

## **Young carers missing out on education**

Children in England who look after vulnerable family members are having their education disrupted due to government failures, according to the Liberal Democrats. New analysis by the Carers Trust showed that more than 400,000 young carers do not get enough support to balance their education with their caring responsibilities. A survey by the charity showed that 52% of the 800,000 people aged five to 17 who care for a family member are falling behind with school work, with 40% saying they do not have a member of staff to support them. Sir Ed Davey, leader of the Liberal Democrats, said the party would roll out a legally enforceable "education guarantee", which would require every school across the country to provide extra tuition to young carers and to hire a designated member of staff to support them. The party said the policy would be funded through a "young carers pupil premium".

## **'Don't talk to pupils about Andrew Tate's toxic influence'**

Teachers are being advised by the government not to discuss social media influencer Andrew Tate with pupils - despite schools reporting a rising tide of misogyny and sexual harassment from boys as young as nine. One charity, Diversify, based in Rotherham, which runs school workshops about inclusion, receives about 25 calls a week from primary and secondary schools across England who want help dealing with sexual harassment and "shocking misogynistic incidents". The charity's co-founder Sara Cunningham estimates that an average class of 30 children will have eight boys who admire Tate. She is frustrated that officials at the Department for Education (DfE) have been advising heads who reach out for help not to encourage discussion of Tate's views in personal, social and health education (PSHE) lessons, and are refusing to offer any training or resources.

*The Observer*

## **Police give schoolboys stalking lessons**

Boys as young as 12 at risk of being influenced by the likes of Andrew Tate will receive lessons from police on stalking. Scotland Yard has partnered with The Suzy Lamplugh Trust who found increasing numbers of 16 to 24-year-olds are contacting their helpline to seek support in how to deal with unwanted behaviour. Specialist detectives from the Met's Stalking Threat Assessment Centre will deliver training sessions to all safer schools, youth engagement and cadet officers to identify if a potential suspect's behaviour is obsessive. In south west London officers will also hold awareness sessions at universities to help students understand and identify stalking. Detective Chief Inspector Dan Thompson, the Met's lead for tackling stalking, said: "We know this behaviour is under-reported. A lot of this is around making children and university students aware of what stalking is."

*London Evening Standard*

## **Children exposed to harmful sexual content online, says report**

Children as young as eight are being affected by viewing pornography, according to the children's commissioner for England, Dame Rachel De Souza. She has published a report on the influence of pornography on harmful sexual behaviour among children and called for technology companies to do more to remove pornographic images. She said that most children first saw pornography on social media and that schools and parents needed to do

more to educate children and set appropriate boundaries. "At the most serious end," children were using the language of violent pornography and it was affecting their behaviour, she told BBC Radio 4's Today programme. Dame Rachel called for "decent age verification" through the Online Safety Bill, but said that tech companies could be doing more now to remove the images.

[BBC News](#)

### **Pupil suffers cardiac episode after drinking energy drink**

A pupil at **Milton Primary School** in Newport suffered a "cardiac episode" after drinking a Prime energy drink, which contains 140mg of caffeine. The school sent a text message to parents to make them aware of the incident, although it did not happen on school grounds. Prime drinks were promoted by YouTubers Logan Paul and KSI, causing a frenzy when they initially went out of stock in supermarkets and cans were resold online for 10 times their retail value.

*Express.co.uk London Evening Standard Metro The Independent*

### **Government announces plans to tackle child vaping**

Retailers will no longer be able to give free samples of vapes to children as the Government plans to close a legal loophole. Although it is illegal to sell e-cigarettes to under-18s, it is not illegal for retailers and marketing firms to hand out free samples. The Government is also reviewing banning retailers from selling nicotine-free vapes to under-18s and how it can make it easier for local Trading Standards to issue on-the-spot fines and fixed-penalty notices to shops selling vapes to children. NHS figures for 2021 show that 9% of 11- to 15-year-old children used e-cigarettes, up from 6% in 2018. Deborah Arnott, chief executive of Action on Smoking Health (Ash), called for the Government to put an excise tax on single-use vapes in the spring budget, adding £5 to single-use vapes would make them less appealing as children are "very price sensitive".

[The Times](#) *The Daily Telegraph The Guardian*

There has been a 35% increase in looked after children in Wales - from 5,410 in 2011 to 7,265 in 2021.

[BBC News](#)

### **Record number of children at risk of exploitation this summer**

A new survey by Barnardo's has revealed that a record number of children could be left at risk of sexual and criminal exploitation this summer due to the cost of living crisis. Six in 10 parents will struggle to afford activities over the six-week school break, while one in ten are specifically worried about local criminal gangs. The charity warns that many children will be left at greater risk of exploitation and lacking adult supervision online or in the outside world. The charity has also pointed to cuts to youth services, with 760 youth centres having closed since 2010, and real-terms council spending on youth services falling by more than 70% over the same period.

*The Observer*