



## Early Years Quality Improvement Team's Weekly Bulletin Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

Welcome to this week's bulletin, recent bulletins can be found [here](#)

### Keep in touch



[EarlyYearsCentre@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYearsCentre@lancashire.gov.uk)



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[www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/)



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## New Managers / Deputy Manager Academy

### Are you new to the role of the manager or deputy manager at a PVI nursery?

Perhaps you have only been a manager for the last 6 months or so or have recently become a deputy manager. Let us know and we can offer you some additional support whilst you fully find your feet (no charge).

One of the Early Years Project Officer's will meet with you virtually to discuss your current challenges and offer advice and guidance and you will also be invited to termly, virtual group meetings to network with other new managers for peer support.

What next: just complete this [Microsoft Teams form](#)

## New Practitioners Academy

### Are you training or been in early years for less than a year?

Join our new practitioners' academy by completing this [FORM](#) and we will be in touch before each session to share the links with you.

These are free to attend and will help you in your new or future role (there is no need to book, just complete the form).

10 <sup>th</sup> March	9.45 to 10.45am
19 <sup>th</sup> May	4 to 5pm
7 <sup>th</sup> July	9.45 to 10.45am

We will chat to you about all sorts of elements of practice as well as giving you the opportunity to ask questions.

We are really looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the best profession in the world!

## Something to do this week!

### Have you explored the Safeguarding section of our website recently?

The Lancashire County Council **Safeguarding** pages are packed with practical tools and resources to support Designated Lead Practitioners and their team. If it has been a while since you visited, now is the perfect time to take a look!

It has a range of **tools and information** including **templates for, staff declaration form, record of concerns form and internal recording and summary forms**. There is a section on services and information including **Early Help Assessment, LADO and Children and Family Wellbeing Service**. You will also find a **jargon buster** and a **safeguarding quiz** that you could use at your team meeting.

The **safeguarding suitcase** is a unique resource full of activities and materials to boost confidence and knowledge. You could use it for individual learning to strengthen your own practice, or as part of a team meeting for collaborative professional development and discussion.

There are now twenty nine '**Focus On**' briefs that unpick specific topics such as **Contextual Safeguarding, Car Seat Safety, Social Media and Trauma** to name a few!



To help educate your parents, there is a '**creative ways to share safety messages with families'** with a guide to making displays at your setting with topics such as button battery safety and water safety.

Find out much more here: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/safeguarding/](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/safeguarding/)

## Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Lead: Getting started



How far along is your setting on the **Climate Action Plan** journey? The Department for Education now requires all non-domestic education settings to have a Climate Action Plan in place, as well as a **Sustainability Lead**. Our short video covers the basics for taking the first - or next - step in your setting's sustainability journey.

<https://youtu.be/h067Aws8d0s>

## New transition support documents



We are pleased to share that new documents to **support transition** are now available on the **Lancashire County Council website**. These resources are designed to help **pre-school practitioners, parents, and schools** work together to ensure a smooth and positive transition for children moving from pre-school into Reception.

They include **practical guidance, timelines, and activities** to support children starting school and **strengthen partnerships** between settings and families. These new resources sit alongside the pre-school transition documents that have been available for some time.

We hope you find them useful to support transition as a process over the pre-school year for your children.

[Transition documents, pre-school pathway of support and transition calendars - Lancashire County Council](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/early-years-support-and-training/transition/documents-pre-school-pathway-of-support-and-transition-calendars-lancashire-county-council)

## DfE case study request 'Do Something Big' early years recruitment campaign

### Be part of something big

Working with small children is a big deal. It's a job that makes a difference by helping to give children the best start in life.



As part of the Do Something Big early years recruitment campaign, the DfE are looking for early years apprentices who would be willing to share their experiences as part of National Apprenticeship Week 2026.

They would also welcome introductions from non-apprentice early years professionals across all roles and levels of experience from any type of setting – small provider, childminder, larger organisation.

Interested apprentices and wider staff are welcome to contact Luke Prescott directly. Send your expression of interest by email to: [luke.prescott@education.gov.uk](mailto:luke.prescott@education.gov.uk)

## New 'Do Something Big' leaflet

A new Do Something Big leaflet is now available for you to download and print, to support your recruitment activity.

This leaflet sets out the different ways to get started in the sector and demonstrates ways to build experience and progress a career in Early Years.

### Get your copy

Download the leaflet [here](#). You can also explore all our other information, which you can access on our [Recruitment Resources page](#).

When printed, it should be folded twice to create a three-panel leaflet; so it will open out into three sections; a front cover, an inside spread, and a back panel.

For the best result, print at 100 per cent scale and make two vertical folds so it opens out into three sections. There is also a printers' artwork version on the site.

If you need anything, please get in touch with the campaign team at:  
[earlyyears.careers@education.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyears.careers@education.gov.uk)

## Childcare Works and Dingley's Promise Free resources



Childcare Works in collaboration with Dingley's Promise has created a collection of resources and videos to support inclusive practice for early years providers, childminders and schools.

This collection includes:

[SEND Assessment Guidance Handbook and Video](#)

Information to support the practical use of the Department for Education SEND Assessment Guidance and accompanying tools in your setting.

[A Reflective Approach to Identifying SEND and Inclusion Handbook and Video](#)

A framework through which to regularly review and adapt to ensure you are inclusive in all you do in your setting.

[The Use of Graduated Approach and Ordinarily Available Provision \(OAP\) in Inclusive Practice Handbook and Video](#)

Explore the 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review' cycle in detail.

[Developing an Inclusive Curriculum Handbook and Video](#)

Practical ways to approach the development of a curriculum that is inclusive and accessible to all children.

All available to download on the [Childcare Works HUB](#)

## Heads up from Health Protection



Please see the link below for the latest Heads up Health Protection bulletin:

[Heads Up from Health Protection - January 2026 Bulletin](#)

Our team is committed to raising awareness and providing valuable information to help you stay healthy and safe. We work to ensure that you have access to the resources and knowledge to help you make informed choices in order to protect yourself and your loved ones.

## New Ofsted report cards and grades video guide for parents

We have heard from leaders that they would like support explaining our new grades and report cards to their parents. The new [YouTube video](#) explainer has more information on exactly what Ofsted's new grades mean, including how they report on safeguarding. Early years settings may find this helpful when explaining their grades and report cards to parents.

## Liverpool City Region and Beyond – monthly newsletter



Welcome to the latest newsletter from your local Early Years Stronger Practice Hub.

The Early Years Stronger Practice Hub is here to support you with high-quality, evidence-informed training designed to strengthen practice and improve outcomes for our youngest learners.

The aim in 2026 is to continue to empower early years educators with the tools, knowledge, and confidence when working with young children. Through collaborative learning, practical strategies, and expert guidance from colleagues across our 10 Local Authorities, we aim to help you create high quality learning environments where children thrive.

[LCR Newsletter January 2026](#)

## Safeguarding notices



### Operation Encompass update

Many thanks to everyone who has completed the Operation Encompass online training and signed up to receive notifications. It is great to see the high level of interest across the early years sector.

There is a slight delay in you receiving notifications due to the Police completing an upgrade to their recording systems which is taking time to establish across all areas. We will continue to liaise with you when we know more on the situation.

Operation Encompass notifications will be shared with the maintained, private, voluntary and independent nurseries within phase one of the roll out and with childminders later in the year during phase two.

## Free training

As part of your Continuous Professional Development (CPD) you may be interested in further developing your knowledge on the role of LADO. Free training is available via the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership see details below if you are interested in attending to learn more.

#### **Training Session: Understanding the LADO Role and Referral Process**

This session provides essential guidance on the role of the **Local Authority Designated Officer (ADO)**, who is responsible for managing and overseeing allegations made against individuals who work or volunteer with children.

#### **What the session covers**

Participants will gain a clear understanding of:

- **Role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (ADO):** How allegations against adults working with children are managed.
- **Making a Good Referral:** Key steps for timely, clear, and effective referrals.
- **The LADO Process:** From initial contact to outcome and learning.

#### **Why Attend?**

- To Strengthen safeguarding practice.
- Build confidence in managing allegations.
- Ensure compliance with statutory guidance.

This training is relevant for managers, designated safeguarding leads, HR staff, education leaders, early years providers, voluntary sector organisations, health colleagues, social care practitioners and anyone supporting the children's workforce.

#### **Date & Booking Information:**

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 | 13:30- 14:30 | MS Teams**

#### **To book onto the session , visit :**

[Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership Training](#)

## **Environment workshop: The immersive enabling environment journey**



We're excited to launch our **brand-new workshop:**

*The Immersive Enabling Environment Journey*

This practical session will empower you to **review your own spaces and places** back in your setting, ensuring you're:

- Meeting the needs of your children
- Providing a strong backdrop to your curriculum

**Spaces are limited – don't miss out!**

**Book your place now:** [Environment Workshop: The Immersive Enabling Environment Journey - Lancashire County Council](#)

## February training for your sector

Find attached your February training reminder for your sector.  
Take a look to see which sessions might be useful to your setting.



## Department for Education Letter from Bridget Phillipson



We are the department for opportunity

BrIDGET PHILLIPSON, Secretary of State for Education, has written to the early years sector with her ambition to invest in the sector and children. You can read about the investment of £200 million to upskill staff in every early years setting on the link below.

[\*\*New training to help every child and young person thrive\*\*](#)

## SEND training offer

On Friday 16 January, the Department for Education [unveiled the most ambitious and comprehensive SEND training offer](#) ever seen by the English education system – recognising the power of our workforce to transform children's life chances.

The new training offer will cover children with SEND from their earliest years, through to age 25, restoring parents' confidence that their children will be supported through every stage of their education.

Key features of the training package include:

- A new Early Years Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme, providing free, accessible training focused on inclusive practice, child development, and practical strategies for supporting children with SEND – available to all early years practitioners
- High-quality training materials, developed alongside the sector, and shared with every school and college to support the delivery of training to all staff on SEND and inclusion – ensuring every teacher is reached
- New, free CPD courses for teachers and leaders in colleges
- Investment in training for teaching assistants and support staff, developed in collaboration with the sector – ensuring support staff feel equipped and confident to support pupils with SEND

This is a significant step in reforming the SEND system with a £3 billion investment to create tens of thousands of specialist places in mainstream and special schools, supported by skilled

educators. These changes ensure children and young people with SEND can thrive in inclusive settings close to home, with staff who understand their needs and help them to succeed.

[You can read a letter](#) to the sector from Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, outlining the offer.

## **Educational psychology - Early years workshops and group consultations**

It was lovely to see some of you at our Collaborative Journey's: Voices before words session this week. I wanted to just send a reminder of our upcoming sessions.

We continue to be delivering **group consultations online**, where EY SENDCo's can come and take part in group problem solving with other SENDCos facilitated by an EP. Consultation is a way of thinking through any concerns about individual children or groups of children. This can be related to learning, emotions, their experience of their environment etc. Through consultation, SENDCos and the EP will aim to identify a way of moving forward using solution-orientated frameworks. Strategies and approaches will be created in collaboration utilising all of the expertise in the room to create change based on psychological formulation. Next steps are agreed based upon what will work best for you and the children you are working with. Feedback from SENDCo's who have attended these has been really positive. You can book your place here [clickDelegate Early Years Online Group Consultations](#)

We have our next Parent Carer workshop on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 6 pm- 7pm Supporting Big Emotions**. Bookable here [clickDelegate Growing Together: Empowering Parents for Early Childhood Success. Topic: Supporting big emotions](#)

Our next session as part of the Collaborative Journey's series is on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 9.30 am- 10.30 am Effective Early Years Intervention in supporting autism**. Anyone working in the early years and Parent Carers are welcome to join these sessions. Places are bookable here [clickDelegate Collaborative Journeys: Topic: Effective early years intervention in supporting autism.](#)

## **Selected DfE updates 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

- [Generative AI: product safety standards](#)  
Guidance on the safety standards for generative AI products and systems developed for use in educational settings.
  - Updated: 19 January 2026
- [Section 251: 2025 to 2026](#)  
Information for local authorities, schools and the general public about local authority education funding and expenditure plans for 2025 to 2026.
  - Updated: 19 January 2026
- [DfE Update](#)  
Our weekly newsletter containing actions and information for DfE-funded organisations.
  - Updated: 14 January 2026