



Early Years Team

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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

It was wonderful to see so many people at the recent NEF Briefing regarding the Childcare Expansion, we're hoping to see similar numbers at the Early Years Update Meetings next week.

If you haven't yet booked your place on one of the Update Meetings, please visit [CPD](#) to do so. Along with some general updates, we'll be talking about behaviour, the new Early Years Inclusion Process with childminders and Sustainability with group settings. If you have any specific topics you would like to see at the Spring Update Meetings, please let one of the team know.

As always, if you need any advice or support, please contact the team via EYCC@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Best regards,

The Early Years Team.

Contents

Early Years Bulletin.....	1
Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders	3
Website Updates.....	3
Nursery Education Funding.....	3
Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub.....	4
Recruitment Reminder.....	4
Early Years Bulletin: National News and Reminders.....	5
After-School Clubs, Community Activities and Tuition: Safeguarding Guidance for Providers	5
Ofsted.....	5
EYFS Exemptions Guidance	5
Covid-19 Recovery Programme	5
Early Years Educator Apprenticeship.....	6
Measles	6
Stoptober - Smoke Free Homes	7
Global Handwashing Day - Sunday 15 th October	7
Have you heard about the Healthy Start scheme?.....	8
Early Years Bulletin: Early Help	8
Healthy Families Growing Up.....	8
Early Years Bulletin: Safeguarding Update	9
Early Years and Childcare Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Training.....	9
Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team	10
Enhanced Early Years Provision	10
Educational, Health & Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) application on Liquid Logic.....	10
Deaf and Hearing Impairment Team Update (DHI TEAM)-	11
Early Years Bulletin: Training news.....	11
Early Years DSL Forums: Autumn, Spring and Summer 2024 Dates.....	11
Emotion Coaching - Early Years Interest Group.....	12
Communication Champion Training	12
Changes to CPD	12

Early Years Bulletin: Worcestershire News and Reminders

Website Updates

Have you visited our website recently? With a range of tools and information, it's always worth checking to see if we can provide some guidance.

Early Years Team webpage: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/worcestershire-children-first-education-services/support-services/improving-schools-and-settings/early-years>

Inclusion in Educational Settings webpage: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/worcestershire-children-first-education-services/support-services/inclusion-educational-settings>

Early Years Inclusion Team webpage: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/worcestershire-children-first-education-services/support-services/improving-schools-and-settings/early-years/early-years-inclusion>

Nursery Education Funding

NEF Briefing - Childcare Expansion

A copy of the slides from the recent briefing are available to download from [Google Drive](#). If you need any further information, please email NEF@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Early Years Provider Survey

We are asking all Early Years providers to complete a short [survey](#) regarding the Childcare Expansion, which will feed into Local Authority planning. The survey should only take a few minutes to complete and the results will be published in a Bulletin later this year.

Sufficiency Data

To enable the Local Authority to accurately assess the sufficiency of Early Years provision across Worcestershire, we are asking all NEF registered settings to complete sufficiency data for the Autumn Term 2023.

To complete the data:

- Log onto the [Provider Portal](#)
- Click on Sufficiency (instead of Funding)
- Select the appropriate Year (2023/24) and Term (Autumn)
- Click Edit to fill in the table
- Click Save once you have entered all of the information (the number of places you offer and the number of spaces/vacancies you have available)

Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub

Would you benefit from a space to come together (face to face) with other leaders, managers of settings and Childminders? Would you benefit from developing supportive relationships with other providers, being part of a community to share good practice, network and talk about things that really matter to you? If so, then **Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub** is the perfect match for you!

Come along to our next meeting taking place on **Thursday 30th November 18:30-20:00pm** at University Worcester, St Johns Campus. Please note this session is **free**.

We provide an inclusive, welcoming, and friendly space to network, share good practice, learn from each other and create supportive and collaborative relationships. Be ready for lively discussions and lots of laughter over a warm cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit!!

On the agenda this session:

- Feedback from the sector about our previous session: **Wellbeing** - share your stories, what was the impact on your setting? Did you try something different? How did it go? We can't wait to hear your stories.
- **Early Help**: Peer on Peer support – Lets talk and share good practice on what works well in settings to support families. Let's share ideas on the resources settings use to support their families including what's available both locally and nationally.
- Time for networking

Booking is essential, to secure a place please email the Early Years Team at eycc@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk (subject: Early Years Community Hub), make sure you include the name of attendees along with the name of the setting you are from. We very much look forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch using the above email address.

***Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub** is a collaboration between leaders of early years settings, University Worcester and The Early Years Team at Worcestershire Children First coming together to create a space to network, share, learn, create partnerships and grow together!*

Recruitment Reminder

Please don't forget that we can include any staff vacancies you are currently advertising via the WCF Facebook and LinkedIn pages. Please email comms@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk with the following information if you wish to make use of this service:

- Job title
- Location
- Hours
- Brief description of role
- Link to your setting for more information and/or details of how to apply
- Closing date

Early Years Bulletin: National News and Reminders

After-School Clubs, Community Activities and Tuition: Safeguarding Guidance for Providers

The [Safeguarding Guidance](#) for providers of after-school clubs, community activities and tuition has been updated. The updates reflect the guidance on Keeping Children Safe in Education and new legislation, such as Positions of Trust, as well as finding from the out-of-school settings multi-agency pilot scheme.

Ofsted

Have you seen [Ofsted's YouTube](#) page? Ofsted have a range of short videos available for settings and schools covering topics such as communication and language, as well as a series of frequently asked questions about the inspection process.

EYFS Exemptions Guidance

There were previously two sets of guidance to support early years providers seeking exemptions from the EYFS learning and development requirements; one for exemptions for providers and one for exemptions for individual children. The updated [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) guidance on exemptions](#) combines, simplifies, streamlines and clarifies the previous guidance, making it easier to follow and implements. There have been no changes to the EYFS exemptions policy or processes.

Covid-19 Recovery Programme

The DfE are continuing to provide support to the Early Years sector via the Covid-19 Recovery Programme. With a range of training and qualifications available for free, as well as the direct support offered via the Experts and Mentors, it's worth checking to see if your setting could benefit:

- [Early years child development training](#)
- [Professional development programme phase 3 \(PDP3\)](#)
- [National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership \(NPQEYL\)](#)
- [Early Years SENCo Level 3](#)

Covid-19 Recovery – Early Years Experts and Mentors Programme

The Early Years Experts and Mentors Programme is focused on supporting early years practitioners and leaders to address the impact of the pandemic on the youngest children. Settings selected for the Programme will receive the support of an Expert and Mentor for one term, providing a mix of face-to-face and virtual support. The support offer includes leadership support, coaching for leaders and mentoring for practitioners.

All settings that take part in the Programme will also be able to access the [online Child Development training](#) to upskill practitioners and improve knowledge of child development.

The Experts and Mentors Programme will support private, voluntary, independent and school-based nursery settings. To be eligible for the Programme, settings must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Been judged as Requires Improvement or Inadequate by Ofsted in the last 3 years.
- Have high numbers of children in receipt of EY Pupil Premium (EYPP).
- Have high numbers of children with SEND.
- Have high numbers of children accessing Two-Year-Old Funding.

For further information and to apply to the Programme, please visit: [Early Years Expert and Mentor Programme | Pen Green Children's Centre](#)

Covid-19 Recovery – Childminder Mentor Programme

The Early Years Childminder Mentor Programme is focused on supporting childminders to address the impact of the pandemic on the youngest children. Offering predominately online support, successful childminders will receive up to 4 days of support over one term.

To be eligible for the Programme, childminders must have at least one child aged between 0-5 currently in their care.

For further information and to apply to the Programme, please visit: [COVID-19 Recovery Childminders | Hempsalls](#)

Early Years Educator Apprenticeship

The DfE has launched a digital and social media campaign promoting Early Years Education apprenticeships. The social media adverts will run until mid-December 2023 and will be followed by a larger scale multi-media campaign in early 2024.

The digital posters are available to download and share on your own social media: [Early years 2023 - Dropbox](#)

Measles

Measles cases are rising across the country, with over 102,000 children starting primary school in England being at risk of catching the disease. The NHS have published posters, which can be printed or shared via social media:

[NHS Vaccine Poster](#)

[NHS MMR Poster](#)

Measles is highly infectious and if left unvaccinated, 9 out of 10 children in an early years setting can catch the disease if just one child is infectious. Please share these resources to increase awareness.

Stoptober - Smoke Free Homes

This Stoptober, if any parents/carers/grandparents living with a child under the age of 3 are looking to quit smoking. They can sign up to gain free friendly help and support from the Smoke Free Homes team.

The team will:

- Support families (with young children up to 3 years old) to quit smoking
- Provide 1:1 support by a stop smoking advisor
- Offer free Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT)

Parents/ carers living in a household with a child/ baby under the age of three can sign up to the service by emailing: whcnhs.smokefreehomes@nhs.net

For more information please see the [Smoke Free Homes Video](#) or download the Smoke Free Homes leaflet from [Google Drive](#).

Global Handwashing Day - Sunday 15th October

Global Handwashing Day takes place on Sunday 15th October this year. It's an annual day dedicated to promoting proper hand hygiene as an easy, effective, and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives.

Recent years have reiterated how important good hand hygiene is to prevent the spread of infection, but it's important that this is maintained so that the people around us continue to be protected against infectious diseases. This is especially important as we go into winter months when illnesses like flu and norovirus are often circulating.

Although hand sanitisers are available, they are not effective against all germs. The most effective way to wash hands is with soap and water and then dry them thoroughly.

Public Health in Worcestershire have developed resources for schools and nurseries which includes a toolkit and posters to support education settings to promote good hand hygiene with children and young people. There are also some really great resources including lesson plans and activity sheets via the [e-bug](#) resources.

The toolkits for schools and nurseries can be accessed via the link below:

<https://bit.ly/WorcsEYandSchoolsResources>

For more information on Global Handwashing Day please visit [Global Handwashing Day - The Global Handwashing Partnership](#)

Have you heard about the Healthy Start scheme?

If you are over 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under the age of 4, you may be eligible for a prepaid Healthy Start card that can be used in certain shops to help to buy items such as:

- Milk
- Fruit and vegetables
- Pulses
- Infant formula based on cow's milk

The Healthy Start card can also be used to pick up vitamins, to support during pregnancy and vitamin drops for babies and young children.

Healthy Start vitamins can be collected from any of the 9 Starting Well Partnership Family Hubs across the county, in addition some other additional venues. You can find details all the locations where vitamins can be collected on the Starting Well Partnership website.

Early Years Bulletin: Early Help

Healthy Families Growing Up

Please download the flyer from our [Google Drive](#) for details about the [HENRY](#) programme being offered at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Worcester, in partnership with the Starting Well Partnership. Offering face-to-face session, parents and carers can book a place using the link on the flyer.

Early Years Bulletin: Safeguarding Update

Early Years and Childcare Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Training

Training that is specifically designed for the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead needs to be completed at least every two years, WCF recommend continual professional development at least annually to support the role.

When planning to complete training, it is important that the training attended meets the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership requirements for DSL training and offers a good understanding of Worcestershire and their procedures.

Recommended that DSL training includes:

- Early Help
- Detailed look at signs and symptoms (including FGM, Get Safe, Witchcraft, County Lines, Prevent etc)
- Legislation – (EYFS, working together to safeguard children)
- Guidance – (including Worcestershire Levels of need)
- Responsibilities
- Record Keeping – (including signs of safety)
- Multi Agency Working
- Child protection meeting
- Serious case reviews
- Operation Encompass
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
- Barriers to referrals

If you are interested on accessing training via WCF, we have the following courses available:

[Early Years and Childcare Designated Safeguarding Lead \(DSL\): Introduction to the role](#)

[Early Years and Childcare Designated Safeguarding Lead \(DSL\) training \(settings\)](#)

[Early Years and Childcare Designated Safeguarding Lead \(DSL\) training\(childminders\)](#)

Early Years Bulletin: News from the Inclusion Team

Enhanced Early Years Provision

Worcestershire Children First (WCF) are looking to broker Enhanced Early Years Provision (EEYP) for children whose identified complex needs make it difficult to attend an early years' provision. The intention is to deliver EEYP within South Worcestershire as a pilot.

WCF are looking for provision within Worcester City or Malvern and have assessed the current sufficiency need could be up to 35 children a year.

WCF are also looking for a provision in Wychavon and have assessed the current sufficiency need could be up to 25 children a year.

The contract will be for 3 years starting 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2026, with an option to extend for a further year, plus a further year (maximum 5 years) dependent upon the success of the pilot.

This tender is open to all providers. You may be a childminder, private, voluntary or independent (PVI) early years setting, an academy, maintained or governor led School or a charity organisation.

Information is available on the [Nursery Assessment Unit Review website](#).

If you would further information of the tender, please follow the link to the [Tender on Intend](#). The Project is titled EDU23024 Enhanced Early Years Nursery Provision Reference WCC 00003444.

The closing date for submission of completed tenders is 4pm on 20th October 2023.

Educational, Health & Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) application on Liquid Logic

If you have identified a child who you would like to put forward for an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment please follow this [downloadable guide](#) to support you with this online process. It details how to set up an account, access Liquid Logic and to complete the online RS36.

Please then follow the link to Liquid Logic and the RS36: [EHC Assessment](#), ensuring that you complete all the online sections thoroughly, including the family conversation section to evidence you have consent from the family.

The Inclusion Team step by step support and guidance handout can be found [here](#) to further support you when completing the online RS36 via Liquid logic.

Deaf and Hearing Impairment Team Update (DHI TEAM)-

In the DHI team we are currently dealing with unprecedented numbers of new referrals through hospital audiology. This is due in part to a National issue affecting some Audiology departments, of which Worcester Acute Hospitals is one. The issue relates to children who failed the new born hearing screen and were called for a further follow up test at the time. This further test was in some cases misinterpreted and a significant number of children are now being asked back to Audiology as they were flagged as possibly affected. Whilst it is anticipated that most will be checked and discharged with no further action needed, it may be a worrying time for families.

If a permanent hearing loss is found as a result of the recall and families have given permission, the DHI Team will contact the family and setting to put in place our support. Whilst the DHI team are dealing with this issue we might visit a little less often than you are used to seeing us, but we are prioritising the new referrals and our children with severe and profound hearing losses.

We can always be contacted should you have any worries or concerns about children who we visit, and your Qualified Teacher of the Deaf will share their contact details with you.

Families who receive hospital letters for extra testing can also be signed posted to the local National Deaf Children's Society group– Worcestershire Deaf Children's Society- WDCS- [Home | My Site \(worcesterdeafchildren.co.uk\)](#)

Early Years Bulletin: Training news

Early Years DSL Forums: Autumn, Spring and Summer 2024 Dates

The Early Years' DSL Forums have been developed to support you!

We have developed these meetings over the previous 4 years, providing an opportunity to share good practice and to keep DSL's up to date with national and local statutory requirements.

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet other DSL's and Deputy DSL's from across the County.

Audience: Early Years Childminders / Nurseries / Pre-Schools and Out of school Club providers

Cost: Free

Dates:

- 14 November 2023, 6.15pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83719
- 16 November 2023, 6.15pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83720
- 05 March 2024 6.15pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83721
- 14 March 2024 6.15pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83722
- 12 June 2024 6.15pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83723
- 13 June 2024 6.15pm to 7.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY10400 / 83724

To book: via [CPD](#) using your setting CPD leader login details and course code 10400.

Confirmations will go to the delegate email provided and include the relevant MS teams joining information.

Emotion Coaching - Early Years Interest Group

An opportunity to hear from specialist speakers, receive updates from Emotion Coaching UK and share practice with other professionals. For more information, please download their flyer from [Google Drive](#).

Audience: Early years practitioners

Cost: Free

Dates: Tuesday 24th October 4:00pm – 5:30pm, virtual delivery

To book: [Early Years Interest Group \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Communication Champion Training

Settings in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wychavon can access free training, delivered by the Worcestershire NHS Speech and Language Therapy Team. The focus for the training this term is 'Supporting Children's Understanding – Word Levels. For further information, please download the flyer from [Google Drive](#).

Audience: Early years practitioners working in settings across Bromsgrove, Redditch or Wychavon

Date: Thursday 16th November, 4:00pm to 5:30pm, virtual delivery

To book: Email WHCNHS.SLTBromsgrove@nhs.net

Changes to CPD

During the summer months the training team have been working with WCC developers to enhance the functionality of the CPD system. We are pleased to announce the latest updates will be rolled out during September:

- Passwords: when a CPD leader enters a password the "eye icon" is now shown which allows passwords to be double checked before pressing submit
- Confirmations now go to the delegate and the CPD Leader(s) for that school / setting / governing board.
- Any correspondence sent from CPD – cancellation / reminders / materials / evaluations etc will go to both the delegate and CPD Leader(s) as always it is the responsibility of the CPD leader to ensure the delegate is made aware of any changes.
- CPD site now has a link to our FAQ / Support guide on our website.
- Course search – now can use the course code i.e., 10140 and the pre-fix i.e. EY/SCH/GOV
- Basket function has been removed.

- Multi-booking function now available: CPD leaders can now book multiple places per course, up to the maximum available, at once.
- CPD leaders when booking training can now easily see who has been booked onto a specific course when requesting places.
- New colleagues can now also be added in at the point of booking training – there several safety measures in place to ensure duplicate profiles are not created. Any new colleague added this way will also automatically appear in your colleague list.
- Viewing training booked for colleagues has been developed to include:
 - Ability to access joining instructions for virtual courses.
 - Ability to request replacement certificates for attended courses.

We are still working through a number of developments to support CPD leaders in using our system.

The training and conference team recommend and encourage CPD leaders to go through their colleague list on CPD to ensure staff list are correct and up to date.

Our CPD support guides have been updated and can be accessed via our [website \(opens in new window\)](#) – broken down into Access / Bookings / Colleagues and Certificates. If for any reason you cannot find the answer to your query via our support guide, then please contact the training team on 01905 844 420 or email workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

We would also like to remind CPD leaders that due to how the CPD system has been built and that it uses email address as usernames; if you access both systems (CPD and CHS Portal) and the email on both systems is identical, then any password changes made to one of these systems will automatically update the other. Please bear in mind this might impact colleagues with shared email accounts.