

Pre-teens arrested for gun crimes

Police forces in England and Wales recorded 1,369 arrests of under-18s for firearms offences in the last two financial years, with individuals as young as 11 among those involved. Some experts have raised concerns that older offenders may be exploiting vulnerable young people to carry weapons, as they may be perceived as less likely to be stopped or searched by police. The figures have raised fresh concerns about 'County Lines' drug networks, which can involve the exploitation of children through coercion and intimidation for drug distribution. Data also indicates that around 15,500 children have been identified as being at risk of criminal exploitation, though the overall scale may be higher, as not all police forces were able to provide complete datasets.

Mirror.co.uk

Authorities urge parents to limit children's photos online

The National Crime Agency and the Internet Watch Foundation have issued new guidance urging parents to avoid publicly sharing photos of their children online because of the growing misuse of AI to create child sexual abuse material. The advice recommends making social media accounts private, reviewing old posts and photo consent agreements, and limiting image sharing to trusted contacts. The guidance follows a rise in AI-generated abusive content and cases involving the manipulation of children's photos taken from social media and school websites. Authorities stressed that the recommendations aim to raise awareness rather than discourage parents from sharing family memories.

The Guardian

Teachers get training to prevent violence

The Home Secretary, Shabana Mahmood, has announced that the Government will implement all 67 recommendations from the Southport Inquiry, which are aimed at preventing future tragedies like the one that resulted in the deaths of three young girls in July 2024. Teachers will receive enhanced training to identify signs of radicalisation, while parents may face stricter penalties for failing to manage their children's behaviour. Measures will be put in place to increase parental accountability and improve school protocols for reporting concerning behaviour.

The Guardian