



IN THIS ISSUE

- New Kent Provider Agreement
- DfE Report 30 Hours
- FEE Appeals & Complaints
- EYPP
- Prevent
- Supporting CiC
- FGM
- SEND Conference
- The Local Offer
- Ofsted Information
- TEP Show
- Meeting Staffing Requirements
- T-Levels
- Loose Parts Play
- Collaboration News
- Kent Childminders
- KCFIS
- Briefing & Networking Sessions

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to the first Early Years and Childcare Bulletin sent out under the auspices of **The Education People**, which, as I hope you will be aware, is Kent County Council's new education services company that went live on 1st September. The Early Years and Childcare Service and its Threads of Success framework and offer are now an integral part of **The Education People**, along with a number of other services. Please find time to visit **The Education People [website](#)**.

I would also like to welcome what was The Early Years Team in Prospects (that previously provided support for Kent's childminders) to **The Education People** in general and Early Years and Childcare Service particularly. We are looking forward to together further developing our offer of support to Kent's childminders, including seeking ways of promoting and facilitating more effective joined up working between all types of early years and childcare providers.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile 2018

In Kent this year, 75.3% of children achieved a Good Level of Development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This is a slight improvement on 74.4% in 2017 which is good news. Information about how this compares regionally and nationally, plus information about achievement gaps, will follow when this becomes available, typically October/November. In the meantime, thank you and well done to all types of early years and childcare providers in Kent for all that you continue to do in support of Kent's children and families and in pursuit of improved outcomes for children particularly.

Alex Gamby

Head of Early Years and Childcare



New Kent Provider Agreement

The new Kent Provider Agreement has now been issued and you are advised to return your Provider Declarations to Management Information by Friday 12 October, to ensure you continue to receive your Free Early Education funding at the appropriate time.

One of the major changes to the DfE Statutory Guidance is regarding foster carers. Children in foster care will also now be eligible for the Extended Entitlement, providing they meet the age criteria and meet two additional criteria: that this is consistent with the child's care plan and the foster parent is taking up paid employment outside of their fostering role. Foster carers must speak to the child's social worker and complete a 30 Hour application form for foster children. This can be found on the [KELSI](#) 30 Hour page.

Department for Education (DfE) research report: Evaluation of the first year of the national rollout of 30 Hours free childcare

This [report](#) from the DfE presents the findings from an independent evaluation of the first year of the national rollout of 30 Hours free childcare.

The following government reports have also been published recently:

- [Follow-up survey to the 2017 Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents \(CEYSP\)](#): A follow-up telephone survey of 774 parents of three to four year olds in May-July 2018 that agreed to be re-contacted following their 2017 CEYSP survey (in January-August 2017).
- [Take-up of Free Early Education Entitlements \(FEEE\)](#): This report examines the factors affecting take-up of free early education entitlements (FEEE) through a rapid evidence assessment, regression analysis of existing data on take-up, and qualitative interviews with 21 local authority early years leads, 30 providers and 40 parents of two, three and four year olds who were not taking up FEEE.
- [Impact Study on Early Education Use and Child Outcomes up to age four years](#): The second impact report from the Study of Early Education and Development (SEED), a longitudinal eight-year study following approximately 6,000 children across England from the age of two, through to the end of Key Stage One (age seven).

Free Early Education and Childcare Appeals and Complaints

Providers and parents can now find the Free Early Education and Childcare complaints procedures on the KCC website. Parents can also access this page if they wish to make an appeal about Early Education and Childcare.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

Under EYPP criteria 2,581 children received payment in the summer term 2018. Anecdotal reports from practitioners across the county indicate that providers are using the money in a wide range of ways. Ofsted will ask you how the funding is used and whether you can show improvement in the wellbeing of the children or improved outcomes on their educational outcomes so do be prepared to show your evidence.

Please note that the following change has been made to EYPP KELS! page:

How to apply

Click on [Free Early Years Entitlement](#) page and scroll down to the EYPP section where you will find the following:

- EYPP update letter
- Online form for EYPP applications
- EYPP guidance information.

Please note that you can no longer apply for EYPP using a paper based application.

Prevent

Recent news has highlighted a setting that had its Ofsted rating lowered from Outstanding to Requires Improvement because of staff failure to spot when youngsters may be at risk of being radicalised by family members or others. Ofsted said 'Not all staff have a secure understanding of how to protect children who may be at risk from extreme behaviours or views and that the provider must ensure all staff use the information gained through training to improve staff knowledge of the 'Prevent' duty and wider safeguarding issues'.

For childcare providers to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that staff can identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be part of childcare providers' wider safeguarding duties. You can build children's resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British Values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. The Early Years Foundation Stage sets standards for learning, development and care for children from 0-5, thereby assisting children's personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world.

Learning for Early Years Professionals:

- Ensure current policies and procedures in identifying children and young people at risk of radicalisation are effective
- Review and evaluate what more do you need to learn about radicalisation and personal experiences and vulnerabilities that would help increase awareness and support staff and managers to recognise and respond to risk
- Ensure staff feel confident about how to escalate any concerns including where adequate action isn't being taken to safeguard children and how to challenge in the event there is disagreement with another organisation or professional

- Ensure that staff are confident about sharing information
- Ensure staff understand the issues around radicalisation, including skills and knowledge alongside having the confidence to engage in conversations with families about their culture, attitudes and beliefs.

The statutory guidance on the Prevent duty summarises the requirements on childcare providers in terms of four general themes: risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training and IT policies.

Useful websites

[Prevent Tragedies](#)

[Government Advice: Stay Safe Film](#)

[DfE: The Prevent Duty](#)

citizenAID have released a children's e-book "[Moggy's Coming](#)" that emphasises the 'Run, Hide, Tell' threat message in a non-threatening way.

Supporting Children in Care (CiC) in Early Years Settings

Please follow the link to our advice [leaflet](#), produced alongside Virtual School Kent (VSK). The leaflet gives the names and contact details of staff in your area, and more information about how you can best meet the needs of the child or children in care, in your setting.

The leaflet will support you to:

- become involved in the Personal Education Plan (ePEP)
- access additional funding - Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)
- respond to parents who request an Early Years Plan for Adopted Children (EYPAC).

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

You may have seen a recent article in The Times newspaper (18 August 2018) which discussed a case of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in relation to a three year old child. While the article does not make for easy reading, it is important that early years and childcare providers understand their duty pertaining to FGM.

Definition:

'Female genital mutilation comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It has no health benefits and harms girls and women in many ways. It involves removing and damaging healthy and normal female genital tissue, and hence interferes with the natural function of girls' and women's bodies. The practice causes severe pain and has several immediate and long-term health consequences, including difficulties in childbirth also causing dangers to the child'. World Health Organisation (2014)

FGM is illegal in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as outlined in the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. If you know of any cases where FGM has been performed on someone under the age of 18, you must report this to the Police.

If you think a child may have had FGM or you suspect they are at risk, you should follow your own safeguarding procedures, or contact your local safeguarding area education officer.

Signs to look out for:

- Absence: if children are going on 'holiday' towards the end of term, visiting a country of origin. Children may share that all female members of family including aunts and cousins are going on 'holiday'
- An older female family member visiting the UK from a country of origin
- A girl disclosing she is to have a 'special procedure' or that they are attending a special occasion to 'become a woman'
- Difficulty walking, sitting, standing
- Spending longer than normal in the bathroom
- Concerns related to a girl's genitalia during nappy changing
- Difficulties urinating
- Lengthy absences
- Frequent urinary infections
- Behavioural changes e.g. withdrawal, depression upon return to provision
- Asking for help but not explicit about the problem.

E-learning on FGM is available from the [Home Office](#)

For further information please visit [NSPCC](#)

And [Female Genital Mutilation Act \(2003\)](#)

SEND Conference – 30 October 2018

Our vision in Kent is for strong partnerships with families and for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to achieve well in their early years. The introduction last September of the 30 Hours extended entitlement for eligible three and four year olds was intended to improve access for children with SEND and to support working families.

Please come and join us at this one day conference which is aimed at supporting our young children with Special Educational Needs and exploring the principles of coproduction. It would be fabulous if you could come together with any parents who you are working with as the invitation extends to parents too.

We will be considering:

- How we make sure that parents are fully involved in their child's early education
- What impact the 30 Hours has had on families and children.

You will have the opportunity to hear exceptional keynote speakers, attend a range of workshops and browse the market place which will offer resources, support and advice. (Details of the keynote speakers and workshops will be announced once finalised).

This free of charge conference is open to parents, preschool managers and SENCOs, childminders, maintained nurseries, Specialist Teachers, SENIF Practitioners, Childminder Advisers and Early Years Advisers.

The Local Offer



Thank you to everyone who has completed their local offer questions on CFIS. For those of you who have yet to complete this do watch out for the Local Offer publication which is being sent out to you, free of charge, and for the e-learning package which aims to give you further advice and support.

Coming soon our latest e-learning package:

'Introduction to the Local Offer for Early Years Providers'

This easy to follow centrally funded course is designed to support you to understand what the term 'Local Offer' means, where it comes from and the legal obligations around your responsibility to publish your own Local Offer.

This course will support you to reflect on your current offer for children and families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and enable you to write a 'parent friendly' account of that, using the 12 questions template on the Kent Children and Families Information Service (CFIS) website. This will be your published Local Offer.

South East Ofsted Big Conversation

The South East Ofsted Big Conversation takes place on the 3 November 2018. This event includes presentations and discussion focusing on Ofsted inspection work, school readiness and best practice. There will also be the opportunity to take part in an open Question and Answer session with Ofsted and to network with other providers.

To find out more about the event and to book your place please click on this [link](#).

Ofsted – Curiosity Approach

Ofsted has shared with the local authority that some early years settings in Kent are now adopting the curiosity approach. However, at times there is a lack of knowledge and understanding resulting in elements of unsafe provision because resources are not suitable. The Education People's [Threads of Success](#) could support you with exploring this approach.

Ofsted Inspection Results

Ofsted do notify the local authority of inspection results and where appropriate and possible an allocated adviser can attend feedback as part of our delivery plan. There is also an outline about Ofsted inspection feedback in the Early Years Inspection Handbook April 2018. We are here to celebrate your success and support you further in your developments.

The Education People Show – 7 November 2018

The Education People Show - formerly known as The EduKent EXPO, is Kent's leading FREE educational event for the development and promotion of effective school leadership, learning and teaching and management.

This year there will be a keynote session from Winter Olympian Lizzy Yarnold.

To find out more and to book your free place, please click on this [link](#).

Meeting staffing requirements in emergencies

Have you considered the following?

Undoubtedly your staff team is your most valuable resource and when you have a staff shortage or if emergency cover is required, this can affect a number of elements. Therefore, when the situation arises '**where do you turn?**' to ensure you can still maintain a high quality provision for your children and their families?

We have become aware that when emergency staff shortages arise, some providers have been utilising staff across neighbouring settings and collaborations to ensure ratios are maintained and providers can be fully operational.

To support the sector in offering a seamless service while still maintaining high levels of quality and a safe provision, we have put together some questions to consider:

- How do you ensure your safer recruitment procedures are fully adhered to for **all** staff, including temporary ad/hoc staff?
- How do you ensure **all** practitioners working in your settings are suitable people? (**EYFS 2017 sections 3.9- 3.18**)
- How do you ensure **all** staff are receiving a robust induction to support their role and responsibilities? (**EYFS section 3.20**)
- Do supervision arrangements include **all** staff? (**EYFS section 3.21**) If you have a concern about a staff member from another setting, how is this raised and dealt with to ensure safeguarding and supervisory arrangements are maintained?
- Are safeguarding policies and procedures shared with **all** staff, to ensure they know how to implement **your** procedures?

We recommend that before putting systems in place to share your staff resource, you have a clear and shared understanding of expectations and put processes in place to safeguard yourselves, staff, children and families.

This is a useful [link](#) to the DBS guidance for employers.

We are currently developing a protocol to support providers to evaluate if sharing staff meets legal requirements and settings needs.

T-Levels

New opportunities for a career in early years and childcare

The new T-levels for education and childcare will be available to students from 2020. 'T levels' are new technical study programmes that will sit alongside Apprenticeships within a reformed skills training system. The technical option will prepare individuals for skilled employment which requires technical knowledge and practical skills valued by industry.

We are pleased to hear that education and childcare are one of the first levels to be released and that there will be another route for students to join the early years and childcare workforce. We are a diverse workforce with a range of learning styles and backgrounds. It is pleasing to see a wider range of qualifications being made available to meet the needs of learners, while still focusing on the importance of the practical skills, knowledge and behaviours needed in our workforce.

Further information on T-Levels can be found on the Government's [website](#)

Proposed content for the [Education and Childcare T-level](#)

Oh no I'm not creative! – Encouraging loose parts play in the Early Years

The architect Simon Nicholson first coined the phrase 'Loose Parts' in his 1971 article 'How not to cheat children' in which he suggests creativity is for the gifted few and the rest of us live in buildings and communities enjoying art and music created by the gifted few. He goes on to state that we are all creative and no evidence exists to suggest one person is born more creative than another, it is the opportunities we have and the experiences available to us that develop our creativity.

'Loose Parts' are the variables that children interact with enabling them to design, construct, de-construct, manipulate, invent, discover and experience and are perfectly placed to promote the characteristics of effective learning, schematic play and encourage the seven areas of learning and development.

We know from our own experiences that children prefer to play with resources that enthuse and stimulate their curiosity, resources with no fixed agenda that enable the creativity Nicholson suggests we, as adults, have been 'cheated' from. Loose parts provide these opportunities and can encourage a lifelong positive attitude to creativity.

In the early years the right resources coupled with knowledgeable adults with an understanding of their role in supporting loose parts play will provide a generation of creative learners who have in no way been 'cheated' from the fun of designing and building with real materials.

The Education People's [Threads of Success](#) provides a variety of training on this topic.

Collaboration news

We will be holding new collaboration meetings later on this term inviting providers who have expressed an interest in joining a new collaboration.

See what an existing collaboration leader has to say about the many benefits of leading and belonging to a collaboration on [KELSI](#).

If you would like to find out more about leading a collaboration and would like support to start a new one please email eycollaborations@theeducationpeople.org.

Kent childminders

As mentioned in Alex's introduction, [The Education People's](#) Early Years and Childcare Service is now supporting Kent childminders. The contact details for the Childminding Team are as follows:

Staff	Job Title	Telephone	Email
Gwenderlyne Southall	Childminding Service Manager	03000 419641	Gwenderlyne.Southall@theeducationpeople.org
Matthew Mather	Administration Officer	03000 417568	Matthew.Mather@theeducationpeople.org
Sharon Cinderey	Quality Adviser Canterbury and Swale	03000 415008	Sharon.Cinderey@theeducationpeople.org
Kirsty Hillocks	Quality Adviser Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley/ Sevenoaks	03000 416477	Kirsty.Hillocks@theeducationpeople.org
Pip Sands	Quality Adviser Ashford and Maidstone and Malling	03000 416525	Pip.Sands@theeducationpeople.org
Felicity Smith	Quality Adviser Dover, Folkestone & Hythe and Thanet	03000 416574	Felicity.Smith@theeducationpeople.org
Wendy Thomas	Quality Adviser Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge	03000 416571	Wendy.Thomas@theeducationpeople.org

Kent Childminder Facebook Group

A closed Facebook group has been set up to support Kent childminders. Registered childminders can request to join the group [here](#). You will need to provide your Ofsted EY number and the name on your Ofsted registration certificate when making the request. Before joining the group we would encourage all childminders to check the privacy status of their own Facebook profile.

Ofsted Childminder Webinar

We have received information from Ofsted that they are planning to run an hour-long twilight webinar for childminders on 13 November 2018, starting at 7pm. The webinar will cover updates on Ofsted, information about safeguarding practice, and other aspects of early years. Once we have received information on how to book a place on the webinar we will advise all childminders by email and Facebook.

Kent Children and Families Information Service

We are here to help

Your details, your responsibility

Your details may not be displayed on our website, so you could be missing out on potential business. We recommend that you review your childcare provision details held on a regular basis.

Your permission settings

The information you give us will be made available, with your consent, over the telephone, in writing and via the internet. You have the option to restrict the ways in which your information is published. It is important that you complete the permissions form correctly using the following link to [our permissions form](#).

Make sure your details are up to date

Are the details of your nursery or preschool up to date?

Do we hold the correct contact details for your service?

Are you providing before and after school care that CFIS are not aware of?

Register to use our online service where you are able to update your details at a time that is convenient to you.

The information can be found on our [website](#) or by calling us Monday to Friday between 9am-5pm.

If you need to contact us about any of the above please email kentcfis@kent.gov.uk or call us at 03000 41 23 23

Threads of Success marketing information

We are delighted that so many people have opted in to receiving information from the Early Years and Childcare Service about the promotional and marketing opportunities we continue to offer. However, we have not had a response from everyone yet and remember, unless you opt in, you might miss out! To opt in, if you haven't done so already, please visit <https://www.threadsofsuccess.co.uk/gdpr-form>.

Lastly, if at any time you want to be removed from all non-statutory communications, just email threadsofsuccess@theeducationpeople.org and we will remove you from our promotion and marketing list.

Briefing and Networking Sessions

Our regular Briefing and Networking Sessions provide a good opportunity to keep your setting and staff up to date and to network with colleagues from other settings.

We run sessions for early years and childcare settings and schools and also specifically for settings providing Out of School care including schools.

Why not book a place on the next round of Early Years and Childcare Briefing and Networking Sessions and benefit from the opportunity to network and hear important updates on 30 Hours - one year on and the new Early Help and Social Work Front Door?

EYC 18/227	The Cornwallis Suite, Maidstone	2 October 2018
EYC 18/228	The Ark Christian Centre, Dover	3 October 2018
EYC 18/229	St Augustine's College, Thanet	4 October 2018
EYC 18/230	Best Western Manor Hotel, Gravesham	11 October 2018

Contact Us

Threads of Success	www.ThreadsofSuccess.co.uk ThreadsofSuccess@theeducationpeople.org
Threads of Success Recruitment Hub	https://www.threadsofsuccessrecruitment.com/home
Sufficiency and Sustainability	Sufficiencyandsustainability@theeducationpeople.org
30 Hours of Free Childcare	EYC@theeducationpeople.org
Improvement and Standards	EYCImprovementServices@theeducationpeople.org
Equality and Inclusion	EYInclusion@theeducationpeople.org
Collaborations	EYCollaborations@theeducationpeople.org
Childminding	childminding@theeducationpeople.org
Emporium Plus	Emporiumplus@theeducationpeople.org
Workforce Development	Earlyyearsworkforce.ask@kent.gov.uk
Kent Children and Families Information Service	Kentcfis@kent.gov.uk
Management Information	eyfe@kent.gov.uk
Free for 2 (FF2) Team	Eyfreefor2@kent.gov.uk
KELSI	http://www.kelsi.org.uk
Schools e-bulletin	http://www.kelsi.org.uk/working_in_education/news.aspx

The Early Years and Childcare Bulletin is compiled and edited by The Education People's Early Years and Childcare Service.

The next issue will be published in term 2