Dear colleagues,

It was lovely to meet so many of you at our in-person forums last term. We had some really positive feedback about these sessions and will therefore be running them face to face again this term and next - details of how to register for a place are available below. We recognise that not everyone will be able to access a session during the day, and we will continue to hold our online session during the evening, to ensure that everyone who wishes to access regular safeguarding training is able to do so.

You will also see below that we have included a summary of the information and resources on the safeguarding area of the EY website. I hope this information below is a helpful reminder for you and very much hope to see you all at one of the forums later this term.

Best wishes

Jo Barclay

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Head of Education Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Education Directorate

Essex County Council    [www.essex.gov.uk](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/ap/t-59584e83/) | **telephone:** 03330 131078 | **mobile:** 07775 030021 | **email:** educationsafeguarding@essex.gov.uk

**Safeguarding forums**

We held our first face to face safeguarding forums in every quadrant in the autumn term and received excellent feedback on these face-to-face sessions. As there is clearly an interest in attending these in person, we will be offering a forum in each quadrant again this term. Please see the dates, times and locations for the Spring forums below. The presentations from the autumn forums can be accessed [here](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/early-years-safeguarding-forums-and-briefings/).

We will monitor attendance at these sessions and will continue with them if there is a demand. For those not able to leave their setting during the day, we will continue to hold an online update forum as an evening online session.

To book onto a session, please use the [Education Essex Online Booking System](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/training-and-qualifications/education-essex-online-booking-system/) and search for ‘Safeguarding Forum for Early Years’ - both the web and in-person class options will show. If you need technical support with booking your place via the booking system, please email workforcedevelopment@essex.gov.uk.

**Spring forum dates:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **North-East – in person** | 13 March 202310am-12:30pm | Colchester United Community Stadium, Colchester, CO4 5UP |
| **Mid – in person** | 14 March 20231pm-3:30pm | Chelmsford City Football ClubSalerno Way, ChelmsfordEssex CM1 2EH |
| **West – in person** | 22 March 20231pm-3:30pm | Harlow Study Centre - Monks barn, Netteswellbury Farm, Harlow CM18 6BW |
| **South – in person** | 23 March 202310am-12:30pm | Wat Tyler Centre - Cordite Room, Pitsea Hall Ln, Pitsea, Basildon SS16 4UH |
| **Countywide - online** | 15 March 20236pm - 7:30pm | Online – Microsoft TEAMS |

**Updated safeguarding training page**

We have updated the [safeguarding training and development page](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-and-development/) on the EYCP website. Please look at the new page as it contains helpful information about Level 1, 2 and 3 training and resources to support the delivery of Level 2 training within your setting.

**Contacting the Education Safeguarding Team**

We now have a shared team inbox which is monitored by all members of our team: educationsafeguarding@essex.gov.uk. We ask that settings take note of this email address and use it to contact us instead of using our personal email addresses.

**Working Together to Safeguard Children**

Work has started on updating the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children, which we expect to be completed and published in Autumn 2023.

**EYCP safeguarding pages**

During the face-to-face safeguarding forums in the autumn, Early Years colleagues requested a reminder of the information held on our EYCP safeguarding pages:

* The [main safeguarding EYCP page](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/) holds the links to all the topics on the safeguarding pages
* There are sections with information on how to handle and report [concerns about children](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/request-support-or-report-a-concern-about-a-child/) and [concerns about members of the workforce](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/report-a-concern-about-a-member-of-the-workforce/)
* The [Early Years safeguarding training and development page](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-and-development/) contains information on the training expectations for Early Years settings in Essex and how to access this training
* Presentations from previous termly safeguarding forums and copies of previous safeguarding briefings can be found on the [Early Years safeguarding forums and briefings page](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/early-years-safeguarding-forums-and-briefings/)
* The [Early Years Child Protection resources page](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/early-years-child-protection-resources/) contains a number of helpful resources for your setting, including model CP policies, CP file templates, a safeguarding self-audit tool and other useful documents
* [Key safeguarding information and documents](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/key-safeguarding-information-and-documents/), including links to statutory documents, and further information on [safeguarding topics](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/safeguarding-topics/) can also be found within the safeguarding area
* Information on [Safer Recruitment](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/running-your-business/safer-recruitment/) is found within the ‘Running your business’ section

**Inspecting safeguarding (Ofsted 2022)**

Ofsted has updated its guidance [Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills (Ofsted 2022)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-safeguarding-in-early-years-education-and-skills)

**Training and development opportunities from the Essex Safeguarding Children Board**

I wanted to remind you of the training on offer from the ESCB – their learning and development page can be accessed here: [ESCB / learning and development](https://www.escb.co.uk/learning-and-development/)

**Early Help drop-in sessions**

These sessions are designed to give partners working with children and families the chance to: discuss anonymised cases, access peer support, learn more about the roles of other partners and be signposted to advice and other services. They are facilitated by one of the four Partnership Delivery Leads (detailed below), who will be regularly supported by a panel of subject experts including: Team Around the Family Support Officer (TAFSO), Health Liaison Officer, Senior Attendance Specialists and others.

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Please note that these sessions DO NOT replace work undertaken by the Children and Families Hub as outlined in [Effective Support for Children & Families in Essex](https://www.escb.co.uk/media/2701/escb-effectivesupportbooklet2021v7.pdf)

**SET CAMHS**

The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Child and Adolescents Mental Health Service (SET CAMHS) provides advice and support to children, young people and families who are in need of support with their emotional wellbeing or mental health difficulties. NELFT works in partnership with HCRG Care Group to deliver this service and information about their current offer is available [here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-safeguarding-in-early-years-education-and-skills/inspecting-safeguarding-in-early-years-education-and-skills)

There is also a Professionals Advice Line for practitioners working with children and young people. The number is **0300 300 1996**and the line will operate every Monday – Thursday between 10:00 and 12:00, excluding bank holidays. The new number is **not**an alternative to making a referral or to be used in urgent situations. It does not replace the existing main line for contacting SET CAMHS, which is 0800 953 0222.

*(Please note, this number is to be used as a professional consultation line only, so please do not share it with the general public or on any websites/digital platforms).*

**Essex Wellbeing Service**

In Essex we are fortunate to have many services available to provide support us, but sometimes it can be difficult to know where and when to access it. The [Essex Wellbeing Service](https://www.essexwellbeingservice.co.uk/) is an early intervention offer that supports everyone in Essex to live healthy and socially connected lives. With practical, emotional, health and wellbeing advice, support and signposting they help Essex residents to lead their best possible life and to find the right support at the right time, including support in the community for a range of health, wellbeing and day to day needs – supporting families to adapt to the 'new normal'. Please do make use of this service and promote it with schools/settings and families.