

Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to this weeks e-bulletin which shares some important leadership news within the Early Years team.

We wish Ian Morris farewell as he moves to pastures new and are delighted to share with you that this role will now fall within the responsibilities of Becky White and Nicky Burford for an interim period. Their new roles will now be:

Nicky Burford: Early Years Strategic Lead: Sufficiency, Funding and Quality

Becky White: Early Years Strategic Lead: Inclusion

Both Becky and Nicky are well known across the Early years sector and will have a positive impact on the delivery of our early years agenda.

In addition, we signpost you to some useful tools to support you in the amazing work that you do.

Best regards,

The Early Years Team

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Early Years Bulletin: DfE Updates:

Did you know that the Department for Education (DfE) has published guidance and practical support for childminders, nurseries and pre-school practitioners? The guidance is based on the Early Year's framework (2021) and covers safeguarding and welfare requirements and the areas of learning, along with resources to help improve quality of practice.

This is a great tool to use within your setting, providing essential information in both written form and video recordings of good practice.

[Help for early years providers - Department for Education](#)

Early Years Bulletin: OFSTED Headlines

As a team we like to keep informed regarding Ofsted trends highlighted in recent inspection reports. This term we have noted a significant increase in Worcestershire settings receiving inadequate or requires improvement gradings as a result of breaching Safety and Welfare requirements of the [Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage \(2021\)](#)

In response to this we are recommending all settings complete the annual safeguarding audit which can be used as a self-evaluation tool to identify any gaps. We are requesting that settings return completed audits, to enable the Early Years Team to address common gaps through our training offer.

Please see attached audit and return to: eycc@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Early Years Bulletin: Safeguarding Update

Early help

The Worcestershire's Early Help Partnership believe that families who are identified as needing Early Help are best supported by practitioners who are already working with them, alongside other agencies and services including the voluntary sector within their local community.

Early Help means providing help and support to a child, young person or their family as soon as the need is identified. This could be at any point in a child or young person's life e.g., pre-birth right the way through to 18 years of age (25 years of age for some SEND children) and can be more than once as a child's needs and family circumstances change.

Early Help agencies provide or help a family to access help and support at the earliest opportunity; they are supporting children and young people to meet their full potential and trying to stop challenges or difficulties they are facing from escalating for them and their family.

Working Together 2018 identifies that: "effective Early Help relies upon local organisations and agencies working together to:

- identify children and families who would benefit from Early Help
- undertake an assessment of the need for Early Help
- provide targeted Early Help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to improve the outcomes for the child

Worcestershire Children First works with organisations and agencies to develop joined-up Early Help services based on a clear understanding of local needs.

Developing your Early Help offer

It is recommended that all early year's settings develop their own early help offer based on the support services available both locally and nationally. For guidance on this please see the link below which directs you to a recorded early help offer workshop and templates to support you in this process.

[Early Help Offer | Early Help Offer | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Early Years Bulletin: Business Support

An update on the new Energy Bill Relief Scheme

All early year's settings, schools, and colleges will benefit from a new government Energy Bill Relief Scheme, providing a discount on wholesale gas and electricity prices for all non-domestic customers. This support will be equivalent to the Energy Price Guarantee put in place for households. Equivalent support will also be provided for non-domestic consumers who use heating oil or alternative fuels instead of gas. Further detail on this will be announced shortly.

The scheme will run for all businesses and non-domestic customers, including public sector organisations, and apply to energy usage from Saturday 1 October 2022 to Friday 31 March 2023.

The Energy Bill Relief Scheme will set a Support Wholesale Price for the wholesale cost of energy, limiting the amount customers can be charged for gas and electricity. This is expected to be £211 per MWh for electricity and £75 per MWh for gas, less than half the wholesale prices anticipated this winter. The level of price reduction for each customer will vary depending on their contract type and circumstances.

As with the Energy Price Guarantee for households, customers do not need to take action or apply to the scheme to access the support. Support (in the form of a p/kWh discount) will automatically be applied to bills. The savings will be first seen in October bills, which are typically received in November.

After three months, there will be a review into the operation of the scheme, to inform decisions on further support after March 2023. This will focus on identifying the most vulnerable non-domestic customers and how the government will continue assisting them with energy costs.

Further details of the support and how it will benefit customers can be found in the [press notice](#) and [GOV.UK explainer](#).

We continue to work with colleagues across government to ensure that all elements of the childcare market are supported. We will share specific details around these arrangements shortly.

Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion team

The inclusion team would like to remind the sector of the free webinars available on Worcestershire children first website.

[Introduction to the Early Years Pre-School Forum - YouTube](#)

View this free webinar explaining the role and responsibilities of the Worcestershire Pre-School Forum; a multi-agency meeting that monitors the progress of early years children with additional needs within Worcestershire. Area SENCO Sharon Andrews presents the webinar which has been created for Early Years settings and parents.

[Inclusion funding available to support early years children – parent/carers/SENCo's - YouTube](#)

A webinar for parent, carers, SENCO's and Childminders - providing an overview of the inclusion funding available to support children with additional needs within early years settings. Additional information is available:

Overview of Graduated Response levels:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/WCFEducationServices/download/downloads/id/157/wcf-local-inclusion-fund-overview-of-gr-levels.pdf>

The Graduated Response in Worcestershire Educational Settings:

[Graduated Response \(SEND support in education provision\) | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Information for Parent carers on the Preschool Forum:

[The Pre-school Forum and Education Health Care Needs Assessment - Worcestershire Children First Education Services](#)

[The Graduated Response in Early Years Provision - YouTube](#)

Learn about the Graduated Response in Early Years Provision; the way in which practitioners identify, assess and support children with additional needs within their settings. The Graduated Response is a continuous process of assessing, planning, doing and reviewing the support put in place to further children's holistic development. SENCO Support Adviser Kelly Molnar presents and will also introduce you to the Worcestershire Children First recommended paperwork to support each cycle. The documents can be downloaded from the following link on the [Early Years Inclusion Team webpage](#).

Early Years Bulletin: Training news

Safeguarding Training

New Early Years and Childcare Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Introduction to the role

The Introduction to the role of the Early Years & Childcare Designated Safeguarding Lead is a NEW course specifically for DSL and Deputy DSL's who are new to the role or have taken on this responsibility within the last 12 months and may / may not have completed the six-hour DSL course.

This is a FREE course to support new DSL and Deputy DSLs

During the three-hour session delegates will gain:

- An overview of the legislation and statutory guidance relating specifically to the role of the DSL, and to safeguarding and child protection more broadly.
- Information on different forms of abuse that may be encountered, and their possible signs and causes.
- An understanding of information sharing, consent and record keeping.
- An introduction to the processes and procedures used within safeguarding and child protection, including the Worcestershire Levels of Need document.

Cost: **FREE**

15 December 2022, 6.30pm to 9.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10179 / 81140

20 March 2023, 6.30pm to 9.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10179 / 81141

Any queries regarding this course or to book a place please contact training by emailing:

workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Are you making an impact with storytelling?

Stories are not just entertainment or optional extras. Storytelling - especially when made ACTIVE - is a **powerful tool** to help children develop and grow across **all areas of the EYFS**. From honing listening skills, decoding emotions and developing communication skills - to building vocabulary, making sense of the world and improving physical coordination, active storytelling is an essential tool for any Early Years practitioner.

We have teamed up with storytelling experts Animateys who will give you concrete techniques to improve storytelling in your setting, maximising child development through stories.

The training is fun and effective ... and we've already paid for it - so to you it's **FREE!** (Usually up to £200!). It's available to anyone working with Early Years children until February 2023 so don't miss out!

There are three versions (all via interactive video):

- [Group workshop](#) for schools/settings with a screen (lively, participatory)
- Individual [home access](#) for teams who don't have a screen (to follow up where possible with a team meeting to share ideas)
- [Individual access](#) for childminders, foster carers etc.

Please see attached flier for more info and the all-important **free access codes!**

Any issues with accessing the material or any questions please email Helen on hello@animateys.com.