Early Years and Prevention Service

Weekly News Bulletin: 7th October 2020

**Slough Our Futures**

Slough Borough Council is transforming.

Over the next two years and beyond we will be changing the way we work – with our residents, communities, businesses, partners, members and colleagues – with new systems, processes and ways of doing things.

These changes will help us become the world-class organisation we want to be, delivering great outcomes for those we serve and providing rewarding opportunities for us all to develop – growing a place of opportunity and ambition.

Part of the Our Futures programme includes a restructure of the council, where we will now have 12 Associate Directors. Last week it was announced that the Associate Director for Children & Families will be Michael Jarrett, this area includes Early Years/Funded Early Education, Children’s Centres/Family Hubs, Family Information Service, SENDIASS, Healthy Early Years, Early Help, Parenting, Attendance/Children Missing Education, Strengthening Families, Targeted Youth, Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and Child and Young People Mental Health Services. The Associate Director for Education and Inclusion is Johnny Kyriacou.

**Ofsted: Early years and childcare**  
[Report a serious childcare incident](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=17ed65919a&e=cc81de467b) - Added information about reporting confirmed cases of COVID-19 and any related closures.  
[Childcare: reporting children’s accidents and injuries](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=f291913859&e=cc81de467b) - Added the requirement to notify Ofsted of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in staff or children.  
[Education plans from September 2020](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=955038886e&e=cc81de467b) - Updated guide: Ofsted's inspection of providers on the Childcare Register will resume from 16 September.  
[Carrying out Childcare Register inspections](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=62b11ce8e8&e=cc81de467b) - Changes to the 'After the inspection' section to reflect new timescales.  
[Consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=c8c945e0cf&e=cc81de467b) - Updated consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare as at 31 August 2020.  
[Joiners and leavers in the childcare sector](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=44f33d4b95&e=cc81de467b) - Published data on joiners and leavers in the childcare sector in August 2020.

**DfE Early years and childcare data collection**

The weekly survey that you have been completing over the last few months is a crucial data collection for DfE Early Years. The Department needs to have data about attendance at, and availability of, childcare settings. This is critical to informing our decision-making around support for the sector, in particular whether the Department should intensify support in certain parts of the country as we are seeing infections rate increase.

In June, we reduced the frequency of the data collection to weekly and committed to review the content and frequency again by the end of September. Due to the current position with increasing infection rates the Department is concerned about local sufficiency issues that may arise. On this basis, we have decided that **weekly collection is necessary until at least the end of November 2020 (a month after the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ends), when we will review the collection again**.

We appreciate that collecting the data can be time-consuming, and with this in mind **we will shortly be removing the requirement to collect information on the number of critical workers’ children, as well as reducing the number of questions on vulnerable children**. In light of increasing reported rates of COVID-19 infection, however, we will need to keep removal of these questions under regular review. It is important that the data we receive is as accurate as possible.

Thank you for your continuing commitment to providing data and supporting your early years settings through this challenging time.

**Ofsted: COVID-19 updates**  
[Ofsted: COVID-19 rolling update](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=66e89b0ad8&e=cc81de467b) - This sets out our guidance and information relating to COVID-19 (coronavirus) for schools, early years, children's social care and further education and skills providers. We are updating it regularly. If you need to see what we've added since you last checked it, you can select '[history](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=f85113cd35&e=cc81de467b)' on the page and this lists all the updates.

**Foundation Years website’s new** [**COVID-19 Resources Hub**](https://foundationyears.org.uk/2020/09/covid-19-resources-hub/)**.**

This has been developed by NCB in partnership with DfE and a number of early years organisations and seeks to bring useful, free resources for early years providers and parents together into a single, easily accessible place. NCB invites you to send any suggestions for content to [foundationyears@ncb.org.uk](mailto:foundationyears@ncb.org.uk).

**Development Matters vodcast  
Foundation Years hosted a video podcast on the new** [**Development Matters**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=e6b2dc4978&e=6e26d5602e)**, non-statutory curriculum guidance which supports the delivery of the revised early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework.**  
Gill Holden, Principal Officer - Early Childhood Unit at NCB, was joined by Ada Simpson, Head of Early Years Quality at the Department for Education, and Dr Julian Grenier, Headteacher at Sheringham Nursery School and Children's Centre, to answer your questions on the new document.  
  
We also hear from Lindsey Foster, Deputy Headteacher, and Tania Choudhury, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator, at Sheringham Nursery School and Children's Centre, who talk to us about forest school and inclusive practice.  
  
The vodcast is available to watch at your convenience [**here**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=6d53c73c0c&e=6e26d5602e). You can also access an audio-only version on [**Spotify**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=6a7ed39017&e=6e26d5602e) and [**Apple Podcasts**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=80ea1068d1&e=6e26d5602e).

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## **Information education settings should have to hand when they call for advice on a positive case**

Public Health England’s (PHE) dedicated advice service, delivered by NHS Business Services Authority, is available to early years settings, schools, colleges and out of school settings. The service is for those needing support on the action they should take when they have been informed of a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in their setting (i.e. a pupil or staff member testing positive).

It can be reached by calling the Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline on 0800 046 8687 and selecting option 1 to report a positive test within your setting. This option will take you through to a dedicated team of NHS Business Services Authority advisors who will work through a risk assessment with you to identify close contacts, and will inform you what action is needed based on the latest public health advice. Advisors will be responsible for referring more complex cases to the PHE regional health protection team, as necessary, following a triaging of your circumstances during the call.

Phone: 0800 046 8687 – option 1 to report a positive test within your setting

Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm  
Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm

When you call for advice, please have the following information to hand relating to the positive coronavirus (COVID-19) case in your setting as you will need to discuss this with the call adviser:

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| * the number of positive cases in your setting, whether the person who tested positive is displaying symptoms and if so, the date of the onset of the symptoms (if known) * the dates that the person who tested positive was in attendance at the setting so that we can identify if the person was infections whilst on site * for key stage 2, 3, 4 and 5, the seating plan for all lessons, and (where relevant) the timetable, for the person who has tested positive. This will help to support identification of close contacts with that person * for key stage 2, 3, 4 and 5, if the person who has tested positive is a member of staff, records of any instance of close contact with other members of staff or students * if the person who has tested positive is a pupil, records of any definite face to face contact with the individual and details of their friendship group within the setting |

This dedicated advice service is designed to expand the options available for support to education settings, and we would expect that most education settings would contact this service in the first instance. This approach will free up capacity of PHE’s regional health protection teams to deal with more complex cases and outbreaks. You should continue to inform your local authority of a positive case in your setting.

We recognise that some local authorities have put more detailed local arrangements in place for their education settings with their local authority health protection team. Where those local arrangements are available and working, you can continue to receive support through that route to take action in response to a positive case.

**Lockdown Lessons**

Please find below an ebook which you are welcome to share far and wide to celebrate some of the fantastic work children in Slough have done during this difficult period. Many thanks and enjoy the read.



**Hands, Face, Space**

The [‘Hands. Face. Space.’ campaign](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-campaign-to-prevent-spread-of-coronavirus-indoors-this-winter?utm_source=1%20October%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) urges everyone to continue to wash their hands, cover their face and make space to control infection rates. The NHS has released a [‘Hands. Face. Space.’ video](https://youtu.be/jr09ByDYuq4) that may be a useful resource when communicating the importance of wearing a face covering on transport directly to children and young people.

## **Translation of guidance**

## Translation of guidance for parents and carers on early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term

We have translated our [guidance for parents and carers with children in nursery, school, or college in the autumn term](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=1%20October%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19).

The guidance is available in the following languages:

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| * [Arabic](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918367/Guidanceforparents_CLEAN_3.9.20-arabicdocx.pdf) * [Bengali](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918368/Guidanceforparents_CLEAN_3.9.20-ben-BD.pdf) * [Chinese – traditional](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918369/Guidanceforparents_CLEAN_3.9.20-trad_chinese.pdf) * [Chinese – simplified](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918370/Guidanceforparents_CLEAN_3.9.20-simpl_chinese.pdf) * [French](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918371/Guidanceforparents_CLEAN_3.9.20-fre-FR__002_.pdf) * [Gujarati](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918378/Guidanceforparents_CLEAN_3.9.20-guj.pdf) * [Polish](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918379/Guidanceforparents_CLEAN_3.9.20HL-pol__002_.pdf) * [Portuguese](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918380/Guidanceforparents_CLEAN_3.9.20-por-PT.pdf) * [Punjabi](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918381/Guidanceforparents_CLEAN_3.9.20-pan.pdf) * [Romany](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918382/Guidanceforparents_CLEAN_3.9.20HL_romany.pdf) * [Somali](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918383/Guidanceforparents_CLEAN_3.9.20-som-SO.pdf) * [Turkish](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918384/Guidanceforparents_CLEAN_3.9.20HL_turkish.pdf) * [Urdu](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918385/Guidanceforparents_CLEAN_3.9.20-urd.pdf) |

# One Minute Guide Private Fostering – Professionals

**What is Private Fostering?**

The legal definition of a privately fostered child is where a private arrangement has been made by the child’s parent (or someone with parental responsibility and without the involvement of the local authority or Trust) for the child to live with a carer who is not a close relative\* of a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if the child is disabled) for 28 days or more.

\*Close relative is defined as: grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt (whether full or half blood by marriage) or step parent (by marriage or civil partnership) of the child. Close relatives do not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.

The arrangement is classed as private fostering if it is expected to last for more than 28 days on a full time basis.



**Take part in the Leadsom Review into improving health outcomes in early years**

In July 2020, the Government announced that Andrea Leadsom MP would chair a review into improving health outcomes in early years, on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care.

The review will look at the first 1,001 days – from conception to the age of 2 - with a stated focus of reducing inequalities, as well as looking at some of the lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The review wants to hear from new parents, health professionals, charities and voluntary groups and has published a [call for evidence](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-years-healthy-development-review-call-for-evidence/early-years-healthy-development-review-call-for-evidence?mc_cid=87642951d3&mc_eid=6e26d5602e).

Please share your thoughts, and encourage others to do so, to help shape the outcome of this review.

You can complete the survey here and the deadline is midnight on Friday 16 October 2020.

**Self Assessment customers to benefit from enhanced payment plans**

As announced by the Chancellor last week, Self Assessment customers can now apply online to spread the cost of their tax bill into monthly payments without the need to call us.   
  
The online self-serve 'Time to Pay' service, has been increased to £30,000 for Self Assessment customers, to help ease any potential financial burden they may be experiencing due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Once you've completed your tax return for the 2019-20 tax year, you can use the online self-serve 'Time to Pay' service through GOV.UK to set up a direct debit and pay any tax that is owed in monthly instalments, up to a 12-month period.

If you wish to set up your own self-serve 'Time to Pay', you must meet the following requirements:

* no outstanding tax returns
* no other tax debts
* no other HMRC payments set up
* your Self Assessment tax bill is between £32 and £30,000
* it is no more than 60 days since the tax was due for payment.

If you do not meet these requirements, you might still qualify for Time to Pay, but you will need to call us to set this up.

If you set up a 'Time to Pay' arrangement, you will have to pay interest on the tax paid late. Interest will be applied to any outstanding balance from 1 February 2021.

**Compliance Checks Funded Early Education**

In the academic year September 2020 to August 2021 Slough Early Years and Prevention Service will continue a series of compliance checks with providers of Funded Early Education in line with details contained on [page 24](Phttps://thelink.slough.gov.uk/early-years/funded-early-education) of the Provider Agreement.

The Department for Education’s Model Agreement of June 2018 states that “The local authority can carry out checks and/or audits on providers to ensure compliance with the requirements of delivering the free entitlements.” Slough Early Years and Prevention Service intend to engage a large number of providers during the 2020/21, and 21/22 academic years followed by a sampling process in future years.

For further information please see the below ‘Compliance check letter’



## **World Mental Health Day resources**

Mentally Healthy Schools have created a [toolkit of resources](https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/celebrating-differences-world-mental-health-day-toolkit?utm_source=DfE&utm_medium=bulletin&utm_campaign=WMHD2020) for World Mental Health Day on 10 October that focus on inclusivity and celebrating our differences. The resources in this toolkit are designed to help schools support pupils who may need more help with their mental health and celebrate the unique and different qualities that each child brings to a school community.

**Training and Continuous Professional Development**

**Introduction to Safeguarding**

Below is a link to a video which has been developed to cover the basics of safeguarding during COVID-19.  It covers safeguarding for both children and adults at home and also includes domestic abuse and exploitation.

It takes less than 10 minutes to view and may be particularly useful as a resource for:-

* redeployed staff
* staff or volunteers  working in different ways within the safeguarding arena during this period
* volunteers who do not read English very well as there is no requirement to read the slides.

The messages are simple - “There is no excuse for abuse during Lockdown” and “Help is available -It is business as usual for safeguarding services”

Link to Slough Safeguarding basics <https://youtu.be/RDc4mBGbRmA>

**First Aid Training (2 spaces remaining)**

**Face to face**

12 hours Paediatric First Aid Training

All early years and childcare practitioners welcome

Saturday 24th & 31st October 2020

9.30am – 4pm

Cost £115 per participant

Please note: that the group size has been capped to allow social distancing. PPE will also be provided by the trainer where required

To book: <https://thelink.slough.gov.uk/events/paediatric-first-aid-training-9>

**Early Years Cluster Meeting**

**FREE Online network session**

This meeting is designed to support lead practitioners working in early years settings. They are held termly and provide an opportunity for national and local updates, networking and sharing good practice.

Lead practitioners working in nursery schools, nursery classes, day nurseries and preschools

**Monday 19th October 2020 @** 4pm -5.15pm

To book: <https://thelink.slough.gov.uk/events/early-years-cluster-meeting-3>

**Early Years PVI Managers Meeting**

**FREE Online network session**

The PVI manager meetings are designed to support managers in the private, voluntary and independent sector and provide a networking opportunity. During the meeting the early years service will provide the sector with national and local update information.

**Monday 19th October 2020**

6.30pm – 7.30pm

To Book: <https://thelink.slough.gov.uk/events/early-years-pvi-managers-meeting-0>