Essex County Council logo


**Education Safeguarding bulletin for early years settings:**

**Autumn 2024 - 2**

Hello everyone,

I am sorry to send a bulletin so soon after the first one, but there are lots of updates to make you aware of!

You will have seen that we included a number of training opportunities in our first bulletin. However, I understand there were some issues with the move to the new Education Essex Online Booking System, and I am sorry for any inconvenience this has caused. If anyone is experiencing difficulty in accessing the new system, please email: [workforcedevelopment@essex.gov.uk](mailto:workforcedevelopment@essex.gov.uk) and the team will resolve this for you.

Meanwhile, I hope you have managed to look at the training on offer, and in particular [our first Level 3 training session](#Level3) for Lead Practitioners at early years settings. We have confirmed the date and venue for the session, which is available for booking on the Education Essex Online 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.

Lastly, I also wanted to touch on the communications from Ofsted this term, in relation to their response to the ‘Big Listen’ consultation – further information on this is below, and we will continue to bring you updates on this as we receive them.

*Jo*

**Jo Barclay**

**Head of Education Safeguarding and Wellbeing**

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1. **Effective Support for Children and Families in Essex**

Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) are launching today the new [Effective Support for Children and Families in Essex (October 2024)](https://www.escb.co.uk/media/3322/effective-support-october-2024-final.pdf) . This guidance replaces previous versions, so please ensure you delete old copies and refer to the new version on your website and in any documentation.

The ESCB will be running a session to talk about the new guidance – this will take place on Wednesday 16 October 2024, 12.30 – 1.30pm and you are able to [book your place here.](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnews.news.essex.gov.uk%2F16C10F8C5F6C50A15F2D7EF9A4D844B00B0556A4A5EFBE2DD2526DBA5867EF7A%2FABA476315AAE7989020A23D67A1F8A9B%2FLE35&data=05%7C02%7CJo.Barclay%40essex.gov.uk%7C2d5560df95674884ab4a08dce1fdb721%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638633727031139331%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HkNvJjOIwm8W423EmyAMdTv6hcmbyVa0ZU3vTxiYQr8%3D&reserved=0)

The model Child Protection Policies have been updated with the new links – there are two amendments, highlighted in blue: [EY/safeguarding/model CP policies](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/guidance-documents-model-policies-and-templates/)

1. **Ofsted ‘Big Listen’**

Ofsted have published their ‘Big Listen’ [consultation outcome](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ofsted-big-listen/outcome/hearing-feedback-accepting-criticism-and-building-a-better-ofsted-the-response-to-the-big-listen#foreword-our-mission--trust), which included the following announcements in relation to early years settings:

* there will be a new, reformed inspection framework for schools, early years, and further education, which will be better suited to the early years. The inspection framework will have greater focus on pupil outcomes to drive higher standards, alongside a range of measures to reduce anxiety for those being inspected.
* safeguarding, welfare, and wellbeing of children will continue to be placed above and beyond any other criteria for all early years settings. Children learn best when they are happy and safe.
* a new ‘report card’ will be introduced in all areas Ofsted inspects, to provide a more nuanced and detailed assessment of settings’ work, including a separate safeguarding criterion. This will be distinct from leadership and management, to emphasise that all members of staff should be proactive about safeguarding. This is intended to show more clearly how settings are keeping children safe.

Ofsted intend to consult on the new report card, framework, and safeguarding gradings in early 2025. They expect to introduce report cards from September 2025.

We will focus more on these developments throughout the academic year, within these bulletins and during our termly Safeguarding Briefings as appropriate.

1. **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 [Essex Education Online](https://educationessex.essex.gov.uk/) , and will be allocated on a ‘first-come, first-served’ basis:

* 11 October 2024, 9.30am to 4.00pm, ACL Brentwood, Grand Hall
* 21 January 2025, 9.30am to 4.00pm (venue to be confirmed)

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

1. **2024-25 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 |

1. **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

**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:

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

**Prevent**

We have set out below information about a range of training opportunities relating to Prevent. This includes our termly sessions, an additional session with Safer Essex (supported by our team), a further session with Safer Essex on a separate Prevent topic, and DfE sessions. Although this amounts to a number of different sessions, we wanted to reassure settings that we only include content in our bulletins that we feel is relevant and may be beneficial – and we feel it is positive that more Prevent training is available whilst we await the Home Office replacement for the WRAP training.

**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. As previously the sessions will aim to:

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

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

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

* 2 December 2024, 2.00 – 4.00pm
* 3 March 2025, 2.00 – 4.00pm
* 2 July 2025, 2.00 – 4.00pm

1. **Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB)**

The ESCB offers a range of safeguarding learning and development opportunities and has arranged a session about non-accidental injuries. It can be difficult to spot non-accidental injuries. In some cases, signs can be missed because they are complex, and it is unclear what has happened. Hear from colleagues in Health, Children's Social Care and Police, who will answer any questions you may have, and find out the learning identified from recent reviews.

This online session takes place on 27 November 2024, 12.30 to 2.30pm. Places can be booked [here](https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/esab/fcff9d38/).

1. **ECC Workforce Allegations Team**

The ECC Workforce Allegations Team has also asked us to remind settings that the four LADOs within their team work on a duty basis. Settings should not include individual LADO names in information displayed about the LADO role on websites or in documentation.

1. **NSPCC safeguarding resources**

**PANTS resources**

NSPCC Learning, with the PSHE Association, has updated its [PANTS resources](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/schools/pants-teaching?utm_campaign=20240916_KIS_CASPAR_September16&utm_content=PANTS%20resources%20for%20schools%20and%20teachers&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Adestra) for nurseries and primary schools to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. The updates include a presentation of the Underwear Rule to use with 3- to 5-year-olds.

**Look, Say, Sing, Play resources**

NSPCC Learning has also updated its [Look, Say, Sing, Play early years resources](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Femail.nspcc.org.uk%2Fc%2F1M5EyYGC5UcNvDNxN7dEAHlASEu&data=05%7C02%7Cmatthew.lewis%40essex.gov.uk%7C913f3f1cdf7342430f7608dcd0b16269%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638614707494480083%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9GNpnvp%2FzVasLSPucSBaCaMEkgvxyPcxv4LUyEcQSL0%3D&reserved=0) for professionals to use with parents and carers. New flashcards have been created, in collaboration with the charity Project MAMA, for refugee and displaced mothers. Each card gives an everyday activity parents can try with their baby to encourage positive interaction.

1. **Online Safety**

In April 2024 Ofcom published their Children’s Media Lives research [report](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/media-use-and-attitudes/media-habits-children/childrens-media-lives/) in which they stated that although most children get their own smartphone when they are nine or ten, a quarter of three to four-year olds have one. From their study it was evident that children are mostly consuming media alone including via social media.

A number of organisations provide free online safety advice and resources for early years settings:

* [UK Council for Internet Safety](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-protecting-professionals-in-early-years-settings-online-safety-considerations) (Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations)
* [Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/pre-school/) (pre-school online safety tips and advice)
* [CEOP](https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/4_7/) (a range of information about keeping safer from online child sexual abuse)
* [SWGFL](https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/early-years-toolkit/) (Online Safety Best Practice for Early Years – toolkit)