



WEEKLY BULLETIN 3rd May 2024

Welcome to this week's bulletin filled with useful information. Recent bulletins can be found [here](#)

Contact the team: EarlyYearsCentre@lancashire.gov.uk or 01772 539058

Webpage: www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/ (training courses, support and information from the team.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LancsEarlyYears/
www.facebook.com/groups/lancsearlyyears/)

Advertise your job vacancies on our webpage

www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/supporting-children-and-families/childcare-and-early-years-settings/

(uploaded weekly, no charge) complete this form:

<https://clickquestion.lancashire.gov.uk/runQuestionnaire.asp?qid=900752>

What's happening in May?



Please find attached details of the Early Years Professional Development Centre open day. **Saturday 11th May from 9.30 to 11.00 am**, Fairfield Nursery School, Fairfield Street, Accrington, BB5 0LD. Open to all settings, no booking required and free to members.

Something to do this week!

Ensure that you are aware of when and how you would contact the LADO Service

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is responsible for providing management and oversight of individual allegations or concerns regarding both paid and unpaid workers.

The LADO **must** be contacted when it has been alleged that a person who works with children (either paid or voluntary) has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to a child; or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

These procedures may also be used where concerns arise about:

- The person's behaviour with regard to his/her own children
- The behaviour in the private or community life of a partner, member of the family or other household member
- A person's behaviour in their personal life, which may impact upon the safety of children to whom they owe a duty of care.

If you make a referral to the LADO or someone else makes a referral about you or a member of your team, don't forget to inform Ofsted as a 'significant event'.

Visit the webpage [Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\) - Lancashire County Council](#) where there is a new matrix that gives examples of concerns and when these should be reported to the LADO. There is also a new notification form and an outcome form.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Blackburn with Darwen	Blackpool	Lancashire
01754 585 184	01753 477558	01772 538 694
LADO@blackburn.gov.uk	lado@blackpool.gov.uk	LADO.Admn@lancashire.gov.uk

As outlined in "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (2018), the LADO will be informed of all allegations against adults working with children and provides advice and guidance to Senior Managers on the progress of cases to ensure they are resolved as quickly as possible. Information relating to allegations is collated and presented to Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) to inform training, research, safer recruitment and awareness raising.

The LADO is located within Children's Services and should be alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

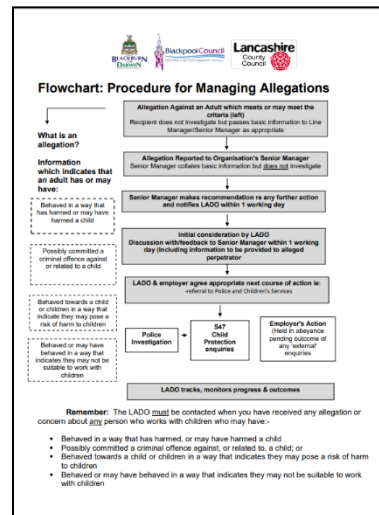
- Behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child; or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children;
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children

The LADO role applies to the children's workforce (paid, self-employed and volunteers). The LADO is involved from the initial phase of the allegation through to the conclusion of the case.

The LADO will provide advice and guidance and help determine that the allegation sits within the scope of the procedures. Within the role the LADO helps co-ordinate information sharing. The LADO will also monitor and track any investigation with the expectation that it is resolved as quickly as possible.

These procedures may also be used where concerns arise about:

- The person's behaviour with regard to his/her own children
- The behaviour in the private or community life of a partner, member of the family or other household member
- A person's behaviour in their personal life, which may impact upon the safety of children to whom they owe a duty of care.



Let's Celebrate!

This week we are shouting a big well done to three of our Lancashire Childminders who have recently had their inspection reports published.

☀ Shirley Barlow in Leyland had a positive inspection and was credited for the way she supports children's literacy development: 'Children access a range of different books, both with the childminder and independently.



Younger children enjoy the different sensory pages and hear words that describe what they are feeling. Older children eagerly point out different pictures and use words they are familiar with. The childminder is helping children to develop a love of books and promoting skills they need for school.'

☀ Charlotte Bibby in Euxton, shared that her inspector made her feel at ease and was clear what would happen throughout. Charlotte had her practice celebrated as she aspires to help every child reach their full potential. She understands that knowing and understanding lots of words and phrases is very important for children's overall learning and development.'

🌟 Gemma Tyrer in Ingol, Preston shared that her inspection was a lovely experience with her wellbeing being important to the inspector. Gemma shared that on reflection there was nothing different she would have done. Her top tip for everyone is to be confident! Gemma's warm and welcoming practice was credited in her report:

'The childminder invites children into her warm and homely setting with hugs and welcoming words. She knows her children well and takes the time to tune into children's body language throughout the day. This helps the childminder to understand and respond quickly to meet children's needs. Strong bonds between the childminder and children help to support children's emotional well-being.'

On behalf of everyone in the Early Years Quality Improvement Team, we are shouting out a big well done and say thank you for your continued commitment to improving outcomes for the children in Lancashire 🌟❤️

Have you ever thought of opening your own nursery

The National Day Nursery have put together a blog about opening a nursery. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the process, please follow the link below:

[Starting a nursery | Opening a nursery top tips - NDNA](#)

Do you have pre-school children moving into reception class in September?

Please complete this survey asking you to let us know if you have any children who are moving onto school this year who you think will find it very difficult to settle in their new class by the 15th May 2024. Please take the time to fill this in so that we can make sure that the receiving schools are aware of this and can put support in place to help the children with this transition. We really only want you to tell us about those children who you think will need significant additional support than would normally be expected. We don't need you to tell us about any children with an EHCP in place as these children will already be known to the school. <https://forms.office.com/e/JvGcpq1waF>

We would also like to remind you about our Lancashire Pre-school transition documents that we encourage all providers to use. This ensures that our reception class teachers receive all of the information that they need in the same format. There are several formats for you to choose from on our website in order to make this as manageable and as useful as possible -

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/supporting-children/pre-school-transition-documents/>

Finally, there is a wealth of information that you can share with parents of your preschoolers here [Getting ready to start school - Lancashire County Council](#) so that parents can help prepare their children for school.

Let's talk together – our next consultative group meeting is coming up

No need to book on, join us by following the link below **at 6.30pm on the 15th May** for an hour to look at our collective response to the three consultations that are currently open

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 367 628 161 984

Passcode: ACohxN

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

There are a number of consultations at the moment that we would love to capture a collective response to on behalf of Early Years Settings in Lancashire. The different consultations are linked and described below for information. At the consultative meeting we will discuss and capture thoughts and develop a collective response. As time will be limited, please take the time to read and think about any answers or comments on the consultation. Alternatively, you may choose to respond to the consultations individually on behalf of your own setting.

[Department for Education consultation on EYFS safeguarding requirements](#) The Department for Education (DfE) has launched a consultation on proposals to strengthen safeguarding requirements in the EYFS. These proposals have been informed by extensive engagement with providers, health professionals, sector stakeholders and safeguarding experts and by using lessons learned from previous incidents. This is to ensure that all children are kept as safe as possible in early years settings. This consultation is open to the public and the Department particularly encourages responses from parents, carers and anybody with an interest in childcare. Respondents can read about the changes in a Foundation Years [blog post](#) or watch a [DfE vodcast](#) before responding to the [consultation](#).

[Department for Education consultation on an experience-based route for early years practitioners](#) The Department for Education (DfE) has launched a consultation on an experience-based route for early years practitioners, following positive sector feedback to this proposal in the 2023 EYFS consultation. The experience-based route aims to recognise the valuable experience and skills of the sector and give early years providers more flexibility to use their staff effectively by counting additional staff in Level 3 ratios. The consultation asks questions about how the experience-based route might work. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/experience-based-route-for-early-years-practitioners>

[Ofsted 'Big Listen' consultation](#) Ofsted has opened a major public consultation to seek the views of the education and social care sectors, along with parents and children, on the inspectorate's work. The Big Listen consultation asks a series of questions, based around four themes. The themes are:

- How Ofsted reports on its findings;
- How Ofsted carries out inspections;
- How Ofsted can have a positive impact in all the sectors it inspects;
- What Ofsted needs to do to be a world-class inspectorate and regulator, trusted by parents, children and the sectors it works with.

For more information and to complete the consultation, click [here](#). Ofsted will publish its response to the Big Listen consultation later this year.

Parental Mental Health Resources

Recent learning from Rapid review meetings and CSPR publications have recognised parental mental health as being present as being a theme. As part of Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week, NSPCC Learning has collated a range of resources to help professionals support parents with mental health problems. This includes the Pregnancy in Mind NSPCC support service and a podcast on perinatal mental health. This is accessible via:

[Parental mental health resources | NSPCC Learning](#)

Are you a setting near a beach?

Everton Stronger Practice Hub are planning a two day Beach School event in Morecambe on Saturday 22nd June at the Bare Methodist Hall, Morecambe 9.30am to 3.30pm in the hall and at the beach at Morecambe. This will be followed by a reflection and sharing of ideas session on Saturday 29th June at Morecambe Football Club 9.45am to 12.15pm with Dr Diane Boyd, former lecturer in early childhood and author of sustainability in early childhood. Open to all setting who are interested in or are near a beach. Please contact:

www.evertonnurseryschoolandfamilycentre.org/strongerpracticehub

Help us understand what's important to you and your setting

Share and Shine 'Round 2' - please find below a link to short survey to help us identify and further our understanding of some the challenges and areas that are progressing well across EY settings at the moment.

The link to the new survey is here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/yfuq76qha5?origin=lprLink>

You may remember when we did something similar last term to stay on top of what's up and collaborate with our colleagues and partners across Lancashire? Well, here's a quick rundown of what you told us and what we did about it.

Key Findings:

- **Priority on Children's Well-being:** Settings prioritise children's well-being above all, followed by Personal, Social, and Emotional Development (PSED) and Communication and Language (C and L) skills.
- **Challenges Identified:** Several challenges hindering children's progress include lack of parenting support, training opportunities, issues with tired and emotional children, staff morale and poor attendance from children.

Here are some of the actions we have been able to start to take forward to help address some of the challenges:

Action Steps:

1. **Learning and Development Resources:** Sharing Learning and Development resources, including parent courses more widely from across

all partners to support setting in getting information out to families to help them to access support and information.

2. **Integration of CFW Information:** Incorporating Children and Family Well-being (CFW) information into visit reports and other resources.
3. **'Who's Who' Initiative:** Developing a 'who's who' resource for each district to enhance communication between all partner agencies and settings.
5. **Sharing Insights:** Sharing a summary of survey findings emphasizing children's well-being as the top priority so that we can raise awareness of the challenges faced by the sector with other agencies.
6. **Promotion of Resources:** Highlighting Solihull Approach resources for sleep issues during visits and training by EYQIT.
7. **Peer Learning:** Exploring and encouraging more initiatives for practitioners to share expertise with each other through peer support.

We will continue to build and develop our support and services as we gain further insights into what is important to you based on what you tell us!