



Early Years Safeguarding Information

11 September 2023

Introduction

We continue with our focus on safeguarding to ensure you and your team are as informed as possible enabling you to work with other professionals in a joint and focused way, keeping the children and their families safe. In this document you will find current information as well as reminders of information sent to you over the past couple of months.

Please share this information with all your team members.

Staff to child ratios

The Chancellor recently announced an optional change to childcare ratios from 1:4 to 1:5 for two-year-old children. This change will apply from September 2023.

All other staff-to-child ratios remain the same.

While the Department for Education sets the ratios, Ofsted want to make sure that the way that they work is well understood, <https://earlyyears.blog.gov.uk/2023/04/20/how-staff-to-child-ratios-work/>

Attendance

We hope that all your early years children have returned as expected this term. Whilst we appreciate that acceptance of early education for children under five years is not compulsory, this is a reminder to providers to ask questions when children do not return to settings, particularly those children who are considered vulnerable. Use your discretion to decide who your vulnerable children are and include those with:

- A child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- An education, health, and care (EHC) plan
- Family circumstance presenting challenges for them, such as drug and alcohol misuse, parental offending, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse

If a child does not return to your setting, contact the parent/carer to establish why and if any support can be provided in order to resume attendance.

Consider what other professionals are working with the child for e.g., health visitor, social worker, family worker, portage and notify them that the child is no longer accessing EY provision. Can they support the parent to resume the child's attendance at your setting or another?

Signpost families to [FIS](#) when their circumstances change and highlight the wide range of childcare options available in Reading. If you need to report concerns about the child contact [Children's Single Point of Access](#).

Food safety

Changes to the EYFS

3.29: Staffing arrangements must meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety. Providers must ensure that children are adequately supervised, including whilst eating, and decide how to deploy staff to ensure children's needs are met. Providers must inform parents and/or carers about staff deployment, and, when relevant and practical, aim to involve them in these decisions. Children must usually be within sight and hearing of staff and always within sight or hearing. Whilst eating, children must be within sight and hearing of a member of staff.

[Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Useful website links

BWSCP	https://www.berkshirerwestsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/scp
Gov.uk	https://www.gov.uk/topic/schools-colleges-childrens-services/safeguarding-children
BFFC	https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/
NSPCC	NSPCC Learning homepage - safeguarding training and resources

Training and E-Learning

E-Learning

All those who work directly or indirectly with children require some degree of safeguarding training either through e-learning or by attendance at a course. The BWSCP (Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership) provides a comprehensive e-learning offer on their website that is easily accessible to all staff within your setting [Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership - Training](#)

Universal Safeguarding Training

E-Learning via BWSCP

The course is set as 'guest access' meaning there is no need for you to login and create a password. To access the Universal Safeguarding Training please click: [Universal Safeguarding E-Learning Link](#) then Login as Guest, Universal Safeguarding Training, Universal Safeguarding Children, Enter and then the training will load.

Face to face training

Universal Safeguarding		
Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday 1 November	6 - 9pm	Civic offices
Wednesday 7 February	6 - 9pm	Civic offices

Reading threshold of need

An online briefing is available and aimed at anyone who works with children, young people, and families in Reading. It is suitable for those who might be new to their role, new to the Reading area and more experienced staff or volunteers who want to refresh their knowledge and understanding. Email to register: OneReading@brighterfuturesforchildren.org.

Designated Safeguarding Leads Network

Developed for Designated Safeguarding Leads and officers of pre-schools, day care and After School Club settings as well as childminders. Booking via e-mail: Early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

Designated Safeguarding Leads Network		
Date	Time	Mode of training
Tuesday 10 October	6.30 - 7.30pm	Virtual

Local Safeguarding Processes for DSL Training

(Designated Safeguarding Lead Training)

The lead practitioner must attend a child protection training course (taking account of any advice from the LSP or local authority on appropriate training courses) that enables them to identify, understand and respond appropriately to signs of possible abuse and neglect. (EYFS 2021 3.5)

Local Safeguarding Processes for DSL training - new to the role		
Date	Time	Venue
5 October 2023	9.30am - 3.30pm	Council Chamber
27 February 2024	9.30am - 3.30pm	Council Chamber
19 June 2024	9.30am - 3.30pm	Council Chamber

Local Safeguarding Processes for DSL training - refresher		
Date	Time	Venue
28 September 2023	9.30am -12.30pm	Council Chamber
11 January 2024	9.30am - 12.30pm	Council Chamber
17 April 2024	1 - 4pm	Council Chamber

To book a space please email Learning@brighterfuturesforchildren.org with the **name, job title, organisation & email address** of the person you would like to attend. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The cost of the training is £33 per person. Please contact us if you have any enquiries 0118 9374212 (74212)

Extended Duties Training for Designated Safeguarding Leads EYFS (Children with a Social Worker)

Extended Duties Training for Designated Safeguarding Leads EYFS (Children with a Social Worker)		
Date	Time	Mode of training
Wednesday 20 September	10 - 11.30am	Virtual

This training session is available for Designated Safeguarding Leads supporting Reading Children with a Social Worker, who have previously been or who are currently subject to Child in Need Plans or Child Protection Plans. Please read the updated DfE guidance prior to the session: [Promoting the education of children with a social worker \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/671212/Promoting_the_education_of_children_with_a_social_worker.pdf)

The training session will include:

- The Extended Duties guidance including the latest DfE updates
- Effective practice for children with a Social Worker
- Collaboration with Children's Social Care
- Virtual School developments and services

To book onto the free training, please contact Bianca James, Virtual School Assistant Headteacher for Children with a Social Worker: bianca.james@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

Drop in clinics

Providing advice and guidance regarding education related queries.

Held fortnightly on the following Wednesdays between 10am – 12noon, unless specified.

Bookings required. Please email cathy.mccarthy@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

Virtual School Drop-in Clinic for Professionals Supporting Children with a Social Worker		
Date	Time	Mode
6, 20 September	10am – 12noon	Virtual
4, 18 October	10am – 12noon	
1, 15, 29 November	10am – 12noon	
13 December	1 - 3.00pm	

NSPCC learning

Domestic abuse

NSPCC Learning has published a podcast episode on domestic abuse and how support in the workplace can help keep children safe. The episode features experts from the NSPCC Helpline and looks at what professionals can do to support and safeguard colleagues who experience domestic abuse. [Protecting children from domestic abuse](#)

Listen to the podcast: [Podcast: Domestic abuse support in the workplace](#)

Visit the YouTube: [Domestic abuse support in the workplace](#)

Physical abuse

NSPCC Learning has published a recent blog post as part of its Why Language Matters series looking at why it's important to talk about the need for children to have equal protection from physical assault, rather than calling for a 'smacking ban.' The blog post looks at: avoiding euphemistic language; drawing parallels between the legal protections offered to adults and children; and the need to take a child centred approach to the debate.

Read the blog: [Why language matters: talking about 'equal protection from physical assault' rather than calling for a 'smacking ban'](#)

Childcare and the early years

The House of Commons Education Committee has published a report on support for childcare and the early years in England. Findings include:

- safeguarding issues could be less likely to be identified when a child does not attend an early years setting;
- childcare providers report that a number of children have much higher needs or developmental delays as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- early childhood care and education should be child-focused, safe, and supportive.

Download the report: [Support for childcare and the early years - Education Committee \(parliament.uk\)](#)

Read the BBC article: [Childcare plan won't work without more money – MPs](#)

Useful training links

Early Years Training Programme	Under 5s and early years services Brighter Futures for Children
Bespoke Training Booking Form	https://forms.office.com/r/YeLOUt8P3P
Universal Safeguarding	Email to book: Learning@brighterfuturesforchildren.org
Designated Safeguarding Lead - new to the role and refresher training	Email to book Learning@brighterfuturesforchildren.org
E-Learning -Universal Safeguarding -Female Genital Mutilation -Safer Recruitment	Access: Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership - Training

-Prevent -Channel Awareness	
Threshold of Need Briefing	Email to register: OneReading@brighterfuturesforchildren.org
Extended Duties Training for Designated Safeguarding Leads EYFS (Children with a Social Worker)	Email to book bianca.james@brighterfuturesforchildren.org
Attending Child Protection Conferences	Email to book business.support@brighterfuturesforchildren.org
Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers Management Training	Email to book business.support@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

Reminders

Keeping Children Safe in Education - September 2023

The DfE has just uploaded the latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education ready for implementation in September 2023. You can find it here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

Berkshire West Safeguarding Partnership

Learning and Development Newsletters

These newsletters have been developed to help support all professionals in their self-guided learning. Learning and Development is not just about attending training courses, it can include reading, researching, online sessions & webinars, shadowing and looking at useful tools, resources, and websites. [Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership -](#)

One Reading

The partnership team holds webinars (on Teams) every Tuesday afternoon from 1.30-2pm, for professionals and volunteers working with families in Reading. The same [webinar link](#) will be used for each session, so save it in your favourites!

[One Reading Children and Young People's Partnership - Brighter Futures For Children](#)

Local support Group websites

<http://www.berkshirewomensaid.org.uk>

[Rose Centre – Acre-Reading \(acreading.org\)](http://www.acreading.org)

[Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men | Men's Advice Line UK \(mensadvice.org.uk\)](http://www.mensadvice.org.uk)



Useful guidance

Ofsted- inspecting Safeguarding in the early years	Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Report concerns about a child	Report concerns about a child - Brighter Futures For Children
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Allegations against people in a position of trust - Brighter Futures For Children
Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales	Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Working Together to Safeguard Children	Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Keeping Children Safe in Education	Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Child abuse concerns: guide for practitioners	Child abuse concerns: guide for practitioners - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Female genital mutilation	Female genital mutilation - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
County Lines	Protecting children from county lines NSPCC Learning County Lines exploitation: applying All Our Health - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) https://www.berkshirewestsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/scp/professionals/county-lines-1
Child abuse linked to belief or faith	Child abuse linked to faith or belief – Safeguarding Network Abuse linked to Belief or Faith – The Indicators - Safeguarding Hub Child abuse linked to faith or belief: national action plan - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Videos on the National FGM Centre site https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EY2JioSV_RQ and youtu.be/38bKOfS1z6s
Online safety considerations	Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Prevent and Channel	Helping ‘Prevent’ terrorism and extremism - Reading Borough Council
Food safety	Food safety - Help for early years providers - GOV.UK (education.gov.uk) PowerPoint Presentation (foundationyears.org.uk) Food allergies in babies and young children - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
Threshold documents	https://www.berkshirewestsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/scp/reading/reading-threshold-guidance
Escalation guidance	https://www.berkshirewestsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/scp/professionals/escalation-policy-and-guidance