Essex County Council logo


Education Safeguarding Briefing for schools and settings: Spring 2024

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the Spring Term briefing. We are nearing the end of February and starting to look forward to the Spring and the Easter break! It has once again been a busy start to 2024 – there is, as always, lots going on.

I am really pleased that we are receiving feedback that these safeguarding briefings are reaching more of you, as it means that more of you have access to the key information, training opportunities and resources that are available. Please do share with colleagues who have a safeguarding role in other settings, or check with them that they are receiving the briefings, as we want to ensure we reach as many safeguarding leads as possible.

I want to draw particular attention to the section on the safeguarding questionnaire, as it’s really important that settings take some time to complete and submit this. It will not take much of your time, and will provide us with some useful information, which will help us to further support you going forward.

I would also like to remind you of the forums later this term. We really hope that you will be able to join us, either in person or online. Please ensure that, if you have registered to attend in person, you actually do so and are not a ‘no-show’ on the day! We had around 100 people attend in person last term, and it was great to see some familiar faces and also to meet some new ones - I and the team very much look forward to seeing you there 😊

**Jo Barclay**

**Head of Education Safeguarding and Wellbeing**

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## 1. Working together to safeguard children

The Department for Education (DfE) has updated Working together to safeguard children, the statutory guidance on multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children. The [guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2) applies to all organisations and agencies with functions relating to children and all education providers and childcare settings. We will discuss the updated guidance at the Spring and Summer Term 2024 Safeguarding Forums (please see Safeguarding Forums and Training section below).

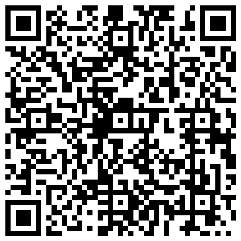
## [2. Early Years Safeguarding Questionnaire](#_2._Early_Years)

Those of you who have attended the Safeguarding Forums will be aware that we have been talking for some time about 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 the questionnaire and have extended the deadline to **31 May 2024**. We will be analysing the outcomes shortly afterwards and will provide feedback on the findings at the summer safeguarding forums. We can also have some discussion at the forums about what settings would find useful to support their work around safeguarding, based on what has been shared through the questionnaire.

It's important for all settings to complete the questionnaire, which is accessed by clicking on this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/HN2f7Z8VEK>

or by scanning this QR code:



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.*

## 3. Harmful Sexual Behaviour – Level 2 presentation

In response to feedback, we are working on a new Level 2 presentation about Harmful Sexual Behaviour for Early Years settings. Meanwhile you may wish to review the new Level 2 presentation for schools and other settings which is on the [Education Safeguarding Training](https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/Safeguarding/Level_2_Child_Training_Programme/Pages/default.aspx) pages on the Essex Schools Infolink.

## 4. ECC visitors to settings

We would like to remind settings that sight of DBS certificates or certificate numbers is not required when ECC visitors from Education or Social Care present their employer letter along with their ID badge. This letter will assure settings that appropriate checks have been completed for the individual as part of their employment for ECC.

For reference the paragraph from Keeping children safe in education (DfE, 2023), which is the principle also used for Early Years settings, that outlines this is:

*302. For visitors who are there in a professional capacity schools and colleges should check ID and be assured that the visitor has had the appropriate DBS check (or the visitor’s employers have confirmed that their staff have appropriate checks. Schools and colleges should not ask to see the certificate in these circumstances).*

## 6. Prevent duty

The updated [Prevent duty guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance) came into force on 31 December 2023. As you know, 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 – please see below:

* [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 sessions**

We are still awaiting the replacement for the WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training from the Home Office. In order to provide settings with some training meanwhile, we are holding termly Prevent awareness sessions – further details are available in the training section below.

## **7**. **Safeguarding Forums and Training**

Booking for events is via the [Essex online booking system](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Feducationessex.com%2Fportal%2Fadk%2Fframeworks%2FGalaxy%2Fdefault.aspx&data=05%7C02%7CClare.Wallis%40essex.gov.uk%7C3a167aa0979d4f2cf9a708dc182af0a6%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638411819897489343%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=u805jYVm9qi83DzIVfdFKcgqB1s%2FiH48%2BMx5G9El6I0%3D&reserved=0). Booking support email: [workforcedevelopment@essex.gov.uk](mailto:workforcedevelopment@essex.gov.uk).

**Safeguarding Forums and Training 2023 / 24**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Quadrant | Spring | Summer | Venue |
| **South** | 13.03.24  9.30 – 12.00pm | 03.07.24  9.30 – 12.00pm | Please note change of venue: Basildon Lower Academy, Timberlog Close, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1UX |
| **West** | 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** | 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** | 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** | 19.03.24  6.00 – 7.30pm | 09.07.24  6.00 – 7.30pm | Microsoft Teams |

**Training**

**Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) – termly training**

This online training is for those who have not previously accessed training, or anyone wishing to refresh their understanding in relation to HSB in schools and settings. The training is relevant to Headteachers, DSLs and DDSLs, and will cover:

* the statutory requirements for education settings in relation to HSB.
* the signs a child / young person may be vulnerable to HSB.
* risk assessing sexual behaviours, to inform the response to HSB concerns within the setting.
* when to contact other relevant / statutory agencies.
* signposting to resources and support.

The HSB sessions are online and will take place on the following dates / times:

* 25 March 2024: 2.00 – 3.30pm
* 27 June 2024: 2.00 – 3.30pm

**Prevent awareness – termly sessions.**

To support settings in meeting the requirements under the Prevent duty, we have arranged termly Prevent awareness and update sessions with David Layton-Scott, DfE Regional Prevent Coordinator, East of England, for the 2023 / 24 academic year. The objectives of this training are to:

* to help DSLs understand the statutory requirements upon education settings in relation to Prevent.
* to ensure DSLs 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 understand how to respond to Prevent concerns within their setting and how to report them.
* to inform DSLs of the multi-agency partnership arrangements for Prevent in Essex.
* to ensure DSLs are aware of the CHANNEL panel.
* to signpost DSLs to resources and support.

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

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

## 8. Team Around the Family Support Officer (TAFSO) films

The ECC TAFSO team have produced a series of short films about Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings, which feature the following:

* What a TAF meeting is.
* How to hold an initial TAF meeting.
* How to review a TAF meeting.
* How to explain what a TAF meeting is to family members.

Each film lasts up to 8 minutes. It may not be necessary to watch all four films; you may decide to watch one or more that may be most useful to you. The films are on the Essex Safeguarding Children Board [website](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.escb.co.uk%2Fworking-with-children%2Fconcerns-about-the-welfare-of-a-child%2Fessex-county-council-children-families-hub-videos%2F&data=05%7C02%7CMatthew.Lewis%40essex.gov.uk%7C5c19b43cbe764f9e7a3d08dc1685bf89%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638410010890217750%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=q3gFlFX%2BqjY%2B0oSFqb9B3IrTPkkPYK25dBUW8SofPok%3D&reserved=0).

**9. Other safeguarding information and resources**

**Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB)**

The ESCB has published its latest [bulletin](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnews.news.essex.gov.uk%2F9j46%2FDesign%2Fbhl-p8z7&data=05%7C02%7CMatthew.Lewis%40essex.gov.uk%7C9098915956c94946479c08dc26f50360%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638428080969522094%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=lizwF6Sx%2FKruTVoOCNYKtIjunwh1Ku5i2YbI%2BPlUJME%3D&reserved=0) with news, updates, and training opportunities. There are two forthcoming training courses about non-accidental injuries, which will include information from health services and the police, and learning identified from recent reviews. There are also some new courses this year entitled ‘Getting to know your Partners’, during which various partner agencies will discuss their work, some of the challenges they face, and how they make decisions.

**Multi-Agency Case Audit (MACA) nominations**

MACAs involve a range of agencies coming together to consider the effectiveness of Multi-Agency working, through auditing (using a bespoke tool) and holding a Multi-Agency learning event to share observations and reflect as a Multi-Agency group. For 2024 specific MACA nomination windows have been established for each quadrant, during which new nominations are sought:

* South: 24th January – 14th February *(the deadline has passed, but if any setting has any referral they wish to be considered, do contact us to discuss)*
* North East: 14th February – 6th March
* West: 24th September – 15th October
* Mid: 17th October – 7th November

Essex education settings are included in the list of partners able to put forward cases that they feel could benefit from a MACA. The MACA nomination criteria include:

* The child(ren) involved being under the age of 18 at the time of engagement with services, with consideration given to the overall family experience.
* The child(ren) having had an open case with Children’s Social Care at some point (exceptions can be made).
* The timing of the case's MACA process not influencing active case management.
* Availability of the professional network involved.

Please note that all nominations must have line manager approval before submitting to PSAS. The leaflet embedded below provides more information about MACAs.

