



**Ian Morris**

**Early Years and Childcare Strategic Manager**

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

Tel: 01905 844721

Our Ref: EYB150

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

After a glorious Bank Holiday weekend to kick start half term, we hope you have been able to take some time to relax and recharge. As you do, you will be gathering strength to look ahead to September and the start of a new, hopefully uninterrupted, academic year.

In our bulletin this week we are still seeking members for our Early Years Consultation Group. If you would like to find out more or feel that you would like to contribute, please get in touch.

Also, we are still seeking responses to our survey on the Pre-School forum; again, your contributions would be very much appreciated.

Finally, it won't be long until the Early Help workshop on 10<sup>th</sup> June so make sure that you have booked your place for what is sure to be an interesting session.

Best wishes.

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## Changes to childminder testing process

Following feedback on the registration and uploading process since March, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS Test and Trace have been working to identify ways to make it easier for childminders to identify their profession when recording results on the NHS Covid-19 test results [portal](#).

The changes are due to come into effect from 2 June and are designed to allow us to monitor more clearly the effectiveness of our testing programme and identify any areas or groups within the early years childcare system that are not engaging in testing, so we can identify potential barriers.

Instructions on how childminders can access testing kits remains unchanged and can be found on the gov.uk webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asymptomatic-testing-early-years-staff-in-different-settings/rapid-asymptomatic-coronavirus-covid-19-testing-in-early-years-settings#childminders-and-wraparound-childcare-providers>

This means that childminders will need to follow the process detailed in the attached document for each completed asymptomatic LFD rapid test.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact the Department for Education Coronavirus Helpdesk. Information on how to contact them can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe>

## Find a free level 3 qualification

Details of free level 3 qualifications available to eligible adults and the colleges and training providers who are currently able to offer free places.

[Find a free level 3 qualification](#)

## Early Years Consultation Group

The Early Years Consultation Group is a collection of Early Years providers and members from the Early Years team and Worcestershire Children First.

The group meet monthly to discuss the service delivered by Education Services on behalf of Worcestershire Children First; available training and the Nursery Education Funding, plus any other business related to running early years provision.

We do, however, have a number of vacancies so if you would like to become involved please contact Ian Morris at [imorris@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:imorris@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk).

- Wychavon; sessional and childminder vacancies
- Wyre Forest; full day care/ sessional/ childminder/ school vacancies
- Worcester; full day care/ sessional/ childminder/ school vacancies
- Redditch; sessional/ childminder vacancies
- Malvern; full day care/ sessional vacancies
- Bromsgrove; sessional/childminder/school vacancies

## Worcestershire Children First are hosting an Early Help Offer Workshop

**Thursday 10th June at 3.30pm to increase partners' understanding of the 'Early Help Offer'**

You are invited to attend and hear presentations from key service providers on how they can enhance and support your setting's Early Help Offer.

The following questions will be answered:

- What is an Early Help Offer and why does my setting need one?
- What should be on my setting's Early Help Offer?
- How can I make my setting's Early Help Offer accessible to parents/carers?

For more information and to book your place on the workshop, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/early-help-offer-workshop-tickets-153944561327>

For any questions please contact the team on [earlyhelppartnership@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:earlyhelppartnership@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

## Anna Freud Training

**The Anna Freud Centre is announcing a series of free webinars aimed at all early years practitioners.**

Sadly, a large number of early years workers are likely to come across children who have experienced some kind of trauma during their work. Trauma can be caused by a range of events and experiences. Some children may have encountered neglect, abuse, or violence, and others might be dealing with the fallout from an accident, bereavement or natural disaster.

This webinar will offer early years workers clear and practical guidance on how they can manage the needs of children in their care who have experienced some kind of trauma. It will look at the different reactions young children may have and explore a range of ways that you might be able to manage their needs and support them as best you can within your setting.

This webinar will look at: Supporting children in early years settings who may have experienced trauma on June 24th, 16:30-18:00.

[Early Years Webinar: Supporting children in early years settings who may have experienced trauma \(annafreud.org\)](http://annafreud.org)

## Review of the Pre-School Forum

Worcestershire Children First are reviewing the functions and impact of the Pre-School Forum; the process in which the local authority monitors children with SEND during their preschool education. We would appreciate all professionals involved in the forum answering the questions in the survey, to aid our review and identify areas of strengths and areas for development. This includes all health and education specialist workers, school-based SENCOs and Private, Voluntary and Independent Early Years practitioners/SENCO's.

[Access the survey for professionals](#)

**A separate survey has been created specifically for parents/carers and we would appreciate professionals disseminating the following link to the survey for any parent carers that have had involvement with the Preschool Forum.**

[Access the survey for parents and carers](#)

Please take this opportunity to let us know how the Pre-School Forum discussions, referrals and decisions impacts or impacted on the children you support. The responses will be collated, and an action plan issued with a view of implementing any improvements and recommendations in September 2021.

**The closing date for comments is Friday 2 July.**

It takes approximately 6 minutes to complete and we urge all interested parties to contribute their thoughts to the review.

## Child Safety Week: 7 to 13 June

Child Safety Week is an annual community education campaign run by the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT), acting as a catalyst for thousands of safety conversations and activities UK-wide. They help families build confidence and skills in managing the real risks to children's safety. They want all children to have the freedom to grow and learn, safe from serious harm.

This year, Child Safety Week runs from Monday 7th to Sunday 13th June with the theme **Share because you care**.

There are a new of free resources available on the [Child Safety Week page on the CAPT website](#) including: [Fact sheets](#), [Session cards](#), [Displays](#), [Child Safety Week poster](#) and ['We support Child Safety Week' logo](#).

For more information visit the CAPT website at: <https://www.capt.org.uk/>

## Early Years Training

MBK Group is a local training provider that has regular webinars and discussion forums. With the changes in the EYFS and the start-up of Ofsted Inspections from 4<sup>th</sup> May the ones coming up include:

### **Let's Talk Ofsted - FREE**

A discussion on anything related to Ofsted – no question is too small. Talk to Tricia Wellings & Emma Beard from Bright Kids Nursery Group, who undertook a pilot inspection with Ofsted prior to their inspection re-start.

10<sup>th</sup> June 7-8pm <https://www.mbkgroup.co.uk/event/ofsted-talk/>

### **ELG's Webinar – FREE**

Undertake the EYFS Research via the link below and book onto this webinar once completed  
16<sup>th</sup> June 7-8pm <http://bit.ly/EYFSRESEARCH>

## Early Years Alliance Parent Learning Courses

Parenting young children can be tough at the best of times and during this strange period in our history it can feel even more bewildering and stressful.

That's why the Early Years Alliance are really pleased to be able to offer parents various free online sessions, courses and resources - all delivered by professional early years experts - to help them through this time and to learn more about their children's development.

Details are outlined below. And though the activities may differ they all have one thing in common - they will be really engaging for your parents and their children with a big emphasis on playfulness and fun.

There are three options on offer:

- **Let's Learn Together @ Home** - this is a six-week programme for the 0-2 year olds - one Zoom session per week for six weeks.
- **Parent Connect** - These are one-off online events providing wellbeing and other advice. They support children's return to, or introduction to, early education.
- **Let's Get Ready For School** - A three-week virtual Zoom programme for children due to start school in September 2021. Each session will last 30 minutes and there will be one session per week.

[Click here for course details, dates and booking links](#)

## New Guidance for Early Years Settings on Potty Training

Knowing when to start potty training and how to go about it can be daunting for parents so ERIC, the children's bowel and bladder charity, has updated advice on its website to enable early years practitioners to work together with families.

<https://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/news/article/new-guidance-for-early-years-settings-on-potty-training#.Ylf-PFH1Ual.mailto>

## Safeguarding Training Information; Clarification

The Early Years Bulletin issue 144, dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021 stated: *From 19 April 2021, the safeguarding training for Designated Leads is changing as follows:*

- *You will be required to refresh yearly*
- *The course will be four hours in duration*

We now understand from provider feedback that it was not clear that the yearly training renewal for DSL'S is a *recommendation* from Worcestershire Children First (WCF) not a legal requirement as the article may have suggested to some providers. It also contained some incorrect information about the duration of the course, the original article stated 4 hours in fact the training is a full day course lasting 6 hours.

The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage states that the lead practitioner for safeguarding must attend a child protection training course, taking into account any advice from the Local Safeguarding Partnership or Local Authority on appropriate training courses.

WCF therefore considers it to be best practice in order to safeguard children for DSL'S to renew their training yearly to ensure knowledge is current and up to date. It remains however for Registered Providers to determine how they meet in full their statutory requirements.

We apologise for any confusion caused and we hope this article clarifies the situation for you.

## Contact Children's Social Care

Service	Description	Number
<b>Children with Disabilities(CWD)</b>	These are two social work teams that assess the specific needs of children with complex disabilities	<b>01905 844343</b>
<b>POP</b>	The Positive Outcomes Project is a new project within Worcestershire Children First focusing on supporting children and young people aged 10 to 17 years in their communities. POP's vision is to contribute to building stronger communities by developing emotional well-being and resilience through 1:1 direct work or groupwork in schools and with families	<b>01905 843464</b>
<b>Early Help Family Support Service</b>	This is a team of Family Support workers who deliver direct work to children, young people and their families and carers as part of an early help plan where there is a specifically identified need at Level 2 and Level 3	<b>Bromsgrove: 01905 845 154 Malvern Hills: 01905 843 961 Redditch: 01905 846 783 Worcester: 01905 843 339 Wychavon: 01905 844 229 Wyre Forest: 01905 846 210</b>
<b>Emergency Duty Team (EDT)</b>	This service provides an out of office hour's service to ensure the emergency welfare and protection of children across Worcestershire, Open from 5pm weekdays and 4.30pm on Fridays covering the weekend and bank holidays.	<b>01905 768020</b>
<b>Family Front Door (FFD)</b>	The Family Front Door is the referral point for all referrals where members of the community and professionals refer children and young people living in Worcestershire where they are worried about their safety and welfare	<b>01905 822666</b>
<b>Fostering and Kinship</b>	The Fostering Team provide social work support to foster carer's who are looking after children in foster care, they also respond to members of the public who wish to apply to be a foster carer. The Kinship team provides the same support but to family members who are fostering a family member or friend.	<b>Main-Stream: 01905 845335 Kinship: 01905 844536</b>

<b>Homeless Intervention Team (HIT)</b>	The HIT team complete assessments of need and risk to young people aged 16 - 18 years who are, or likely to become homeless. They, working closely with the housing department.	<b>01905 843364</b>
<b>Initial Assessment Team</b>	The initial assessment teams complete social work assessments (of need Sect 17 or protection Sect 47) and ensure the right services and response to children and young people.	<b>01905 846396</b> <b>Redditch &amp; Wychavon</b> <b>01905 845526</b> <b>Worcester &amp; Malvern</b> <b>01905 845630</b> <b>Wyre Forest &amp; Bromsgrove</b> <b>01905 844884</b>
<b>Locality Safeguarding</b>	The locality safeguarding teams receive the cases from the Initial Safeguarding teams when they require Child In Need Planning, Child Protection Planning. Looked After children or Care Proceedings.	<b>Redditch &amp; Wychavon</b> <b>01905 846571</b> <b>Worcester &amp; Malvern</b> <b>01905 843650</b> <b>Wyre Forest &amp; Bromsgrove</b> <b>01905 844008</b>
<b>Safeguarding Quality Assurance (SQA)</b>	The Quality and Assurance Team is a team separate to Children's Social Work Teams. They chair Looked After children reviews and Child protection conferences. The Local Authority Designated officer (LADO) also sits within this service.	<b>01905 846221</b>
<b>GET SAFE</b>	The GET SAFE Team is co-located in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). This enables us to work closely with other partner agencies such as West Mercia Police, Health, Education Safeguarding, Adult Safeguarding and Youth Justice sharing information and ensuring concerns are quickly responded to	<b>01905 845568</b>
<b>Care Leavers</b>	This service supports young people in care to achieve a positive transition into adulthood.	<b>01905 845613</b>

<b>Looked After Children, Permanency teams</b>	The Through Care Teams who work directly with children and young people who are looked after by the Local Authority.	<b>Team 1: 01905 843149 Team 2: 01905 844022 Team 3: 01905 845419 Team 4: 01905 843775</b>
<b>Through Care Outreach</b>	This service helps prepare young people for independent living and provides intensive support for care leavers.	<b>01527 556641</b>
<b>Supporting Families First</b>	The service offers multi-disciplinary, intensive support to children and families and offers a wide range of specialist supports under a one team approach. Our key aim is to strengthen families, to ensure children can remain living safely at home where it is safe and appropriate to do so.	<b>01905 845 087</b>
<b>Pause</b>	Pause work with women who have experienced, or are at risk of, repeated pregnancies that result in children needing to be removed from their care. We aim to give women the opportunity to pause and take control of their lives breaking a destructive cycle that causes both them and their children deep trauma.	<b>07960 092 174</b>

Best regards,



Ian Morris  
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