



**Ian Morris**

**Early Years and Childcare Strategic Manager**

Email: [imorris@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:imorris@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

Tel: 01905 844721

Our Ref: EYB140

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

For many of the Early Years community there has been a definite “start of a new term” feel this week, and we are sure that you have enjoyed finally welcoming all your children back as schools fully reopen.

The children will have had varying experiences throughout the lockdown, and there may have been anxiety from some children, parents and even staff at the beginning of the week. We see headlines about “learning losses” and the particular impact on children from disadvantaged backgrounds, and these will all be things that you are looking to address. But we must also recognise that there have been positives too, such as the strengthened relationships that have been forged between many schools, settings and their communities.

While it has certainly been a challenging few months, things are definitely looking brighter for the future – and as an Early Years team we look forward to supporting you as you adapt, enrich and improve learning and teaching in EYFS. We hope to reconnect with some of you at our Early Years updates which begin again next week.

With best wishes.

## Contents

Government updates .....	2
New laws to protect victims .....	3
GET SAFE training now available to book .....	3
DBS Conference for 2021 .....	4
Early Years Safeguarding Leads Forum (EY DSL Forum) .....	4
Free Bitesize Inclusion Workshops available over the next few weeks .....	4
Retention periods for Early Years records .....	5
Plant and Share Month 19 <sup>th</sup> April- 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 .....	6
Household Members - LFD Testing .....	6
Access to home testing kits message from DfE .....	7
Early Years Weekly Attendance Data .....	7
Social Care, LADO and Early Help Family Support Requests .....	7
Flowcharts for suspected and confirmed cases .....	7

## Government updates

Updated 04 March 2021

[Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff \(opens in new window\)](#) - Updated to inform people not to visit a collection point outside of opening hours. Also to inform people they do not need to make an appointment to attend a collection point during opening hours.

Updated 05 March 2021

[£79 million to boost mental health support for children and young people \(opens in new window\)](#) - Millions more children and young people will have access to significantly expanded mental health services, backed by £79 million.

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak \(opens in new window\)](#) 'Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak' document updated to correct formatting and links.

[Ofsted: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rolling update \(opens in new window\)](#) Updated the 'Early years and childcare' section to inform providers that notifications of confirmed cases of COVID-19 will not prompt a regulatory visit.

Updated 08 March 2021

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) local restrictions in education and childcare settings \(opens in new window\)](#) How settings can prepare for restrictions to help contain community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Updated 09 March 2021

[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings \(opens in new window\)](#) Information updated to confirm the return of pupils and students to school and college from 8 March. The list of vulnerable children and critical workers remains the same.

[Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak \(opens in a new window\)](#) Added 'Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 4 March 2021'.

## New laws to protect victims

A raft of new amendments to the Domestic Abuse Bill will be presented this week (w/c 08 March), providing greater protections for victims and further clamping down on perpetrators.

The proposals include making non-fatal strangulation a specific criminal offence, punishable by up to five years in prison. The act typically involves an abuser strangling or intentionally affecting their victim's breathing in an attempt to control or intimidate them. Today's announcement follows concerns that perpetrators were avoiding punishment as the practice can often leave no visible injury, making it harder to prosecute under existing offences such as Actual Bodily Harm (ABH).

[Read the full article on the gov.uk website \(opens in new window\)](#)

## GET SAFE training now available to book

We have organised for West Mercia Police to deliver Get safe sessions specifically to the PVI Early Years and Childcare Sector.

The sessions are free to attend, will be delivered virtually and are for the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and deputy DSL's.

- Tuesday 04 May, 1 pm to 2.30pm, course code: EY/21/048
- Friday 07 May, 9.30am to 11am, course code: EY/21/049
- Monday 10 May, 7pm to 8.30pm, course code: EY/21/050
- Wednesday 12 May, 7pm to 8.30pm, course code: EY/21/051
- Tuesday 18 May, 1pm to 2.30pm, course code: EY/21/053
- Friday 21 May, 9.30am to 11am, course code: EY/21/054

Please book your places via [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) and joining instructions will be attached to your confirmation from CPD. If you encounter any issues when booking please contact the training team on 01905 844 420 or email [workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

## DBS Conference for 2021

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is pleased to announce its second conference! The event, which will be held virtually, will take place on 24th and 25th March 2021, and the theme of this year's conference is **Making Recruitment Safer – Looking to the Future**.

[Find out more on the programme of the two days, speakers and format on the DBS website \(opens in new window\)](#)

## Early Years Safeguarding Leads Forum (EY DSL Forum)

The Early Years DSL forum is open to all PVI childminders, nurseries, pre-schools, out of school / holiday clubs and school ran / governor led nurseries and is FREE to attend.

Delivered by Denise Hannibal our Education Safeguarding Lead and Hayley Doyle they will provide updates on policy, legislation, guidance and local procedures, as well as giving you the opportunity for peer discussion.

- 08 June 2021, 6.30pm to 8pm, course code: EY/21/094
- 10 June 2021, 6.30pm to 8pm, course code: EY/21/095

All places must be booked via [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) using your specific CPD leader login details. Joining instructions will be attached to the confirmation email from CPD.

If for any reason they are not received after checking junk / spam folders and with your CPD leader please contact the training team a minimum of 5 days before the course is due to take place by emailing [workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

## Free Bitesize Inclusion Workshops available over the next few weeks

The workshops offered are:

- Top tips for promoting positive behaviour
  - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 3-4pm
  - Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 4-5pm
  - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 3-4pm
- Using the EYFS Early Support tracking
  - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 4-5pm
  - Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 4-5pm
- Completing a Support Plan
  - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 4-5pm
  - Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 4-5pm
  - Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 4-5pm
- Applying for challenge funding and how to complete the monitoring forms
  - Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 10-10.30pm

- Information requests for Preschool Forum (PSF)
  - Thursday 18th March 4-4.30pm
  
- Implementing a Health Care Plan and Risk Assessment
  - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 3-4pm
  - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 3-4pm

If you would be interested in attending any of the workshops, please email Kelly Molnar [KMolnar@worschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:KMolnar@worschildrenfirst.org.uk) with:

- the name of each delegate
- the email address for the delegate
- the preferred workshop and which date for each delegate

We also have available our [Early Years Inclusion Webinars \(opens in new window\)](#) and [website \(opens in new window\)](#) which covers a range of information.

## Retention periods for Early Years records

Herefordshire County Council have a document available on their website that provides guidance on the [retention of records within the Early Years \(opens in new window\)](#).

Herefordshire’s guidance includes the following advice on the retention of specific records:

Type of records	Retention period	Comments
General child’s records	6 years after the child has left the setting	In special circumstances this may increase to when the child is 25 years old
Safeguarding records	Until the child turns 25	
Looked After Children	25 years after closure	
Special Needs files, EHCP etc <b>ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION</b>	To be passed onto the child’s next school / setting who should retain it for 35 years from the child’s date of birth.	Worcestershire advise that you make a note of which documents you passed onto the new setting; with the date it was shared – as proof that you passed them on. These should be saved in accordance with the general records i.e. for the 6 years

WCF recommend that you download and save the above document in order to review your record keeping and retention policies to align with Herefordshire’s guidance – the above table is just a sample of the guidance provided which can be found on pages 12-15.

## Plant and Share Month 19<sup>th</sup> April- 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Plant and share is all about growing your own and sharing it with those around you. Whether you're growing in yogurt pots for the first time or you're a seasoned grower with an allotment, Plant and Share month is for you.

Covid-19 has made us all realise just how crucial fresh local food is-and we all have the power to grow it ourselves!

Food for Life Get-Togethers are all about bringing people together using the power of good food- and Plant and Share aims to bring us all closer to our roots-both through our food and our communities.

Find out more about how to get involved by visiting [Food For Life Get togethers \(opens in new window\)](#)

## Household Members - LFD Testing

If you become aware that a household member has tested positive with an LFD test (there is no obligation for schools to be informed) the following applies:

- The household member who tested positive must arrange a PCR test, preferably on the same day as the positive LFD test.
- The whole household must commence self-isolation (LFD test day = Day 0).
- Ensure children from the household do not attend school.
- If the PCR test is positive the self-isolation continues (LFD test day = day 0)
- If the PCR test result is negative the household can end their self-isolation and the child/ren can return to school.
- If the household member becomes symptomatic, their 10-day self-isolation period, (and that of the whole household), restarts with a revised day 0 being the day symptoms commenced.
- If a child in the household becomes symptomatic a PCR test must be arranged for them and their 10 days self-isolation (Day 0) starts on the day of symptoms. If the child was in school in the 2 days prior to becoming symptomatic (the infectious period) complete a LORT checklist and send this to the LORT. Identify close contacts and self-isolate them as a precaution.

## Access to home testing kits message from DfE

Following [the announcement on 22 February \(opens in new window\)](#), nurseries in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector will soon have access to home testing kits through the COVID-19 education testing programme.

PVI nurseries can expect to start receiving initial deliveries of testing supplies and instructions for use for asymptomatic testing from this Thursday 11 March. You will not need to place an order or take any specific steps to receive an initial delivery of testing supplies. The initial delivery of supplies should last around 3 to 4 weeks.

Please make sure that someone is available who can accept the deliveries when they arrive. A delivery schedule will be circulated shortly which will provide details as to when your setting can expect its delivery. Please refer to this schedule in the first instance of any questions arising. The lateral flow device (LFD) test kits should be stored securely at a temperature between 2°C and 30°C and so must not be stored outside.

You should not open the test kits or commence testing yet. We will circulate further guidance on asymptomatic home testing in the next couple of days. This will include in-depth guidance and webinars on how settings can manage the testing process.

To add you to the education testing programme, Ofsted has provided your contact details to the Department for Education and Department of Health and Social Care. We will only use your contact details to update you with the latest information on the COVID-19 education testing programme.

In addition, Early Years staff with children are able to collect testing kits from the collection points in the county these are County Hall, Worcester, Pershore Civic Centre car park and Stourbridge Road Car Park, Bromsgrove

## Early Years Weekly Attendance Data

Thank you for your ongoing data returns.

[The form for the week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March is now live \(opens in new window\)](#)

Please be aware that you need to use the new link every week – you will **not be able to access the Form** via last week's link.

The form should be submitted by **9am on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**. Please note that schools with nursery provision should also be submitting a return, for the **nursery/pre-school children** only.

## Flowcharts for suspected and confirmed cases

Please note that Public Health have updated the flowcharts for the management of suspected cases and confirmed cases in education settings. [Download the latest versions from our website.](#)

## Social Care, LADO and Early Help Family Support Requests

On **Monday 15th March 2021** the Social Care, LADO and Early Help Family Support requests will be moving to a new portal. This will include requests for Early Help Family Support (level 2 and 3), referrals to Social Care (level 4), Requests for information, concerns about adults in positions of trust (LADO) and new Foster Carer enquiries.

You will be required to **register** before you can submit a new request.

This is a simple self-serve process that you can either do when you want to make a request in the **request form** or when the new portals are live you can set up an **account** in advance.

To set up in advance click the link to the portal and select 'My Account'.



Select '**Register for new account**', this is also available within the request forms.



Enter your name and press '**Next**'.

A form titled 'Register a new account - step 1'. It has two input fields: 'Forename' and 'Surname'. At the bottom left, there are two buttons: 'Next' (purple) and 'Cancel' (white with purple border).

Enter your work email address, set a password and press '**Next**'.

Please note the password policy of 15 characters, at least 1 upper-case letter and number.

### Register a new account - step 2

Email address

Password

Confirm password

Wait for an email to verify your e-mail address and a code to enter and press next. This should come through quickly, please check your junk folder too.

### Register a new account - step 3

We have just sent you an email to confirm your email address. Please enter the code this contains below. Hit **back** if you would like to change your email address and try again or **Please send me a new code** if you need another one. If you can't find this email, it may be in your spam/junk email folder.

Code

[Please send me a new code](#)

You will get a message to confirm complete, press '**Continue**'.

### Registration completed

Your registration has been completed successfully. Click **Continue** to carry on with your session.

Read and confirm acceptance of terms and conditions, press '**Continue**'.

I agree to these Terms and Conditions

If you requested an account whilst completing a form you can then continue with form, otherwise closedown until you need to make a request.

**You will need to log in for all requests using this password and a new verification code that will be emailed to you**

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a light grey rectangular border.

Ian Morris  
Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager

