

Education Bulletin for Early Years Settings and Childminders:

Summer term 2026 - Number 1

MESSAGE FROM JO

(JO BARCLAY, HEAD OF EDUCATION SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING)

Hi everyone,

Hope you've all been enjoying the sunshine and that those of you who had a half-term break enjoyed it. To make those of you who didn't feel better, neither did we!

I want to draw attention to the increased threat level in the UK (from 'substantial' to 'severe') and to remind you to update your risk assessments with this new information. Details of how to access our model templates are below.

I would also like to remind you of all the training that is available through our team, particularly the Level 3 training for Designated Safeguarding Leads - it has been great to meet so many of you in person through that training.

Lastly, don't forget the briefings in July - as always, we are running an in-person session in each quadrant and an online version on 14 July for those of you who cannot attend in-person during the day. These are all free, so please do take advantage of them so you receive your CPD around safeguarding.

Enjoy the rest of the term everyone - we will send a final bulletin before schools break up.

Take care

Jo

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PREVENT UPDATE

To reflect the new UK threat level of **SEVERE** (an attack is highly likely) the ECC Prevent risk assessments on this page of the PREVENT tab of the Essex Early Years and Childcare website have been updated

[Prevent guidance and support - Early years and childcare](#)

ONLINE SAFETY

The DfE has issued guidance on the use of screen time for children under the age of 5.

[New screen time guidance for parents of under-5s](#)

CHILDRENS' WELLBEING AND SCHOOLS ACT 2026

Please be aware that the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill has now been passed into law. We will bring you further detail on relevant updates for education settings at the safeguarding briefings later this term: [Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026](#)

FAMILIES FIRST PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

The [2026-27 Families First Partnership \(FFP\) programme guide](#) has been produced to support statutory safeguarding partners to implement Family Help and multi-agency child protection reforms and increase support for family networks. This is non-statutory guidance and sets out the programme vision, objectives, and practice change expected to improve the support provided to children and families.

There are various multi-agency workstreams taking forward FFPP in Essex and we will bring you further detail at the safeguarding briefing later this term.

KINSHIP CONFERENCE

Understanding Kinship Care, Developing Best Practice 16.07.26

Places can be booked via [Kinship conference](#)

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kinship conference
flyer.pdf

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN (DFE 2026)

There is now a new version of Working together to Safeguard children. We will bring updates to the termly briefings.

[Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK](#)

SOUTHEND, ESSEX AND THURROCK (SET) SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES (2026)

These were updated to a web enabled version on the 01.04.26. They can be found on the Essex Children Safeguarding Board website

[Safeguarding Policies & Procedures - Essex Safeguarding Children Board](#)

EDUCATION SAFEGUARDING TEAM TRAINING OFFER

All training opportunities can be booked via [Education Essex Online Booking System](#)

[Level 3 safeguarding training for Designated Safeguarding leads for Early years settings and childminders](#)

Date (9.30am – 4.00pm)	Venue
Summer term 2026	
15.06.26	Barleylands Farm Park
09.07.26	Hamptons Sports and Leisure Chelmsford
Date (9.30am – 4.00pm)	Venue
Autumn term 2026	
17.09.26	Harlow Study Centre
29.09.26	Jobserve Football stadium Colchester
13.10.26	Barleylands Farm Park
19.10.26	Hamptons Sports and Leisure Chelmsford
03.11.26	Jobserve Football stadium Colchester
09.11.26	Harlow Study Centre
03.12.26	Barleylands Farm Park

[Other training opportunities](#)

Summer term 2026		
Prevent Awareness and update	06.07.26 1.00pm to 3.00pm	Online

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Recruitment and culture – KCSiE £200pp	06.07.26 9.30am to 3.30pm	Colchester Stadium
Autumn term 2026		
Early Years Train the Trainer level 2 presentations	02.09.26 3.30pm – 5.00pm	Online
Level 2 training	07.09.26 3.00pm to 5.00pm	Online
Site preparedness and site security	23.09.26 All day	Colchester Stadium
J9 Domestic Abuse and Awareness training	06.10.26 3.00pm – 4.30pm	Online
Harmful Sexual Behaviour for Early Years	12.10.26 4.00pm – 5.00pm	Online
Continued Professional development for Child Minders	20.10.26 6.00pm – 7.00pm	Online
Prevent awareness and update	14.12.26 3.00pm to 5.00pm	