Essex County Council logo


**Education Safeguarding briefing for Early Years settings.**

**Autumn 2023**

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the autumn term briefing everyone – it is certainly beginning to feel like Autumn!

I wanted to update you on the team, as we’ve had a couple of changes. As you know, we are a countywide team and we cover all education and Early Years settings. We now have 3 x Education Safeguarding Advisers:

Alex Darvill (linked to the south and west quadrants)

Derai Lewis-Jones (mid and north east quadrants)

Matthew Lewis (countywide, with a focus on ESCB and Prevent work)

If you wish to contact the team, please use the team email address: [educationsafeguarding@essex.gov.uk](mailto:educationsafeguarding@essex.gov.uk). I also wanted to remind you of the safeguarding materials on the website: [Essex Early Years and Childcare / safeguarding](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/).

We are currently preparing for the safeguarding forums later this month. It is important that we offer Early Years settings the same training opportunities as schools, so we will once again be holding in-person forums in each of the quadrants. These sessions enable you to access training around safeguarding and hear key messages to support your work. Please see the dates below and details of how to register for a place. We really hope that you are able to attend in person, but we fully appreciate that is not possible for everyone, so we will be also running the online evening session.

The other important thing to draw your attention to is the safeguarding questionnaire, that we are requesting all settings complete. The closing date for this is 15 December, so you have plenty of time to submit it, although we do not anticipate that it will take you long to actually complete. This survey will be very useful to us in informing our work going forward, so that we can better support you in your safeguarding work, so please do ensure that you return the completed form to us by the due date.

That’s it for now from me. I hope these briefings continue to be useful to you and we look forward to seeing you soon at the forums or training.

**Jo Barclay**

**Head of Education Safeguarding and Wellbeing**

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**1. Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (DfE, 2023)**

The updated [Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2) took effect from 4 September 2023, so please ensure you refer to this current version in your policies (and on your website, if applicable).

**2. Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2023)**

The updated [Keeping children safe in education](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2), which all schools must follow, took effect from 1 September 2023. The Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage suggests that other childcare providers may also find it helpful to refer to this guidance (which contains detailed safeguarding information).

**3. Materials for 2023/24**

The updated materials are available on our safeguarding pages on the [Early Years and Childcare website](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/) and are listed below:

**Level 2 presentations:**

[EYCC / Safeguarding training and development](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-and-development/)

* Keeping children safe in early years (for induction / annual Level 2 training for all staff)
* Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – early years
* Prevent – early years
* Understanding the Children and Families Hub

An updated Level 2 safeguarding training schedule template is also available.

**Guidance documents, model policies and templates:**

[EYCC / Guidance documents, model policies and templates](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/guidance-documents-model-policies-and-templates/)

* Model child protection policies (separate policies for settings and childminders)
* Safeguarding audit (self-evaluation tool to assist settings in checking compliance with the safeguarding and welfare requirements in the Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage)
* Child Protection recording guidance and templates
* Safeguarding information for visitors to a setting

**4. Early Years Safeguarding Questionnaire**

Those of you who attended the Safeguarding Forums last year will be aware that we have been working on a short audit in the form of a questionnaire to go to all providers. This is to gather information about safeguarding in our settings and also to inform our work going forward, to assist us in further supporting settings with their safeguarding arrangements.

The form contains basic questions about safeguarding in Early Years settings. We are asking all settings to complete and **submit it by 15 December 2023**. We will then analyse the outcomes and feed back the findings at a future safeguarding forum.

The questionnaire may be accessed by clicking on this link:

[**Early Years Setting Questionnaire 2023**](https://forms.office.com/e/HN2f7Z8VEK)

or by scanning this QR code:

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To assist with completion, there are accompanying notes and a model Action Plan, for any setting wishing to complete it. This plan also includes links to guidance, model policies and relevant websites:

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*Please note that this questionnaire is separate to the Safeguarding audit that is on the ‘Guidance documents, model policies and templates’ page on the Early Years and Childcare website. The audit is a self-evaluation tool, updated each year, to assist Early Years settings in checking their compliance with the safeguarding and welfare requirements in the Statutory framework.*

**5. Prevent Duty**

The Home Office has published an update to the UK’s counter-terrorism strategy: CONTEST. [CONTEST 2023](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnews.service.education.gov.uk%2FC4EB8226DFB25D343048EDAD385620726B6412A3EF3CEE672645980D70EE094D%2FEDBDA19D43FED6C03B7385E8C691088B%2FLE35&data=05%7C01%7C%7C1114b15bbfd546dc770f08db884d674c%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638253638247185650%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TLU7YowtL1H9YlfTdEQ5ItYHr8JqcFcfNfi8fJ1gghU%3D&reserved=0) sets out how the UK’s counter-terrorism response will adapt to the enduring and evolving threat from terrorism. The strategy recognises the evolving nature of terrorist attacks, and acknowledges that technology is the biggest threat, suggesting an increase in self-initiative terrorists using wider online influences is leading to less fixed ideology and direction.

Importantly, the new strategy outlines the need for counter-terrorism investigations to use a range of expert advice and use non-law enforcement interventions to tackle threats. This is relevant as there has been an increase in minors arrested for terrorism offences, with over half of under-18s convicted over the last 5 years having been charged with non-violent offences (collection and dissemination of terrorist publications) and highlighting a need for early identification of concerns and timely intervention.

The Home Office has also published updated [Prevent duty guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance), which is due to come into force on 31 December 2023. Education settings must continue to have regard to the [2015 guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance-england-scotland-and-wales-2015) until the new guidance comes into force.

Although the updated guidance places no new legal requirements or additional responsibilities on education settings, there are changes that settings should be aware of. The DfE has provided separate briefing notes for schools and early years settings, and further education and skills providers: [Prevent duty guidance update: a briefing for schools and early years settings](https://www.educateagainsthate.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Prevent-Duty-Guidance-Schools-and-early-years-providers-briefing-note-1.pdf)

**Prevent awareness and update sessions**

We are still awaiting the replacement for the WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training from the Home Office. To provide settings with some training meanwhile, we will be holding termly Prevent awareness and update sessions – further details are available in the Safeguarding Forums / Training section below.

**6. Safeguarding Forums / Training**

**Safeguarding Forums 2023/24**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Quadrant | Autumn | Spring | Summer | Venue |
| **South** | 21.11.23  9.30 – 12.00pm | 13.03.24  9.30 – 12.00pm | 03.07.24  9.30 – 12.00pm | Wat Tyler Country Park, Cordite Room, Pitsea, SS16 4HU |
| **West** | 22.11.23  9.30 – 12.00pm | 12.03.24  9.30 – 12.00pm | 04.07.24  9.30 – 12.00pm | Latton Bush Centre, Blue Room, Southern Way, Harlow, CM18 7BL |
| **Mid** | 27.11.23  9.30 – 12.00pm | 19.03.24  9.30 – 12.00pm | 09.07.24  9.30 – 12.00pm | Chelmsford City Football Club, Don Walker Room, Salerno Way, Chelmsford, CM1 2EH |
| **North East** | 30.11.23  9.30 – 12.00pm | 20.03.24  9.30 – 12.00pm | 10.07.24  9.30 – 12.00pm | Colchester United Football Stadium, Dick Graham Suite, Colchester, CO4 5UP |
| **Online** | 28.11.23  6.00 – 7.30pm | 19.03.24  6.00 – 7.30pm | 09.07.24  6.00 – 7.30pm | Microsoft Teams |

**Training**

**Prevent awareness and update sessions**

To support settings in meeting the requirements under the Prevent Duty, we have arranged termly online Prevent awareness and update sessions with David Layton-Scott, DfE Regional Prevent Coordinator, East of England, for the 2023 / 24 academic year. These sessions are open to all Essex education settings.

The first termly session will raise awareness of Prevent, the requirements under the Prevent duty and set out the arrangements in Essex for responding to Prevent concerns. The outcomes of this training will be:

* to help Designated Safeguarding Leads / Lead Practitioners (DSLs / LPs) understand the statutory requirements upon education settings in relation to Prevent
* to ensure DSLs / LPs are aware of the signs a child / young person may be vulnerable to radicalisation and the ‘push and pull’ factors in relation to this
* to ensure DSLs / LPs understand how to respond to Prevent concerns within their setting and how to report them
* to inform DSLs / LPs of the multi-agency partnership arrangements for Prevent in place across Essex
* to ensure DSLs / LPs are aware of the CHANNEL panel
* to signpost DSLs / LPs to resources and support

The Prevent sessions will take place on the following dates / times:

* 21 November 2023 (2.00 – 4.00pm)
* 5 March 2024 (9:30 - 11:30am)
* 2 July 2024 (2.00 – 4.00pm)

**Level 2 Train the Trainer sessions**

We are continuing to deliver these termly online training sessions, which are for the Lead Practitioner for Safeguarding, to support settings if they decide to deliver Level 2 training in-house. The various Level 2 safeguarding training presentations are shared during the session, with hints and tips about how to use the presentations to train setting staff.

The Train the Trainer sessions will take place on the following dates / times:

* 7 December 2023 (10.00 – 11.00am)
* 28 March 2024 (10.00 - 11:00am)
* 11 July 2024 (10.00 – 11.00am)

**Briefing for new leads**

We hold online introductory sessions for new Lead Practitioners for Safeguarding in Early Years settings, and Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools and other settings. They are held at the beginning of each term and last for 45 – 60 minutes. Key information about safeguarding in Essex is shared during these sessions, pending leads undertaking their Level 3 training.

The remaining briefing sessions will take place on the following dates / times:

* 9 January 2024 (1.00 – 2.00pm)
* 18 April 2024 (1.00 – 2.00pm)

**Booking**

Booking for all forums and training via the [Essex Online Booking System](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fschools.essex.gov.uk%2Finfo%2Ftradedservices%2FPages%2Feducation-essex-online-booking-system.aspx&data=05%7C01%7CMatthew.Lewis%40essex.gov.uk%7C793310a0a17245fb2cca08dbce43b2ed%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638330562376281289%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uhyvJujxBhhqtmCe1tenRtA9AzXDDSLVdbx0Zo%2FwD%2F4%3D&reserved=0) as usual.

Booking support email: [workforcedevelopment@essex.gov.uk](mailto:workforcedevelopment@essex.gov.uk).

**7. Essex Children’s Social Care**

Social Care have updated their s17 and s47 request for information forms, and the related information sharing guide for parents and permission to share information agreement. The new forms were in use from 4 September 2023 and are included below for your information:





**8. Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) – Safeguarding News**

The ESCB has published its latest [bulletin](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnews.news.essex.gov.uk%2F9j46%2FDesign%2Fbcjo-r4h7&data=05%7C01%7CMatthew.Lewis%40essex.gov.uk%7C327eb588659b4d6071bd08dbc40aa6b8%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638319322250103102%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YjOit4H0YFMgSg0%2BwIkJb8LOsmlckeYq0oOuQcGGhUY%3D&reserved=0), with news, updates, and training opportunities.

The ESCB offers a range of training opportunities for professionals working with children and young people. Further details are available [here](https://www.escb.co.uk/learning-and-development/).

**9. Online Safety**

**ChildNet**

ChildNet has released a story, *Hanni and the Magic Window*, designed to help children aged 3 and over understand how to seek help.

You can download the story and access other resources on the ChildNet [website](https://www.childnet.com/resources/hanni-and-the-magic-window/).

**UK Council for Internet Safety**

Guidance to help those who work in early years settings consider their practice and take steps to safeguard both children and adults online:

[Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations for managers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-protecting-professionals-in-early-years-settings-online-safety-considerations)

**Other guidance and resources**

Various organisations have produced guidance and resources relating to online safety in Early Years:

* [UK Council for Internet Safety](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-council-for-internet-safety)
* [Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/pre-school/)
* [CEOP](https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/)
* [SWGFL](https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/early-years-toolkit/)

**10. Social, Emotional and Mental Health**

**Guidance, Resource and CPD Opportunities for Transition:**

**Birth to 5 Matters**

Birth to 5 Matters is guidance by the sector for the sector. They provide some helpful information about transitions for practitioners: [Birth to 5 Matters](https://birthto5matters.org.uk/transitions/).

**Early Years Matters**

This resource offers information about transitions at different phases of early years education: [Early Years Matters](https://www.earlyyearsmatters.co.uk/eyfs/positive-relationships/transitions/).

**Teach Early Years**

This article provides Ideas to practitioners to help support children and families with transitions: [Teach Early Years](https://www.teachearlyyears.com/a-unique-child/view/supporting-transitions-in-the-early-years).