Welcome back everyone to the 2025-26 academic year - I hope you all had a wonderful summer and managed to get a very well-earned break (acknowledging that many of you were still working over the summer, as were we!)

The Statutory Frameworks and the final version of Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2025) have been published. All resources have been updated over the summer to reflect the changes in all documents and details of how to access these are below. Many of you will be aware that the DfE was due to publish the updated ‘Gender-questioning guidance’. However, this is not yet available and we will share this with you once it is.

We will hit the ground running this term, as we start to deliver Level 3 training again this week, with the first session (for schools) on Thursday. The first EY session is on 24 September – this session is now fully booked, but we have 3 further dates available later this term at various locations across the county. We received such positive feedback last year about our training and so have extended our offer this year to include Level 2 training online. This is alongside all the other online training that we offer, which is detailed below. In addition, we have been asked to develop a training session on safer recruitment. We have looked at this over the summer and will run our first session on 26 November in Chelmsford. This important training will be in-person and will cover safer recruitment and also how to create a ‘safe culture’ and manage low-level concerns and allegations in your setting – we already have people booked on this, so don’t miss out on a place!

Meanwhile, I wish you all a great start to the term and, as always, very much look forward to seeing you at various events throughout the year.

*Jo*

Jo Barclay

Head of Education Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Education Directorate

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# updated resources 2025 2026

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
  + Harmful Sexual Behaviour (although this largely applies to school it may be of interest to EY settings)
* **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
* **Prevent risk assessments**

# UPDATED SAFEGURAING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

We have, over the summer, updated our training requirements document. This document is published on the ESCB website and, if you commission a provider to deliver safeguarding training, you must ensure that they cover all requirements set out in the document. Any training offered by our team meets all requirements.



# LEVEL 2 ONLINE TRAINING

We are now offering a **Level 2 online** training session. The first of these is on the **20.10.25** from 3.30pm to 5.30pm at a cost of £25 PP. You may wish to use this for your induction programme, for staff who missed the training at the start of term or who join you throughout the year and have carried out their Level 1 induction. It would also be appropriate for Governors who wish to have oversight of the training.

You can book staff onto this via the [Education Essex Online](https://educationessex.essex.gov.uk/)

# ESCB newsletter (August 2025)

[ESCB safeguarding Updates August 2025](https://news.news.essex.gov.uk/9j46/Design/d878-che75)

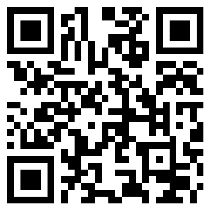
# EY safeguaRDing questionnaire

Many of you completed our safeguarding questionnaire last academic year. We had 336 returned, which was a great achievement, given it was the first time we had asked settings to complete this. To build on this, we are now sending out this year’s questionnaire which is required to be completed by September 2025. The questionnaire is not onerous and takes less than half an hour to complete. There are two separate questionnaires, one for **EY settings and childminders with assistant/s** and one for **Sole Childminders**. In both cases it can be used to self-assess your safeguarding practice and support your oversight of safeguarding arrangements in your provision. We have also provided an ***Accompanying notes and action planning*** document, again one for **EY settings and childminders with assistant/s** and one for **Sole Childminders**.

We want to assure you that we do look at each return and use it to inform our work and resources, so we are able to better support you in your safeguarding role going forward. We will update you of our findings at future briefings.

If you are an **EY setting or a childminder with assistant/s** please complete the questionnaire following this link or scan the QR code

<https://forms.office.com/e/N9YcdEeWid>



If you are a **Sole Childminder,** please complete the questionnaire following this link or scan the QR code

<https://forms.office.com/e/x3gFvY2aSK>



**Accompanying notes and action plans**

# Prevent training

There are three options for PREVENT TRAINING

* [Prevent Training Learn How to Support People Susceptible to Radicalisation](https://www.support-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk/portal) This includes three courses provided by the Home Office – an Awareness course, Referrals course and Channel or Prevent Multi-agency Panel course. These are the courses many of you and your staff will access at induction and then annually. There is also an Awareness Refresher course.
* The **Home Office** now provides new training that replaces the WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training. This training is formatted in such a way that you as DSL / SLT access 3 x 20 minute skills courses to prepare you to deliver the training. This is accompanied by a facilitators guide in the form of a presentation and finally a presentation for the content to train your staff. We think you will need a day to prepare for being able to deliver training which in turn will take approximately two hours to deliver to staff. Once completed you can then access other shorter pieces of training on specific ideologies To access this training our Business Support (Clare Wallis) will need to register you - please email [educationsafeguarding@essex.gov.uk](mailto:educationsafeguarding@essex.gov.uk).

We should point out there is no statutory requirement to participate in this training.

* **Termly ECC Prevent Awareness and Update** – each term we provide you with a two hour online session that brings together all the relevant information. You and your staff are welcome to join this for free. In discussion with other agencies this session provides DSL’s and other staff with a comprehensive awareness of the Prevent Duty along with relevant up to date data from the Counter Terrorism Local Profile. This can be booked via [Education Essex Online Booking System](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Feducationessex.essex.gov.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7CMatthew.Lewis%40essex.gov.uk%7Ce64d58ba524348687b2508dcd3c873d7%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638618105098354055%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BDlrxPsjYDkieGbD6DmDEK8uY6T7hx%2Fcj9RF6OPP80c%3D&reserved=0)

# TRAINING Offer

**Level 3 Safeguarding Training for DSL’s in Early Years Settings**

Places can be booked via the [Education Essex Online Booking System](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Feducationessex.essex.gov.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7CMatthew.Lewis%40essex.gov.uk%7Ce64d58ba524348687b2508dcd3c873d7%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638618105098354055%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BDlrxPsjYDkieGbD6DmDEK8uY6T7hx%2Fcj9RF6OPP80c%3D&reserved=0)

**CHILDMINDERS – we have a date of Saturday 24 January 2026 – please hold the date as booking will become live shortly.**

**If you unable to book onto the LEVEL 3 you require due to them being fully booked, please do put yourself on the waiting list. If there is enough demand, we will look to running an extra session or opening them up to more delegates.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date (9.30am – 4.00pm) | Venue |
| Autumn term |  |
| 24.09.25 | Barleylands, Billericay |
| 14.10.25 | Jobserve Football stadium Colchester |
| 04.11.25 | Hamptons Sports and Leisure Chelmsford |
| 11.12.25 | Latton Bush Harlow |

**Early Years Briefings**

All briefings can be booked via[Education Essex Online Booking System](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Feducationessex.essex.gov.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7CMatthew.Lewis%40essex.gov.uk%7Ce64d58ba524348687b2508dcd3c873d7%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638618105098354055%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BDlrxPsjYDkieGbD6DmDEK8uY6T7hx%2Fcj9RF6OPP80c%3D&reserved=0)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date (9.30am – 12.00pm) | Venue |
| Autumn term |  |
| 19.11.25 South | Barleylands |
| 20.11.25 Mid | Hamptons Sports and leisure |
| 24.11.25 NE | Colchester Football Stadium |
| 27.11.25 West | Latton Bush |
| 26.11.25 (Online 6.00pm to 7.30pm) | Teams |

**Other training opportunities**

All training opportunities can be booked via[Education Essex Online Booking System](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Feducationessex.essex.gov.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7CMatthew.Lewis%40essex.gov.uk%7Ce64d58ba524348687b2508dcd3c873d7%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638618105098354055%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BDlrxPsjYDkieGbD6DmDEK8uY6T7hx%2Fcj9RF6OPP80c%3D&reserved=0)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Autumn term 2025 |  |  |
| Safeguarding Briefing for new DSL’s | **03.09.25**  1.00pm to 2.00pm | Online |
| J9 Domestic Abuse awareness training | **09.10.25**  10.00pm to 11.30pm | Online |
| Level 2 online | **20.10.25**  3.30pm to 5.30pm | Online |
| Keeping Children Safe IinEducation – culture and recruitment | **26.11.25**  9.30am to 3.30pm | In person TBC |
| Harmful Sexual Behaviour training | **02.12.25**  1.00pm to 3.00pm | Online |
| Prevent Awareness and update | **09.12.25**  10.00pm to 12.00pm | Online |