Centre are available [here](#).

REMINDER: Safer Internet School Webinar – 10 February 2026

In preparation for this In January 2026, the UK Safer Internet Centre, together with SBNI and the Education Authority, will host two free webinars for teachers and professionals. These sessions will introduce the Safer Internet Day 2026 campaign and share practical ways to get involved in schools, colleges, and youth settings.





Led by the Education Team at Childnet, the webinar will explore the role of preventative education and will take a closer look at the [official SID resources](#) created for the following age groups:

- 3 – 7 yrs
- 7 – 11 yrs
- 11 – 14 yrs
- 14 – 18 yrs

Please note that all of the **SID resources are also available in Irish.**

Webinars for Primary Educators will take place on
Tuesday 13 January 2026, 3:30 – 4:15pm;

Post-Primary Educators Thursday 15 January 2026, 3:30 – 4:15pm.
Please find the links to register [here](#).



CEOP has a New Online Safety Education Website

CEOP has a New Online Safety Education Website for 4-7 Year Olds. This website features characters from Jessie & Friends to provide age appropriate online safety information in a fun and engaging way. [4-7s | CEOP Education](#)



Childnet have recently developed educational resources to explore generative AI and how it can be misused, with a specific focus on using generative AI to edit a photo of somebody to make them appear nude or naked, sometimes called 'nudification'. – including [three lesson plans with teacher guidance on the topics:](#)

- What is generative AI and what can it be used for?
- Misuse of generative AI and the possible impacts
- Reporting nude images made using generative AI

There is also an [information leaflet for parents and carers](#) to support conversations at home.



The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland has published a review on addressing child criminal exploitation (CCE) in Northern Ireland.

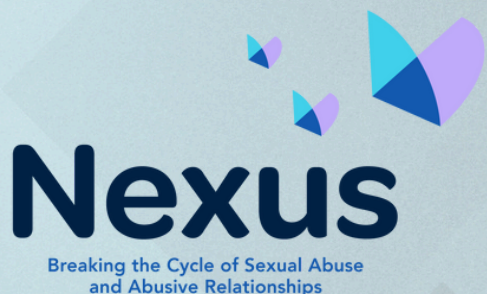
Selected findings include: CCE in Northern Ireland uniquely intersects with contextual harms including deprivation, community violence, and paramilitary influence; there are significant gaps in professional systems, training, and strategic responses; confidence in data recording, National Referral Mechanism (NRM) usage, and CCE-specific training is low; and data storage, recording, reporting and information sharing emerged as areas of critical importance, along with staff supervision and support. [This report provides specific recommendations](#) to strengthen organisation readiness, improve training, and enhance identification and information sharing systems.



Ofcom

A SAFER LIFE ONLINE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.

Ofcom has published guidance calling on tech companies to step up to protect women and girls from online harms, including abuse, harassment, stalking, coercive control, and non-consensual sharing of intimate images. They are urging platforms to implement stronger safety measures, such as improved content moderation, default privacy settings, and abuse-prevention tools. This guidance was developed from victims insights, survivors, safety experts, women's advocacy groups and organisations working with men and boys. To read more click [here](#).



Nexus has been awarded funding to expand their services through the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Small Grant Scheme, supported by the Departments of Justice and Health. This funding will help with the delivery of trauma-informed counselling and support services such as crisis de-escalation therapy, and one-to-one legal advice clinics for victims and survivors to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse across Northern Ireland.

Further information accessible [here](#).



The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) has published a report on strengthening the case for equal protection from assault for children in Northern Ireland. The report draws on evidence and best practice across Europe to highlight the need for legislative reform on the physical punishment of children and young people. The research accessible [here](#) highlights the importance of embedding this change within a wider framework of family and parenting support, ensuring that parents are empowered and supported in non-violent approaches to raising children.



We want to raise your awareness to the [Public Health Agency 'Talking Really Helps'](#) suicide prevention mass media campaign, which will run from November 2025 to March 2026. Digital resources are available from: [Talking really helps suicide prevention campaign resources | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

GENTLE REMINDERS:

We would like to highlight that there are several principals regionally whose refresher training has now expired.

Can we remind you to undertake this training at your earliest convenience?

Furthermore, we would like to remind you of a similar matter regarding outstanding safeguarding training for Chairs of Board of Governors, and Child Protection governors. Support for Governor Training is available through School Governance colleagues.

Please direct governors training queries to our colleagues via email to govtraining@eani.org.uk



Direct Contact with CPSS Officers

Can we kindly remind you all if you have any safeguarding queries, **please remember** to contact the **CPSS Helpline** rather than Individual Designated Officers.

This helps us to make sure every call is logged correctly and managed through the appropriate service channels.

As always the CPSS Helpline 02895 985590 is operational Monday to Friday (09:00 am until 4:30 pm) (except the statutory holidays).

We trust you will find these resources helpful.

Thank you once again for your continued commitment to ensuring that your school remains a safe and supportive environment. We look forward to working with you in the term ahead.

Kind regards
The Child Protection Support Service

