Essex County Council logo


**Education Safeguarding bulletin for Early Years settings:**

**Autumn 2024 - 1**

For those of you who were closed over the summer, welcome back – I hope you’ve all had a lovely break and are feeling at least a little rested! For those of you who have been working through August (like us!), I hope you enjoyed the summer and got to see some of the sunshine!

As usual, summer has been a busy time for us in the Education Safeguarding Team, as we have been updating all the materials and resources for settings. These were uploaded to the Early Years and Childcare website earlier this week, so are now available for you to access. There is a reminder below of what we provide, so please do ensure you’ve updated all relevant documentation your end, and don’t forget to include your website if applicable.

I want to let you know about our [**new offer of Level 3 training**](#Level3) for safeguarding leads. We have confirmed the date and venue for our initial Level 3 session for Early Years settings in October, which is now available for booking on the Education Booking System. More details for this and other training are below, and we are looking forward to seeing some of you in person at the session in October.

Linked to this, I wanted to make you aware of some staffing changes in the team. We are in the process of advertising for two new Education Safeguarding Advisers, so we will have one Adviser per quadrant once they have been appointed. This is in recognition of the workload demands on the team and will bring some much-needed additional capacity. In addition, we are also advertising for an Adviser to lead on the training, again to increase capacity. I will keep you updated on the appointments once the recruitment process is completed.

So, finally from me, I just want to wish you a great start to the term – I and the team very much look forward to working with you all and meeting up over the course of the year.

*Jo*

**Jo Barclay**

**Head of Education Safeguarding and Wellbeing**

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**1. Keeping children safe in education (DfE, 2024)**

The updated [Keeping children safe in education](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2), which all schools must follow, is now in effect. The Early years foundation stage statutory frameworks suggest that other childcare providers may also find it helpful to refer to this guidance (which contains detailed safeguarding information and is used by our team to help inform our safeguarding advice, guidance, and practice).

**2. Materials and resources for 2024-25**

The following materials have been updated and are available on the Essex Early Years and Childcare [website](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/):

* **Model Child Protection Policy (separate model policies for settings / childminders)**
* **Level 2 presentations** 
  + Keeping children safe in early years
  + So-called honour-based abuse awareness (including FGM) for early years
  + PREVENT – early years
* **Documents**
  + Confirmation of child protection documents received
  + Safeguarding information for visitors to a setting
  + Early years level 2 training schedule template
* **Guidance / model policy** 
  + Child Protection files – guidance and appendices (templates)
  + Risk Assessment templates
  + Understanding and supporting behaviour guidance and appendices
  + Model early years behaviour and relationships policy

We are also reviewing the safeguarding content on the website overall, so do look out for updates, changes and new and updated materials as the term and academic year progress.

**3. Training and termly Safeguarding Briefings for 2024-25**

**Booking**

Booking for all events is via the [Education Essex Online Booking System](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnews.news.essex.gov.uk%2FD78B0D902FEEDD61E3902756D429C0D5F5385D2C7024F98441DA629190E91B81%2FEDDC05BDC7E7B8E54FDD4E32DBBADE33%2FLE35&data=05%7C02%7Cmatthew.lewis%40essex.gov.uk%7Cbcd98840ff6b4404550708dc69ec6d44%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638501711369937770%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CW0CcxdvmmSN1%2FdZCiXPWVlG8mUXZz8Cz%2FINOPWNxKs%3D&reserved=0). Booking support email: [workforcedevelopment @essex.gov.uk](mailto:workforcedevelopment@essex.gov.uk).

**Level 3 safeguarding training**

We are very pleased to provide you with the date, time, and venue information for our first Level 3 safeguarding training session for Lead Practitioners at Early Years settings below. Places at the session can be booked using the [Education Essex Online Booking System](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnews.news.essex.gov.uk%2FD78B0D902FEEDD61E3902756D429C0D5F5385D2C7024F98441DA629190E91B81%2FEDDC05BDC7E7B8E54FDD4E32DBBADE33%2FLE35&data=05%7C02%7Cmatthew.lewis%40essex.gov.uk%7Cbcd98840ff6b4404550708dc69ec6d44%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638501711369937770%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CW0CcxdvmmSN1%2FdZCiXPWVlG8mUXZz8Cz%2FINOPWNxKs%3D&reserved=0), and will be allocated on a ‘first-come, first-served’ basis:

* 11 October 2024, 9.30am to 4.00pm, ACL Brentwood, Grand Hall

**Termly Safeguarding Briefings \* and other training**

I wanted to update you with regards to the Early Years face to face Safeguarding Briefings 2023 – 24.

We feel very strongly that it is important to deliver safeguarding training in-person, hence we will continue to offer our termly in-person briefings within quadrants. We have been really pleased to meet with so many of you at these briefings – the numbers increased over the last academic year, which is great.

However, as those of you who attended will know, we had an issue in some areas, as we had significant numbers of delegates who did not take up their booked place.  In fact, over the year, **373** places were booked but **115** of those places were left unused.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Autumn | Spring | Summer | TOTAL |
| Number booked on | 118 | 128 | 127 | 373 |
| Attendees | 82 | 91 | 85 | 258 |
| Non-attendees | 36 | 37 | 42 | 115 |

Some examples of settings that booked multiple spaces and did not attend include:

* 18 spaces booked - 15 non-attendees
* 11 spaces booked - 10 non-attendees
* 7 spaces booked - 5 non-attendees
* 6 spaces booked - 4 non-attendees
* 3 spaces booked - 2 non-attendees

Whilst we fully understand and appreciate that unexpected events may mean a staff member cannot attend, and recognise the pressures on staffing in settings, we want to remind everyone that each of those spaces is provided at considerable cost to the taxpayer in room hire and the cost of refreshments.  Therefore, to continue to provide this free and important service to settings, we would request your co-operation in booking only the spaces you need, and if in exceptional circumstances, the named person is unable to attend, please do send another member of staff wherever possible.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter and we very much look forward to seeing you all at the briefings this term.

\* Formerly called termly Safeguarding Forums

**Autumn Term 2024 Safeguarding Briefings (formerly Safeguarding Forums)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Quadrant | Date and time | Venue |
| South | 19.11.24  9.30 – 12.00pm | ACL, Bishops Hill, Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, CM13 1BD |
| Mid | 20.11.24  9.30 – 12.00pm | Hamptons Sports and Leisure Tydemans, off Beehive Lane, Great Baddow, Chelmsford CM2 9FH |
| West | 25.11.24  9.30 – 12.00pm | Latton Bush Centre, Southern Way, Harlow, CM18 7BL |
| Online | 26.11.24  6.00 – 7.30pm | Microsoft Teams |
| North East | 28.11.24  9.30 – 12.00pm | Colchester United Football Club, JobServe Community Stadium, United Way, Colchester, CO4 5UP |

**Spring and Summer Term 2025 date and times below – quadrant and venue to be confirmed:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Spring Term | Summer Term |
| 18.03.25  9.30 – 12.00pm | 02.07.25  9.30 – 12.00pm |
| 19.03.25  9.30 – 12.00pm | 03.07.25  9.30 – 12.00pm |
| 24.03.25  9.30 – 12.00pm | 07.07.25  9.30 – 12.00pm |
| 26.03.25  9.30 – 12.00pm | 09.07.25  9.30 – 12.00pm |
| Online (confirmed)  27.03.25, 6.00 – 7.30pm | Online (confirmed)  09.07.25, 6.00 – 7.30pm |

**Training**

**Safeguarding Briefing for new Lead Practitioners / Deputy Lead Practitioners**

This briefing will provide an overview of the role of the Lead Practitioner 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 briefing is for:

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

The Autumn Term 2024 Safeguarding Briefing for new Lead Practitioners / Deputy Lead Practitioners took place on 4 September (as advertised in our Summer Term 2024 Safeguarding Bulletin).

The Spring and Summer Term 2025 Safeguarding Briefings for new Lead Practitioners / Deputy Lead Practitioners will take place as follows:

* 9 January, 1.00 – 2.00pm
* 24 April, 1.00 – 2.00pm

**Prevent awareness and update – termly sessions**

To support settings in meeting the requirements under the Prevent duty, we are continuing our termly Prevent awareness and update sessions for the 2024 / 25 academic year.

Please note that although recent examples will be shared along with the latest Prevent update (the latter is also shared at the termly Safeguarding Briefings), the content will be the same each term.

The training will cover:

* the statutory requirements upon education settings in relation to Prevent
* the signs a child / young person may be vulnerable to radicalisation and the ‘push and pull’ factors in relation to this
* how to respond to Prevent concerns within their setting and how to report them
* the multi-agency partnership arrangements for Prevent in Essex
* what CHANNEL is
* resources and support

The 2024/25 academic year online Prevent awareness and update sessions will take place as follows:

* 2 December, 2.00 – 4.00pm
* 3 March, 2.00 – 4.00pm
* 2 July, 2.00 – 4.00pm

**Safeguarding level 2 presentations – Train the trainer**

We are continuing to deliver these termly online training sessions, which are for the Lead Practitioner, 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 Autumn Term 2024 Train the Trainer online session is on 4 December, 10.00 – 11.00am (details of the Spring and Summer Term 2025 sessions to follow).

**Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) 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.

There will be two online Harmful Sexual Behaviour sessions during the 2024/25 academic year, which will take place as follows:

* 11 December, 2.00 – 4.00pm
* 26 June, 2.00 – 4.00pm

**4. Early Years questionnaire**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who responded to our questionnaire. We received 336. This has begun the process for us of better understanding the current safeguarding picture across the approximately 1700 childminders and Early Years settings in Essex.

**For settings that responded**

**Areas of strength include:**

* All settings having a Child Protection policy in line with the SET procedures.
* Most settings report they know how to use the Effective support document, how to make a referral to the Children and Families Hub, how to report to the LADO and other statutory agencies.
* Most settings have Lead Practitioners / DSL and DDSLs trained to level 3.
* Most settings have up to date Prevent training.
* Over half of settings deliver Level 2 training themselves within the setting.
* Child protection files are held securely.
* All settings report having safer recruitment processes in place.

**Areas for development include:**

* The ability of settings to provide Level 2 training within 5 days of a new member of staff starting.
* There are still a number of settings who have not accessed/delivered Level 2 training and/or do not renew this annually.
* Understanding of systems and processes for transferring files and for regular reviews of Child Protection files.
* Recording of and reporting on physical intervention

**5. Prevent duty – Action Counters Terrorism**

The Department for Education has launched the [Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) for Education e-Learning course](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.protectuk.police.uk%2Fcatalogue%2FEducationLearningandGuidance&data=05%7C02%7CClare.Wallis%40essex.gov.uk%7C5011d581c3e940c2321508dc702a3556%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638508573785669171%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=aTG%2BosnnpUKNpiF5u%2BoH7m3FA4odIolJAMa2npwXAws%3D&reserved=0) and the [Protective Security and Preparedness for education settings guidance](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Fprotective-security-and-preparedness-for-education-settings&data=05%7C02%7CClare.Wallis%40essex.gov.uk%7C5011d581c3e940c2321508dc702a3556%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638508573785679127%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pTkM4Mion%2BUzyDr6wefwZvyegKi9yzKOJdZLLzYXX50%3D&reserved=0), developed in collaboration with the National Counter-Terrorism Security Office and sector partners.

The e-learning course is aimed at those working in education settings, focusing on embedding a security minded culture, identifying security vulnerabilities and suspicious activity, and responding to incidents. To access this course, users will need to create a free account with ProtectUK. The non-statutory guidance includes advice on developing response plans, testing, and exercising and communications, and is aimed at all those who have responsibilities for keeping children safe and security leads.

**6. Online Safety**

**Podcast**

Use this [link](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnews.news.essex.gov.uk%2F92971C3379305229B4FA624063A6B88D86ED5348FD00F4581208CFBCDDEE8896%2F5C59BDA40A8F8EE851C430096DE173D3%2FLE35&data=05%7C02%7CMatthew.Lewis%40essex.gov.uk%7Cdc50f971781b4ae754b608dca70c68c6%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638568919439203640%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=q3rKsmfMq2t0f1xwG7FBCkhDl7e3Gh735kIioFLOmQ4%3D&reserved=0) to access a podcast in which the ‘2 Johns’ (E-Safety Training) talk about how pre-schoolers and young children view the world through the lens of the internet, and how to develop a healthy curiosity in children about what they see and do online. It is never too early to begin discussions about healthy internet use.

**Video**

Did you know the average parent posts nearly 1,500 photos of their child online by their fifth birthday? Growing up in a digital world can normalise image sharing, which is why it is so important to have conversations about safe internet use early on, just like road safety or ‘stranger danger’. Discover this [video](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnews.news.essex.gov.uk%2F0AF221BD446E7EDC6A33F32500B11E2F81BC0FE8F7767C1D6D49DADE503CC1D1%2F5C59BDA40A8F8EE851C430096DE173D3%2FLE35&data=05%7C02%7CMatthew.Lewis%40essex.gov.uk%7Cdc50f971781b4ae754b608dca70c68c6%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638568919439222995%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=EPEttuoCC9X3r%2BYhPIXH06gp4UUD4neyyPX0wOZ0cBo%3D&reserved=0)which can help.

**7. Education Endowment Foundation**

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is a charity supporting schools, colleges, and early years settings to improve teaching and learning through better use of evidence. The EEF have produced an Evidence Store, which explains and illustrates how different evidence-informed approaches can be put into practice with children at Early Years settings. The latest theme of the Evidence Store focusses on supporting children’s executive function and self-regulation. It highlights five approaches that Early Years settings may wish to use to support children’s early development in this area:

[Education Endowment Foundation - Evidence Store](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years-evidence-store/self-regulation-and-executive-function)

**8. 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%2Frcr-8ec46&data=05%7C02%7CMatthew.Lewis%40essex.gov.uk%7Ce16df89459ea4450549308dccdab6138%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638611383173857868%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=H4Pg7andRMeNJxwT%2FeCJ7j3B03zEFPif%2F7jhMNxU1EU%3D&reserved=0) with news, updates, and details of training opportunities. The bulletin includes information about guidance produced by the Lullaby Trust about the safe use of slings and baby carriers for sharing with families.

**9. Early Help**

**Early Help Plan template**

An improved Early Help Plan template has been produced by Social Care, with more space to capture the plan developed and agreed with parents. The template has been designed to be completed either during a Team Around the Family meeting or when having a discussion directly with a family where no other parties are involved. If you have saved a previous version of the template you may wish to replace it with the new version which can be accessed [here](https://www.essex.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/resources-practitioners/early-help-resources).

**How to create an effective Early Help Plan (EHP)​ – online sessions**

Social Care are holding monthly online learning sessions focussing on maximising the benefits of working with a family using an Early Help plan and enabling settings to be more confident in Early Help planning. The sessions, which are for 45 minutes, will:

* provide an overview of the new template
* help with understanding of how to write a plan to meet the needs of a family
* help with understanding how to update the plan

The following dates are available to book:

* 7 October, 12.00 – 12.45pm
* 4 November, 12.30 – 1.15pm
* 2 December, 12.00 – 12.45pm

Places can be booked via the [ESCB website](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnews.news.essex.gov.uk%2F00790027E904AFD9C75182FFF2AF43C82BAB2D82DDBE6290073250B8041E61E5%2F94F7A2B723878A7DCCDB845E3CDC127D%2FLE35&data=05%7C02%7Cmatthew.lewis%40essex.gov.uk%7Cdc7c05c710c347d3a88408dca743aab3%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638569156286547103%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8%2BipJzecJVv7XzgTTTJCemM8RV%2BdRYLhIV9Rue83ypI%3D&reserved=0).

**10. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks**

A reminder that guidance is available about when DBS checks are required and how to obtain them:

* [DBS checks for childminders and childcare workers - GOV.UK](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fguidance%2Fcriminal-record-checks-for-childminders-and-childcare-workers%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dgovuk-notifications-topic%26utm_source%3D099fbe8e-32d5-445f-a1f3-0bb0c5de002c%26utm_content%3Dimmediately&data=05%7C02%7CClare.Wallis%40essex.gov.uk%7C94f9ea147233418a38fb08dc70096023%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638508432767279370%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=EFQFSjyEQYRt9F%2BI25vOjW6DraYG0PjqaTAw2A%2FaTnk%3D&reserved=0)
* [DBS checks for childcare providers who register with Ofsted - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disclosure-and-barring-service-dbs-checks-for-childcare-providers-who-register-with-ofsted/disclosure-and-barring-service-dbs-checks-for-childcare-providers-who-register-with-ofsted)

**11. Essex Trading Standards – vape sale prosecution**

An Essex shopkeeper has been prosecuted after selling vape products to a child during a test purchase operation by Essex Trading Standards. During the exercise, a 16-year-old test purchase volunteer was sold a nicotine containing e-cigarette. The vape prosecution press release can be accessed [here](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.essex.gov.uk%2Fnews%2F2024%2Fessex-shopkeeper-prosecuted-selling-vapes-child&data=05%7C02%7CClare.Wallis%40essex.gov.uk%7C7831bc8672bc4f77772108dc75986a7f%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638514544680275016%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tET%2FktE5xiD84JrlGjlR2YriFkmILt44BVeh%2Brg%2FgjY%3D&reserved=0).

If there are concerns that a shop may be selling age restricted products to children, it can be reported to Essex Trading Standards, by calling the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133 or using their [website](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/report-to-trading-standards/).