Dear colleagues,

Well, here we are near the end of the year, and what a year it has been. As this is the last bulletin of 2020, I want to congratulate you again on everything you’ve done, this year more than ever, to safeguard the children you care for. It has been extremely challenging for everyone and I know how hard you have all worked , keeping children at the centre of all you do.

I hope you picked up the materials and resources in the last bulletin – these are all available on the EYFS website [safeguarding pages](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/). The slides from the safeguarding briefing held in October are also available there, so those of you who were unable to join us can see what was discussed. Details of the Spring Term briefing are below.

I will take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Chistmas and I hope you enjoy your well-earned break over the festive period, whatever you end up doing.

Take care everyone and see you next year

Jo Barclay

Jo Barclay

Head of Education Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Education Directorate

Essex County Council    [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk/) | **telephone:** 03330 131078 | **mobile:** 07775 030021 | **email:** [jo.barclay@essex.gov.uk](mailto:jo.barclay@essex.gov.uk)

**Spring term safeguarding forum**

You will be aware I said earlier this year that I was happy to run further forums if there was a demand for them. As you know, the first session was held in October and we had over 160 people attend, which was great.

Going forward, we intend to hold a face to face forum each term and then an online session in the evening for anyone unable to attend during the day. The date for next term is **24th March – 9.30am for the day session and 6.00pm for the evening**. Obviously, it is highly unikely we will be able to meet face to face in March, so for next term (and hopefully for the last time!), the day session will also be online.

These forums are for Designated Leads and we are offering one place per setting at each session. If you wish to apply for a place at either session, please do so [here](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fconsultations.essex.gov.uk%2Fworkforce-development-1%2F51ef8732&data=04%7C01%7C%7C0c833dcf5bd84340395a08d89ba6bfd7%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C637430487776273588%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=kv9dsQ1oL4cOfFFqtpt8kN2SWhkE4Ttd8LI%2BDiF%2BLWo%3D&reserved=0)

**Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB)**

The ESCB offers a range of training for professionals – details are available on the [ESCB website](https://www.escb.co.uk/learning-and-development/)

**Effective Support Website**

On Monday 7th December, the Essex Effective Support website will be moved to the Children and Families section of the [Essex.gov.uk site](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.essex.gov.uk%2Freport-a-concern-about-a-child&data=04%7C01%7C%7C380825e81fd84af2559508d896e49b3f%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C637425255881003402%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=u%2Bgr7xbmkJWWIYavNu6W8XuW17qp4yC3CPsRAZYDzmY%3D&reserved=0).

This move includes changes to the access of  the online Request for Support portal for sharing concerns for a child, young person or family and also where the Essex Directory of Services is hosted. You’ll be redirected to the new pages automatically, so there’s no need to change anything in your browser.

This should make information easier to find and more accessible. You’ll find:

* help finding the right level of support
* the request for support form (RFS)
* resources for practitioners
* the directory of services

# Guidance on how to complete a Request for Support

# This new [guidance](https://www.essexeffectivesupport.org.uk/media/1157/request_for_support_guide-professionals.pdf) breaks down in detail what information to include in each section of the Request for Support form and therefore enable the Children and Families Hub to make a timely threshold decision.

**NSPCC COVID-19 guidance**

The NSPCC has updated its guidance for EYFS settings: [Coronavirus briefing: safeguarding guidance and information for early years providers](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Femail.nspcc.org.uk%2Fc%2F1awEaJ9u8Bd59xW90TobSpj0sT&data=04%7C01%7C%7C917debc79e3f4291030608d8a027c740%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C637435440013578651%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=plnrRB9LkO8gOeO99m%2FK16Lb9x1GYjn9yebu5wrq1J8%3D&reserved=0)

**The Essential Living Fund (ELF)**

The Essential Living Fund (ELF) is emergency support for people hit by the pandemic. The ELF is receiving extra funding from the Covid Winter Grant Scheme to help people living in Essex with energy and water bills, food and other essential household items. This flyer contains further details



**Act Early**

This new [website](https://actearly.uk/) has been developed to support work around the Prevent agenda. It contains information about radicalisation and how to report concerns and provides materials and resources.

**Private fostering**

Private fostering occurs when a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) is provided with care and accommodation for more than 28 days by a person who is not a parent, a person with parental responsibility for them, or a relative.

The Essex Private Fostering Team is asking all settings to be alert to any instances of children living with someone other in a potential private fostering arrangement and have provided the presentation below to raise awareness with staff. Where a setting becomes aware of information about a potential private fostering, they should notify the local authority to enable appropriate checks to be undertaken.



If you would like further information or have any concerns, please contact the team manager [Adwoa.Solomon@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Adwoa.Solomon@essex.gov.uk)

**The Black and Asian Family Covid-19 Helpline**

Barnardo’s has launched a vital new UK-wide helpline to support Black, Asian and minority ethnic children, young people and their families impacted by Covid-19.

The new service is a free telephone helpline and web chat facility for children, young people and families from these communities who are suffering the long-lasting and wide-ranging impact of Covid-19. Barnardo’s specialist advisors will aim to provide on-going support on a complex range of issues including mental health, bereavement, family break-down, neglect, back to school, parenting advice, counselling, family stress, discrimination, barriers to services and more.

You can find out more about the new helpline here: [helpline.barnardos.org.uk/helpline](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhelpline.barnardos.org.uk%2Fhelpline&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cc157092d867b4b597ef408d87cebb1f1%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C637396699033624313%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=qd6zZeihTS7q1Fsc6TT7bL2VyikxDSxaj3Zldt6YpaQ%3D&reserved=0)

**Harmful sexual behaviour prevention toolkit**

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation has produced a ['Harmful Sexual Behaviour Prevention Toolkit'](https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Stop_It_Now_harmful_sexual_behaviour_prevention_toolkit_Oct_2020.pdf) which may be used by parents / carers and professionals to help them be aware of the risks of harmful sexual behaviour in children and young people. The toolkit includes support, advice, information, and resources and links to useful organisations.