



# Sector updates

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# Sector updates

- Ofsted schools inspections and wider eventual roll out - safeguarding would not be graded with the five-point scale and instead it would be assessed as either met or not met under the plans. Anticipated to be threaded through all of the other areas as appropriate.
- Pilot / trial inspections September- November 2025
- Framework now not to be confirmed until start of autumn 1. Half a term to get ready
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-confirms-september-publication-for-consultation-response-ahead-of-new-look-education-inspections-from-november>

# New behaviour guidance for education.....

- Well worth being aware as some big changes in September.
- Useful to consider and think about your learners.



# Behaviour- new guidance/schools

- Promote safer school environments by ensuring force is used only when necessary.
- Improve accountability through mandatory reporting of incidents.
- Encourage non-restrictive behaviour strategies to reduce reliance on force.
- Protect pupils with SEND by ensuring they receive tailored support.
- Consultation closed 29.4.25
- <https://consult.education.gov.uk/behaviour-unit/revised-use-of-reasonable-force>

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# Behaviour-continued

Statutory requirement to record and report use of force (effective September 2025)

- From September 2025, schools will be legally required to record and report incidents where reasonable force is used. This aims to ensure greater transparency and accountability in the use of force, helping schools to monitor and review practices;
- Schools will need clear policies and processes in place to comply with these new requirements.



# Behaviour- continued

Guidance on other restrictive interventions (non-statutory)

- The new guidance expands beyond reasonable force to include other restrictive interventions, such as:
  - Physical restraint (holding, blocking, guiding);
  - Seclusion or isolation (removing a child from an area or restricting their movement);
  - Mechanical restraints (e.g., arm splints in certain medical cases);
  - Chemical restraint (use of medication to manage behaviour).
- Schools are advised to use positive behaviour strategies to reduce reliance on restrictive practices.



# Behaviour cont'd

Strengthened guidance on when reasonable force is appropriate

- Clarification that reasonable force should only be used as a last resort when absolutely necessary to:
  - prevent harm to a child or others;
  - stop a criminal offence or property damage;
  - maintain discipline in exceptional circumstances.
- An emphasis on proportionality – **force used must be reasonable and justifiable**

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# Behaviour cont'd

Specific provisions for pupils with SEND and vulnerable learners

- The guidance recognises that pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are more likely to be subjected to restrictive interventions;
- Schools must provide reasonable adjustments and consider de-escalation techniques before resorting to force;
- Encourages individual behaviour plans for pupils at risk of needing restrictive interventions.





# Behaviour cont'd-

## Responsibilities of Schools, Governing Bodies, and Proprietors

- School leaders and governors must ensure staff are trained and competent in behaviour management and use of force;
- Staff must be aware of legal protections and understand the emotional and psychological impact of using force on pupils;
- Governing bodies should monitor trends in the use of force and ensure schools comply with recording and reporting requirements.



# KCSIE

- No major changes
- No consultation at this stage.
- Likely to be more changes next year when all the current legislation has gone through



# Sector updates

- **Crime and Policing Bill** committee stage H of C.

## Sexual offences

Part 5 of the bill would introduce several measures aimed at tackling child sexual abuse and other sexual offending.

This includes implementing two recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. It would make grooming a statutory aggravating factor when sentencing an adult for a child sex offence and create a statutory duty for certain individuals to report child sexual abuse.

It would also introduce measures to tackle the creation and possession of child sexual abuse material and putting the child sex offender disclosure scheme, 'Sarah's law', on a statutory footing.

It would also introduce several new offences relating to the taking of intimate images and voyeurism.

# Sector updates

Safeguarding vulnerable people

Part 4 of the bill would include measures aimed at protecting children and vulnerable people, including creating new offences of child criminal exploitation and 'cuckooing', often associated with county lines drug dealing.

It would also establish new offences of spiking and encouraging or assisting serious self-harm.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crime-and-policing-bill-2025-factsheets/crime-and-policing-bill-overarching-factsheet>

# Sector updates

- Youth radicalisation

Part 14 of the bill would introduce measures aimed at tackling youth radicalisation, announced as the initial response to the 'counter-extremism sprint' established by the government following the general election.

These would take the form of 'youth diversion orders', a counter-terrorism risk management tool available to people under 21. The police would be able to apply to the courts for an order, which could require or prohibit certain conduct, if necessary and proportionate to mitigate terrorist risk.

The bill would also implement, or build upon, a number of recommendations of the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, Jonathan Hall KC

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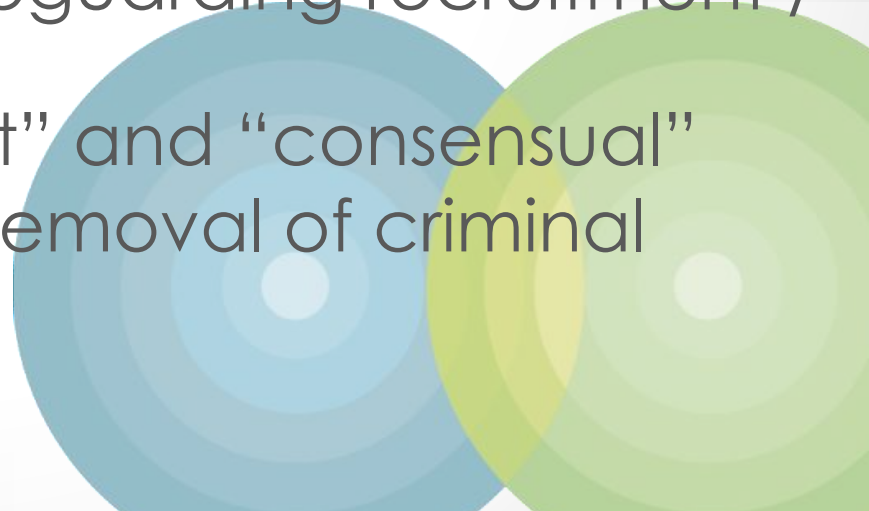
# Sector links-

- <https://terrorismlegislationreviewer.independent.gov.uk/classification-of-extreme-violence-used-at-southport-in-july-2024/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-prevent-learning-reviews>



# Thinking about safeguarding

- Baroness Casey – key highlights re. "grooming gangs".
  - See children as children.
  - Lack of reliable data
  - Ethnicity – issue avoided
  - National time limited inquiry
  - Taxis- close the loophole. Re driver movement to other authorities with no further checks; national standards especially re. safeguarding recruitment / training
  - Challenge around "consent" and "consensual"
  - Review of over 800 cases. Removal of criminal records for children

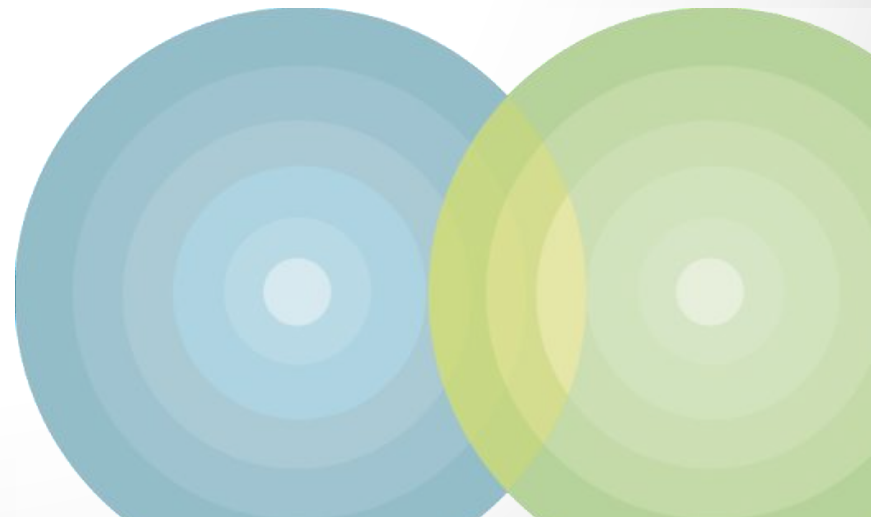




# Thinking about safeguarding .....

- DSL awareness
- Staff awareness
- Captured in policy and protocol
- Working with young people re. awareness
- Issues of cultural difference and sensitivity- key and clear link to contextual safeguarding
- Taxis- assurance letters re. safer recruitment ? Driver/escort safeguarding training?
- Location review- importance in reflecting known issues/ local intelligence

- Any thoughts ?





# Thinking ahead

- Using AI?
  - Policy?
  - GDPR and privacy statements?
  - Not tested in law yet in respect of records etc?
  - Proof reading of docs generated using AI?
  - Consent to use?
  - **DfE guidance for schools re. AI use for “low level/ low impact marking and creating letters in the “house style.”**

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# Publication/information

- Ofsted annual report 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 9.30
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dame-christine-gilbert-announced-as-chair-of-ofsted>



# No news yet on--

1. Gender ID guidance for schools and care
2. Carrying on with SEND budget “set aside / exclusion “ for LAs in budgets / accounting.by the end 2027/28 likely total overspend will be between £2-9bn and £3.9bn per year
3. Statutory override due to end March 2026

# Sector updates

- Any thoughts or queries?

Thank you- Chris

