Dear colleagues,

I am really pleased to hear that we have a high number of settings that have registered for the in-person safeguarding forums this term. You will know that we have been keen to offer early years settings the same opportunities to access professional development around safeguarding that we offer to our schools. I think that some training works far better in person, and safeguarding is one of those topics. As I always say, safeguarding is the most important thing you do in your setting and it is vital you receive the time and space to develop your expertise and access training to support the work you are doing. Having said that, we completely understand that it is not possible for everyone to leave their setting during the day. For that reason, we have (and will) continue to offer the online evening session, so do please join for that, if you are unable to join us at one of the local venues.

I look forward to seeing you (either in person or virtually!) at one of the forums next month.

Best wishes

Jo Barclay

Jo Barclay

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](mailto:educationsafeguarding@essex.gov.uk)

**Safeguarding forums**

The dates for both the Spring and Summer Early Years Safeguarding Forums are now available to book. We received excellent feedback on the autumn face-to-face sessions and hope to see many of you in person in the Spring and Summer. Please see the dates, times and locations for the forums below.

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](mailto:workforcedevelopment@essex.gov.uk).

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.

The presentations from the autumn forums can be accessed [on the EYCP pages](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/early-years-safeguarding-forums-and-briefings/).

**Spring forum dates:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **North-East – in person** | 13 March 2023  10am-12:30pm | Colchester United Community Stadium, Colchester, CO4 5UP |
| **Mid – in person** | 14 March 2023  1pm-3:30pm | Chelmsford City Football Club  Salerno Way, Chelmsford  Essex CM1 2EH |
| **West – in person** | 22 March 2023  1pm-3:30pm | Harlow Study Centre - Monks barn, Netteswellbury Farm, Harlow CM18 6BW |
| **South – in person** | 23 March 2023  10am-12:30pm | Wat Tyler Centre - Cordite Room, Pitsea Hall Ln, Pitsea, Basildon SS16 4UH |
| **Countywide - online** | 15 March 2023  6pm - 7:30pm | Online – Microsoft TEAMS |

**Summer forum dates:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **North-East – in person** | Wednesday 5th July: 1.30 – 4.00pm | Colchester United Community Stadium, Colchester, CO4 5UP |
| **West – in person** | Monday 10th July: 10.00 – 12.30pm | Harlow Study Centre - Monks barn, Netteswellbury Farm, Harlow CM18 6BW |
| **Mid – in person** | Wednesday 12th July: 10.00 – 12.30pm | Chelmsford City Football Club  Salerno Way, Chelmsford  Essex CM1 2EH |
| **South – in person** | Monday 17th July: 10.00 – 12.30pm | Wat Tyler Centre - Cordite Room, Pitsea Hall Ln, Pitsea, Basildon SS16 4UH |
| **Countywide - online** | Tuesday 18th July: 6pm - 7:30pm | Online – Microsoft TEAMS |

**Child Protection files – new guidance document**

To support settings with maintaining their Child Protection files, we have produced a guidance document and appendices. The guidance can be accessed on the [Guidance documents, model policies and templates page](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/early-years-child-protection-resources/) of the EYCP.

**Risk Assessment Templates**

We have produced four risk assessment templates for Essex settings. The templates can be accessed on the [Guidance documents, model policies and templates page](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/early-years-child-protection-resources/) of the EYCP.

**Online Safeguarding Briefing for new Designated Safeguarding Leads**

Three times a year we hold an Online Safeguarding Briefing for new Designated Safeguarding Leads. This event is for early years, primary, secondary, special schools, colleges and sixth form provision and is aimed at:

* New Designated Safeguarding Leads / Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads who have not completed their Level 3 training yet
* Experienced Designated Safeguarding Leads / Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads who are new to Essex
* Current Designated / Deputy Safeguarding Leads who would like a reminder of the basics of the safeguarding arrangements in Essex

The briefing will provide an overview of the role of the DSL and an introduction to safeguarding processes in Essex. It will detail the training needed for the role and signpost to important documents and resources.

The next session is **20th April 2023 1pm – 2pm** online via TEAMs and a place can be booked via the [Essex Online Booking System](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/training-and-qualifications/education-essex-online-booking-system/). Please pass this information on to any new DSL/DDSL at your setting.

**Early Help and Team Around the Family Workshops (Virtual Session)**

The ESCB are offering Early Help and TAF training designed to help professionals understand the key points of the Effective Support Document within Early Help and feel confident in their practice and in taking Early Help forward. The training incudes tips and advice on how to engage families throughout the Early Help Intervention, discuss a Team Around the Family meeting and create an Early Help Plan. Dates and booking details can be found on the [ESCB website](https://www.escb.co.uk/learning-and-development/early-help-and-team-around-the-family-workshops/).

**Preparing for difficult conversations training**

The ESCB are offering two workshops for building confidence in preparing and holding challenging conversations using cycles of change theory, motivational interviewing, and early help resources. Dates and booking details can be found on the [ESCB website](https://www.escb.co.uk/learning-and-development/preparing-for-difficult-conversations/).

**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](mailto: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

**Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB)**

* The ESCB has a number of training sessions which can be accessed on their [learning and development page](https://www.escb.co.uk/learning-and-development/).
* The latest [ESCB Safeguarding Newsletter](https://news.news.essex.gov.uk/9j46/send/wy-hejz6) can be accessed on the ESCB website.

**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.

****

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.